

Queen Elizabeth II

**National Trust**

For open space in New Zealand

Nga Kairauhi Papa

# Open Space

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## POHUERORO KAWENATA MAORI

Wairuru Marae at Raukokore was the setting for the signing of one of the National Trust's most significant covenants to date in a ceremony on July 5.

The Trust's Kawenata Maori with the Pohueroro Trust will protect 6573 hectares of native forest of national and regional importance.

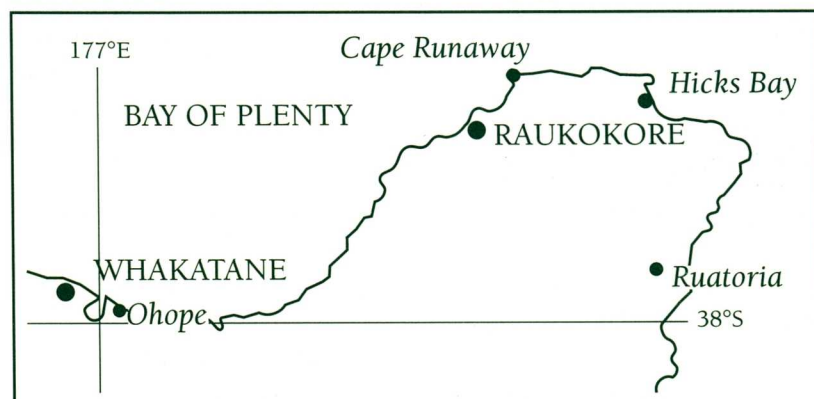
The signing ceremony was attended by Trust Chairman Hamish Ensor and other Trust representatives, and it coincided with the signing of a complementary Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata by the Minister of Conservation, Hon Denis Marshall. The two kawenata (covenants) are unique in that they will jointly ensure protection of the area.

Located east of Te Kaha, the Pohueroro block includes some 4000 hectares of virgin forest, and extends from the inland forests of the Raukumara Forest Park almost to the sea, and flanks the Raukokere River for almost 20 km.

Among the wide variety of forest types present within the protected area are tawa-hard beech-rimu forest on steep lands and semi-costal forests including pohutukawa, karaka and puriri. The area also has outstanding wildlife, including kaka and Hochstetter's frog.

The National Trust presented a commemorative citation to the Pohueroro Trustees, acknowledging the parties had agreed to work together to achieve the objectives of the Kawenata Maori. Those objectives are:

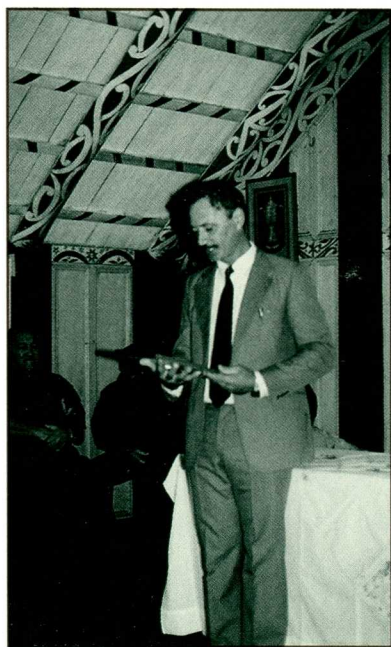
- to protect and enhance the natural character of the land with particular regard to the indigenous flora and fauna, their diverse communities and their interactions with the environment that support them
- to protect and enhance the spiritual and cultural integrity and values of the land





- to embody the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and a working partnership between the tangata whenua and the National Trust, emphasising the rangitiratanga of the Pohueroro Trust
- to protect the land as an outstanding area representative of a significant part of the natural ecological character of the Motu Ecological District
- to maintain the landscape amenity and open space values of the land, and
- to protect the historic, archaeological and educational values associated with the land.

Pohueroro Trust Chairman Joe Rua has worked closely with the National Trust since 1979 in formulating the protection agreement. Over the years Joe and former Regional Representative Tiny White spent many hours consulting and negotiating on the agreement.

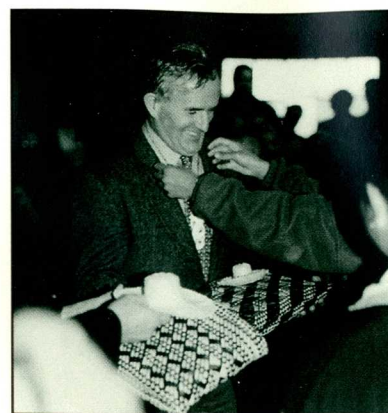


Joe Rua reads out the National Trust citation. (Photo: Tiny White)

National Trust Chair Hamish Ensor describes the finalising of the kawenata as a magnificent achievement and a clear signal of

the National Trust's commitment to working with Maori for protection of open space values on their land.

"Like all covenants, the on-going management of the protected land will be a partnership between the owner Trustees and the National Trust", Mr Ensor said. "The signing ceremony, while celebrating the achievement to date, was also a reaffirmation of the partnership for the future."



Trust Chair, Hamish Ensor, is presented with a bone carving and ornate flax kit by Joe Rua's mother.

## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### By Hamish Ensor, Chair, QEII National Trust

As the QEII National Trust rapidly approaches the registration of its 1000th covenant, it is timely to reflect on the considerable contribution covenantors have made to conservation and landscape protection in New Zealand.

Environmental lobbyists often say our covenants provide an inferior means of protection than can be provided by the State, but the wonderful enthusiasm of the people looking after them, and the statistical success rate of Trust covenants doesn't support that theory.

There are now 29,500 hectares of open space protected by 880 covenants—the size of a small National Park. What a remarkable achievement for our covenantors!

In any case, comparing State and private land protection is not really appropriate, as both have their place. While the State does help with the cost of establishing Trust covenants with its annual funding allocation to the Trust, the sacrifice and contribution of covenantors towards protection should never be under-

estimated. With on-site caretakers, Trust covenants are a very cost-effective option.

### Trust Funding

The Trust continues to obtain the bulk of its funding as an annual Government grant. We also receive a special allocation from the Minister of Conservation's Forest Fund, with this money being tagged to the direct actual costs of protecting forested areas. The Trust's Forest Fund money can only be used for costs associated with establishing forest covenants (such as survey, legal and fencing costs), not the Trust's administration costs or on-going costs of covenants.

In addition to these direct Government funding allocations, the Trust seeks and obtains donations and sponsorships. We earn money on investments as well as benefitting from gifts and bequests. We have also benefitted from Lottery Grants Board funding for specific projects and most notably special covenants including those over wetlands.

Our funding now is much less than before the major restructuring of the



Government's environmental administration in 1987. This means by the time we have worked on our allocation of Forest Funds for forest protection, and undertaken other essential work—such as property maintenance, fencing replacements and the regular contact with covenantors—there is little left for other kinds of covenants.

So we are keen to increase sponsorship for covenants over wetlands, tussock grasslands and other general landscape features.

### *Long Term Fencing*

Reluctantly, the Trust Board of Directors has decided we can no longer offer long-term replacement fencing for new covenants. Naturally, the Trust will honour commitments already made to long-term fencing for existing covenants.

As there can be no guarantee that the Trust will receive the same annual level of Government support forever, the

Trust Board believes it would be irresponsible to commit the Trust to something that may not be able to be funded in the long term.

Our present best estimate shows that to continue guaranteeing long-term fencing replacement assistance is simply unsustainable. Honouring present commitments, which the Trust Board is determined to do, looks difficult enough without adding to the problem. With this in mind, the Directors have established a dedicated fund to ensure sufficient funds will be available to honour existing commitments.

To assist the Trust in this, individual covenantors may wish to amend or vary the specific clause in their covenant document to lessen the impact on the Trust; or you may wish to endow your covenant now or on sale of your property. If any of these appeal to you please discuss them with your Regional Representative.

### *Membership*

The Trust would benefit from a much larger membership than its current 2,200 members. With greater membership comes benefits for both the Trust and its members. For instance, we would be able to run more field days for members, covenantors, and “friends” of the Trust, as well as possibly upgrading the Trust newsletter to full colour.

The Trust needs both rural and urban members to widen our support network. We would like all members to actively approach friends and family in an endeavour to increase the support and membership of the Trust.

### *Feedback*

The National Trust welcomes feedback from its members and supporters. Please feel free to discuss any aspects of the Trust's operation with your Regional Representative, the Trust Manager Tim Porteous or, indeed, any Trust director.

## **CHRISTCHURCH CATALYST FOR PROTECTION**

*By Marie Taylor*

Scrunching along tussock-lined tracks covered in snow is a particularly pleasant way to spend a windless winter day in Christchurch. And it's even more agreeable when the land in question—offering the most spectacular 360 degree views over the volcanic form of the Lyttelton Harbour basin—has been safeguarded.

Thanks to the Summit Road Society, a small part of Christchurch's dramatic backdrop, the Port Hills, has been protected.

The Society accepted a Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenant over Ohinetahi Bush, a

76.8 hectare block in two separate titles. The covenant protects the open space values of the land—which is below and east of the Summit Road, 3 km south of the Sign of the Kiwi. The land falls from 500 metres at the Summit Road to 200 metres above Governors Bay.

The covenant also protects and encourages further development of native flora and fauna on the land, provides public access for recreation, and protects the natural scenic values of the land.

The new covenant is right next to another 28 hectare block of land the Society owns, and

which was protected with a National Trust covenant two years ago. For this most recent covenant, with the help of the Forest Heritage Fund, the Summit Road Society paid the survey and fencing costs associated with putting a National Trust open space covenant in place.

The Summit Road Society, formed in 1948, has proved an important catalyst for protection of the open space and natural character of the Port Hills. One of the most recent driving forces has been the visionary immediate past president Gordon Kirk, a member for 27 years. “It just seems to happen. Where there is a will, there is a way”, he says.



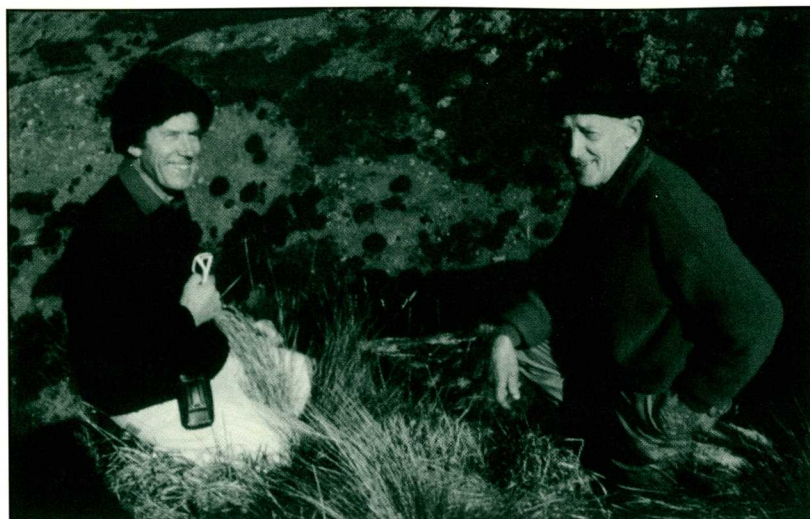
For many years Mr Kirk lived at Governors Bay and often looked up at the steep gullies and ridges the Society now owns and has opened up with public walking tracks. He wanted to see the land protected and improved. "I've always been interested in protecting the summit and it is quite a thrill to me to see it protected now".

"The previous landowner of the first block, Gerald O'Farrell, went bankrupt, and the official assignee didn't know what to do with this block of land. He gave it back to mortgagees, and the mortgagees disappeared. It took us years to find out who to go to".

"Then we made an offer of \$20,000 for the place (the original covenanted area), which is not bad for 28 hectares on this position. After about two years of negotiation, we got it for \$22,000 in 1991. The second, and newest, covenant came in two stages. We offered \$35,000 for that, and I approached the chap and I went to the Forest Heritage Fund (FHF) and they said they'd help. I didn't have the nerve to ask for more than half. Everything was all set and then the chap disappeared".

"We caught up with him again and he said he would sell it to us provided we take the far block as well. It was about \$1000 a hectare so we felt we were stretching our resources by doing that, and I went to the Banks Peninsula District Council. I didn't want to miss the chance, and asked if they would back us up if we got stuck. The signs were good, and in the meantime one of our members, Mr Watling died, and the estate left us a bit of money. With that and with what FHF gave, and what we had in the bank, we were able to buy it".

One of the reasons the Society



*Gordon Kirk (right) and David Webster looking out from a rocky outcrop on the Summit Road Society's new covenant on Christchurch's Port Hills.*

decided to start owning land resulted from the Mt Cavendish gondola saga, which enabled the gondola to be set up on a scenic reserve. "We were very much against the gondola going on a reserve".

"Now we don't want to give it to anybody. We have a very strong committee, but we also have about 50 volunteer workers, 20 of them come out once a week, and the rest once a fortnight." National Trust Canterbury Regional Representative David Webster paid tribute to the hard work put in by Society members. "They cleared solid gorse by hand to make the track. They are very fit and very capable and very experienced people. Fencing is no trouble to them".

Mr Kirk paid tribute to early naturalist H E Potts, who built Ohinetahi homestead at Governors Bay in 1864, named the bush, and wrote quite a bit about the ferns. He listed 25 different fern species in the Ohinetahi Bush area. Mr Kirk says it would be good to know how many ferns are still present, and he notes tui have disappeared from the district in the last 20 years.

The Society now has 10 km of tracking in Ohinetahi Bush, and has worked on extensive

revegetation. The tracking has resulted in hundreds of people using the land. "We hardly come out here without seeing somebody". The 35 km long Crater Rim walkway also runs through the bush.

But the Society hasn't restrained itself only to working on land it owns. There are about 200 km of tracks on the Port Hills, and "we have had something to do with the majority of them", Mr Kirk says.

It's here the catalyst part of the Society's role comes in. "We try and encourage other people to do some of the work. We are there to assist organisations that have an interest in the hills—and there are 15 different authorities which are responsible for parts of the hills". Keeping his finger on the local politics and bureaucrats has been all part of the job.

National Trust director and long-time Summit Road Society member Brian Molloy says the remnants on the hills have great potential to recover. Back in 1972 he carried out a survey for the Department of Lands and Survey, which recommended this area be taken as a reserve.

"Irrespective of the bit of wild raspberry and broom and gorse, I am quite convinced that given time and the right sort of



management, there is no question about their long term viability”.

“It is pretty important to a city like Christchurch that we protect the long term future of the area. I am very keen on the new covenants, and I think they have the potential to really come on quite strongly, and recover quite well, particularly in the understorey”.

The new covenants add to the existing areas on the Port Hills protected with the National Trust, including a covenant in the Ahuriri Valley which is owned by the Graham family, and the Prendergasts Bush covenant on Gibraltar Farm just south of Ohinetahi Bush.

Mr Kirk explained how Peninsula botanist Hugh Wilson visited and walked over this block with him. “He made a plant list as long as your arm, 140 species just jotted down. That is the beauty of this compared with North Island bush, there’s something about it that is more interesting, maybe because there is not as much of it”.

Steep gullies fall away from the crater-rim bluffs, and rocky volcanic ribs separate the gullies. Looking south along the tops, the upper parts of the covenants are covered in silver tussock, but the south-facing slopes are clothed in regenerating bush, and a small part is still recovering from the fire which swept through the area about 15 years ago.

Some of the species in the thick second growth bush include mahoe, kaikomako, karamu, fuchsia, broadleaf, pittosporums, pate, cabbage trees and tree ferns, as well as pepperwoods. Special features are the lacebark *Hoheria populnea* var *lanceolata*, *Olearia avicenniaefolia*, matai, thin-

barked totara, prostrate kowhai and the abundance of the three species of tree fern. The Peninsula groundsel, and *Celmisia* are also present.

Silver tussock would diminish and disappear within four years without judicious grazing, Mr Kirk says. “It would be overtopped by the adventive grasses like cocksfoot and browntop and bracken fern. So sheep help to reduce the fire risk in this very top area of the covenant too”. The majority of the covenant is fenced to exclude stock.

Mr Kirk is looking further ahead for the Port Hills. He’s keen to see a regional Port Hills Park to continue giving protection to the land and access to people wanting to enjoy the hills.

## HAWKE’S BAY GATHERING

An impressive turn-out of Hawke’s Bay covenantors and supporters of the National Trust met in the Ongaonga district in early March to visit three special covenants.

The field day started with the unveiling of a new sign for the Te Whiti-O-Tu Pa site which Helen Swinburn has had protected with a covenant for many years. She is pictured (below) with Dale Campbell of Ongaonga (Dale works for Helen and unveiled the sign), and Trust Chair Hamish Ensor.

Historian Pat Parsons of Napier outlined the history of the pa site, which stands high on the southern banks of the Waipawa River, and has a commanding 360 degree view of the surrounding countryside.

The second visit was to the whole farm covenant of Sue and Jack Talbot at Blackburn Road, Ongaonga. Along with protection of all the standing trees, the Talbots also have three bush blocks fenced off.

The third visit was to Sue and David Schaw’s farm at Ashley Clinton, where they have recently completed fencing an extensive area of totara alongside a stream. The Schaws have also protected a second area which has more regenerating species, and this is right behind their house. (Photos: Marie Taylor)





# Tips and Techniques

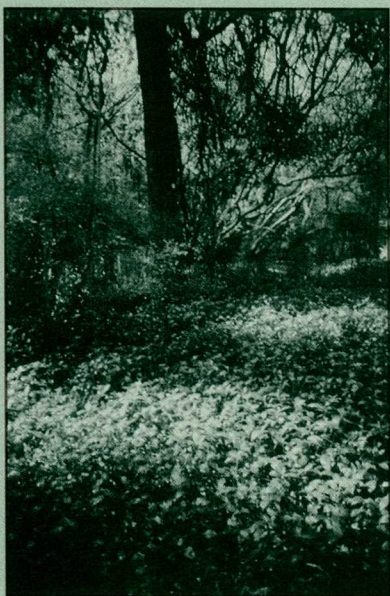
## for Forest Management and Restoration

### WEEDS IN NATIVE FORESTS: PART ONE

The problem of weeds and their impact on native forest and, in particular, native forest remnants, is now well recognised.

Weeds can cause a wide range of problems from preventing natural generation (e.g. *Tradescantia*) through to complete smothering of the canopy (e.g. Old Man's Beard).

Weed control activities can be expensive and time consuming and, where possible, it is desirable to take actions to prevent the establishment of weed species or their re-establishment after a weed control programme.



Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) is a major weed of forest remnants.

#### a) Preventing Weed Establishment

Two fundamental steps are:

- (i) Eliminate potential seed sources such as infestations of weeds in nearby shelterbelts, or

individual seed trees in adjacent gardens or paddocks. While birds and wind often play a major role in seed distribution and are beyond the control of the landholder, removal of nearby seed sources can significantly reduce the problem. Co-operating with owners of neighbouring properties to eliminate weed sources over a wide area is extremely important.

- (ii) Eliminate potential sites for establishment of weeds. The saying 'nature abhors a vacuum' is nowhere more visibly demonstrated than in a forest, where any opportunity of increased light or clear ground will be taken up by colonising species. If weed seeds are present, clearings provide an opportunity for their establishment, particularly if they are quicker at establishing than native species.

Therefore, it is sensible to plant up bare areas and corners with native species (unless they are required as open areas, (eg as a picnic area) to ensure good ground cover and eventually canopy closure.

This is why revegetation will often form part of a forest restoration programme. However, when the risk of weed species establishing on bare ground is obvious, the best option may be to sow the area

down in grass. This will act as a temporary ground cover and weed suppressant, and the area can be gradually revegetated in native species as resources and time allow.

Regular checks to monitor potential weed establishment sites are vital even when the forest grows out to the enclosing fence.

#### b) Preventing Weed Re-Establishment After Removal

Disturbed open sites created by weed control are ideal for weed establishment. It is therefore important to consider how an area will be treated before embarking on widespread weed clearance.

The major options are:

- Have a supply of native plants ready to plant when conditions are favourable. The aim is to shade the soil as quickly as possible to prevent weed seeds germinating or establishing. These native plants should be quick growing trees and shrubs propagated from local seed sources. Alternatively use 'safe' fast growing exotic species such as tree lucerne and underplant at a later date.
- After clearance, leave the area for some months to allow remaining weed seeds to germinate, selectively spray the area and then plant out with native plants.
- Mulch the area immediately after weed



clearance with untreated sawdust or bark chips and spot spray any weed growth until native plants for revegetation work are available.

Points to note are:

- Areas that have been heavily infested with weeds will contain weed seeds in them and these seeds may remain viable for many years. A close check will need to be kept on such areas for a number of years after planting as re-infestation is likely to occur.
- In some cases, especially where the level of weed infestation is low and a healthy degree of natural regeneration of native species is occurring, the spot removal of weeds may be all that is necessary. The removal of weeds in such cases can be undertaken over a number of years to allow the upcoming natives to fill the gaps caused by removal of weeds.
- At all costs avoid overclearing: that is clearing an area greater than can be dealt with in any one year. Not only will the seeds of the removed weed plants quickly germinate and grow, but quick growing, free-seeding weed species such as convolvulus may invade the area, thus compounding the problem.

Part Two in the next issue will look at different techniques for weed control.

# Open Space Covenants

As at 1 July 1995, there were 875 registered covenants totalling 29,352 hectares, with a further 349 areas totalling 43,400 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 1/7/95

LAND DISTRICT	TOTAL NO.	AREA PROTECTED (HA)
North Auckland	172	3,311
South Auckland	213	6,173
Gisborne	39	1,661
Hawkes Bay	36	1,083
Taranaki	52	1,467
Wellington	144	8,169
Marlborough	3	159
Nelson	45	1,268
Westland	2	10
Canterbury	71	2,444
Otago	33	2,169
Southland	65	1,436
	875	29,352

## RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

### NORTHLAND

#### Bell Covenant

Forty hectares of top quality forest has been protected by Warren Bell at Otangaroa, about 30 km west of Whangaroa.

The whole property, located, on Otangaroa Road, is covered in tall forest and is protected. Regional rep Fenton Hamlin says the bush is dense, with a solid podocarp/broadleaved canopy with kauri. Taraire is the dominant speices.

Although some kauri has been logged out in the past, the atmosphere is one of virgin forest, he says. Pied tit, tui, rosellas, grey warbler, fantail, shining cuckoo, pigeons and kingfishers have all been recorded. The presence of northern rata trees and pied tits

are special features of the Bell covenant.

Mr Hamlin says the covenant is important because it helps link several major forest areas as well as other prospective covenants in the Maungataniwha Range.

#### Garden Covenant

Jock and June Garden, who live right next to the Whangarei City boundary at Glenbervie, have protected a 1.2 hectare bush block which is in excellent heart.

Fenced and protected from browsing for more than 20 years, the bush contains puriri trees and has an understorey including nikau and tree ferns. Our thanks to the Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society for helping



pay for the survey costs of this covenant. The tall trees are healthy, the lower canopy is sound, and there is excellent regeneration. It's a good remnant of original cover, and a small but valuable food source for birdlife.

### *Ernest Nichols Memorial Bush Covenant*

Only a few kilometres north of Dargaville, Wally Nichols of the Northern Wairoa Flax Company and his wife Patricia have covenanted a 3.7 hectare hillock in the middle of river flats. The surrounding flats were considered a very good area to commercially grow flax.

Bush on the hillock has been very heavily browsed in the past by sheep. Totara is the dominant species, with kahikatea, wheki, mamaku, rimu, taraire, nikau and putaputaweta included in a wide species range. Mr Nichols decided to name the bush covenant after his father Ernest.

This is one of the best stands in the district, and even though it was damaged by grazing, it has regenerated well.

The covenant can be seen from Waihue Road.

### *Hames Covenant*

Brothers Murray and the late Lindsay Hames, who farmed in partnership at Paparoa, have protected a second forest remnant on their farm involving 3.6 hectare of kahikatea, kohekohe and taraire. This block adds to the wildlife corridors in the area, and although its understorey had been grazed hard, it is likely to regenerate well.

## **AUCKLAND**

### *Cornell Covenant*

Jenny and Wade Cornell, who live on Forest Hill Road at Waiatarua, southwest of

Henderson, have protected their 1.8 hectare kahikatea remnant which straddles a ridge. They paid for the fencing and survey costs of the newly registered covenant, while the Trust met the legal expenses. The Cornell covenant is close to Auckland Centennial Memorial Park. The protected bush also contains many large rimu, a kauri and several large puriri.

### *Bell Covenant*

Keen conservationists Priscilla and Malcolm Bell have protected a 2.5 hectare bush block straddling a stream two kilometres west of Whitford. The stream is a tributary of the Maungamaungaroa Creek.

Right next to the Williamson covenant (of 8 hectares) the Bell covenant covers rimu, totara, taraire and rewarewa forest with rata, kowhai, pukatea, titoki and kaiwaka also present.

## **WAIKATO**

### *Emmett Covenant*

Waiharakeke on Kawhia Harbour is the setting of a 7.9 hectare covenant over a headland of bush registered with the National Trust by Hazel and Albert Emmett. Next to a small Department of Conservation scenic reserve of two hectares, and adjoined by a two hectare road reserve, the total bush area is much larger than just the covenant. Owhiro Road winds right past the bush.

The best views of the Emmett covenant are from the harbour, says Mrs Emmett.

"We feel it was the best land use for that particular piece, it slopes towards the harbour, and looks really nice and scenic if you are on the harbour. It looks quite pretty from the water."

The covenant contains many large specimens of rimu,

kahikatea, rata, mangeao, tawa, titoki, hinau, puriri, kohekohe and rewarewa. This wonderful area of bush has been free of stock and in good condition for some time.

### *Mapson Covenant*

Near Ngatea, this tiny 0.97 ha covenant protected by Jean Mapson is a real gem. A remnant of kahikatea on the flat Hauraki Plains, it has been fenced for some years, and there has also been a lot of revegetation plantings made. Only a few areas like this remain on the plains, where the soils are wet marine mud, and kahikatea were once prevalent. This is top quality dairying land, and most remnants have succumbed to farming.

The occasional titoki, tawa and pukatea are also present. Revegetation plantings include flax, pittosporums, totara and rimu. This covenant is visible from both Orchard East Road and Turua Road.

## **BAY OF PLENTY**

### *Te Hinahina Covenant*

It seems apt that natural history writer Andrew Crowe has protected a 14.5 hectare forest remnant, six kilometres across the harbour south of Whitianga.

The author of 16 books, including "Which Native Tree?", Mr Crowe has recently protected the bush with a National Trust open space covenant. He's also written a booklet about the reserve which identifies the species found there.

The regenerating coastal forest starts at the Whitianga harbour waterline where mangroves grow, and runs up steep south and east faces to a ridge.

He's pleased to have



covenanted the bush, and says with marina development at Whitianga there may be increasing pressure on development in the harbour. "The whole of the harbour foreshore needs some kind of protection, as there is very little that has been protected so far. The QEII covenant seems the best way to go. I am a bit wary of local council protection, having seen what has been done in the past and how it has been over-ridden and how people treat it so casually."

Originally from London, Mr Crowe has written a book on protection of parks and woodlands there. "Seeing what local councils will do made me cautious of involving councils in protecting land. You get a change of staff and a change of commitment. People take the QEII Trust more seriously," he says.

Views from the Whitianga harbour are impressive, and it's the best way to see the covenant. "You don't really get to appreciate it from the top, but from the water it really makes a big impact."

In one afternoon's botanising in November 1993 with John Smith-Dodsworth, a botanist who has written books about New Zealand's ferns, shrubs and

climbers, Mr Crowe and Peter and Petra Hill named 140 native plants. The latest count is now 145 naturally occurring native species.

The main species are rewarewa, kauri, five-finger, mahoe, manuka, mingimingi, kanuka, kumarahou, akeake, coprosma species, olearia, mamaku and silver ferns. Kohekohe and puriri grow in the older forest areas.

They also found a high number of plants not seen on adjacent properties, at least nine native orchids, a large kauri

"Just a bit too big to hug" at 2.13 metres in girth and 25 metres tall, many unusually tall (15m) kanuka, one large white maire also 15m tall, a very sturdy tree daisy (heketara) with a girth of more than a metre, and a 12m cabbage tree.

Introduced garden jasmine plants were very invasive in the covenant, but this problem is now under control after a very labour intensive effort to pull much of it out by hand, Mr Crowe said.

### *Burke Covenant*

An important corridor of vegetation on one of the most scenic stretches of river in the Bay has been protected by deer farmers Paul and Gillian Burke.

It runs between the McLaren Falls reserve, the Wairoa River system and the upper Kaimai Ranges, and their farm is next door to the historic Kaimai School.

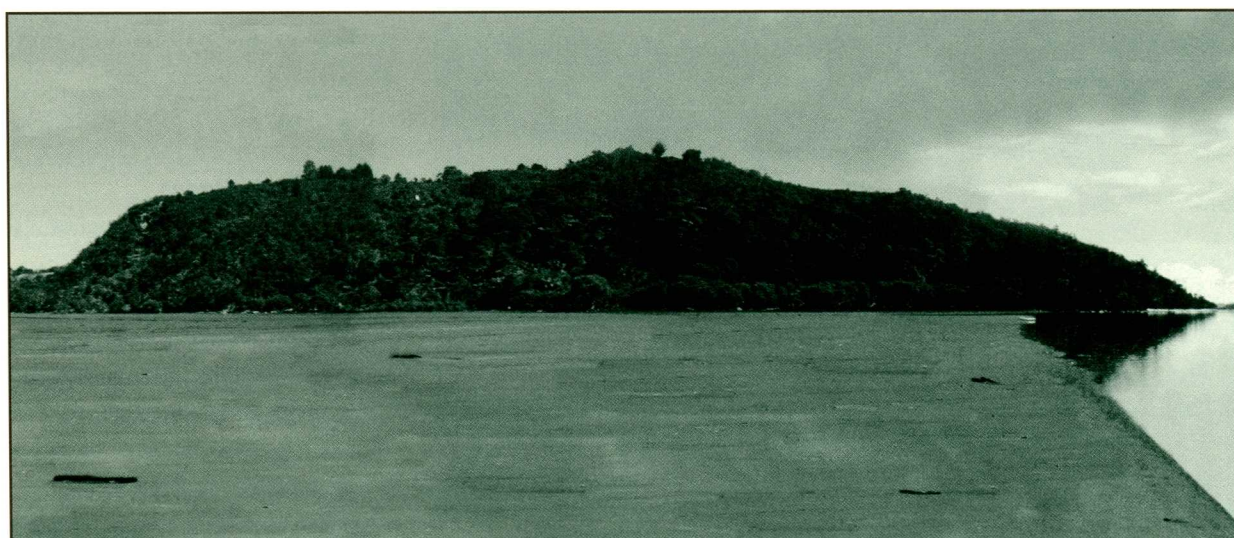
The new covenant, 30 km southwest of Tauranga, covers two whole titles, a total of 10.4 hectares of forest remnant and river system. A public walkway is planned to link the area with the nearby Ongaonga Scenic Reserve and the McLaren Falls reserve further downstream.

Totara, rimu and tanekaha trees are dominant on the edges of the Mangakarenorengo River, and the subcanopy species are mainly tawa and kamahi.

### *Merriman Covenant*

Habitat and landscape protection were the main reasons Kevin and Sandy Merriman of Pyes Pa Road, 29 km southeast of Tauranga, decided to protect three areas of bush on their property. The three areas making up the newly registered National Trust covenant add up to 34.8 hectares.

Their farm is on easy contoured country, and on the western side it drops down to the Omanawa River system. Some of the original bush was cleared in the 1970s when land improvement schemes were in



*Te Hinahina Covenant, as seen from the Whitianga Estuary at low tide. (Photos: Andrew Crowe)*



place, but large areas of bush were left.

The major part of the Merriman covenant is a large gully system along the river, and it was fenced some years ago with catchment board help. The forest here is tall tawa and podocarps, and is rich in birdlife. The second area is similar bush on flat to easy country, and although only electric fenced, no stock have been in it for many years. Two areas adjoin the Taumata Scenic Reserve. The Lottery Grants Board helped out with the survey costs of this covenant.

### *Gawn Covenant*

Magnificent pohutukawa trees on a headland and coastal cliff face between Ohiwa and the Bryan's Beach settlement in the Bay of Plenty have been protected recently by Florence and Bill Gawn.

The Gawns have a whole title covenant registered over their 20.3 ha block.

"We are fortunate to have purchased a piece of land which has a magnificent cliff of pohutukawa which runs down to the beach. Previously stock have had access, and we decided that wasn't on," Bill said. "We are only keepers of the land until we die, that's our attitude."

While pohutukawa trees are the main species protected, the trees have an understorey of taupata, houpara (five-finger) and kawakawa. DOC identified this remnant as the only one on the coast which has not been disturbed by roading.

"We also have a very nice piece of native bush which comes right up to our house, and we thought we should protect that as well. We have quite a few other pohutukawas on the property and large puriri,

and we wanted to protect them as well, and they have been fairly battered in the past. We decided to give them a new lease of life."

This second, small but significant, forest remnant contains pohutukawa and puriri, pepper trees and matipo. Meanwhile several of the adjoining owners are considering protecting their land, and this will mean the complete stretch of cliff-face between Bryan's Beach and the Ohiwa Motor Camp will be protected.

## **CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND**

### *Walker and Downard Covenants*

King Country farmers Jim and Audrey Walker and John and Rebecca Downard of Waimiha (south of Te Kuiti) have joined forces to protect 64 hectares of podocarp dominant lowland forest on their properties.

The two covenants are contiguous, and are largely contained in a steep gully system which forms part of the catchment area for the Waihuka Stream.

At the southwest end of the Downard covenant this stream flows over a papa bluff, forming a spectacular 60m waterfall. There are smaller falls upstream as well.

At the other end of the area, in the Walker covenant, there are some impressive rhyolite bluffs hidden in the bush. This forest remnant contains pure stands of young growth totara around the rims of the covenants. It descends to magnificent large mature specimens of matai, rimu, kahikatea and totara on the lower slopes, with some scattered tawa and hinau on the

northeast slopes.

The Downards have also protected a smaller four hectare area of native bush, containing a very large kahikatea, elsewhere on their property.

## **TARANAKI**

### *Romayne Covenant*

Sixteen kilometres north of Ohura in Taranaki, Rosemary Romayne has protected a six hectare freshwater wetland as a bird habitat. Rainfall is high in the Hapurua district, at 2500 to 3000mm a year. The wetland, on an alluvial terrace, is an association of raupo, toetoe, *Carex virgata* and coprosma species, as well as remnants of a tall kahikatea forest. Pussy willow is also present. Wetlands of this size in the district are scarce, as most have been drained to allow farming.

This covenant provides exceptional wildlife habitat for Australasian bittern, fernbird and spotless crane. All these species are rare in the district. The Lottery Grants Board helped fund this covenant.

### *Putt Douglas Covenant*

Okato schoolteachers Margaret Douglas and Glenys Putt own two drystock farms. One, of 65 ha, is on Warea Road, and the other of 49 ha is on mid Parihaka Road near the intersection with Wiremu Road. The covenant, on the Parihaka Road farm, includes approximately 3.5 hectares of swamp forest and wetlands.

The vegetation within the covenant is predominantly swamp maire and pukatea with some emergent kahikatea. A further 30 native species have been recorded, including the small-leaved *Coprosma tenuicaulis* which, like the three



canopy trees, has a preference for wet areas. Three ponds have been constructed on the edge of the protected area to provide a wildfowl habitat.

The National Trust is very grateful for the financial contribution it received from the New Plymouth branch of Soroptomist International. The Soroptomists held a silent auction in October 1992 for the benefit of the Trust and achieved an excellent result.



*Soroptomist member Airlie Benton in the foreground and part owner Margaret Douglas planting cabbage trees in the Putt Douglas covenant at Okato. (Photo: Bill Messinger)*

The Taranaki Tree Trust also provided finance for this project, so were invited, with the Soroptomist members, to attend an open day at the covenant to plant cabbage trees donated by a Soroptomist member.

With increased pressure from farming and the ever present threat of the large drain-digger, the Putt Douglas covenant has protected a valuable remnant of the fast disappearing swamp forests of the Taranaki ring plain. As regeneration takes place around the central area of the bush, it will become an excellent habitat for wildlife as well as

protecting water quality.

It is fitting to note Glenys and Margaret were presented with an Environmental Award by the Taranaki Regional Council at a recent meeting of the New Plymouth branch of Soroptomist International.

## **GISBORNE**

### *Munro Covenant*

Dennis Munro has protected an 8.57 ha bush block on his property 10 km southwest of Frasertown near Wairoa. The bush is very sheltered, with totara, cabbage trees, narrow leaved lacebark, pukatea, kawakawa, and a range of other species present. While it had been heavily grazed before fencing, regeneration is now underway.

## **HAWKES BAY**

### *Brookmount Farm Covenant*

Now owned by Julian Aitken of Eastern Produce Developments, this 5.88 hectare covenant near Otane in Central Hawke's Bay is rather special. The covenant, begun by Trevor Tawse, is a life of the trees covenant over mature elms, ashes and oaks planted in 1910.



*Mature Quercus robur (common oaks) on Brookmount Farm, Otane. (Photo: Marie Taylor)*

The trees are in two separate areas, one is made up of a smaller area of some 100 mature oaks in the midst of a block of many other species including gums, while the main block of trees is a magnificent wide stand of the oaks, ashes and elms.

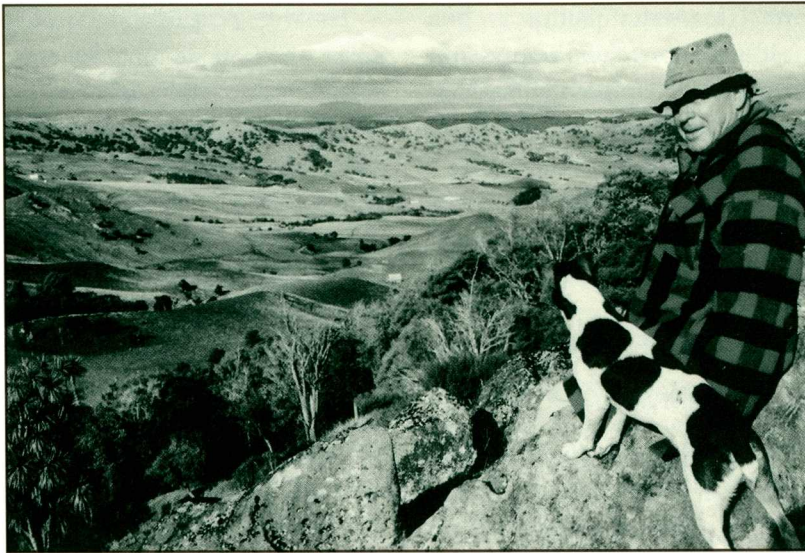
Mr Tawse, who paid the survey costs of this covenant, wanted to ensure the trees lived out their natural lives, and weren't milled when the farm was sold. The trees are unique in Hawke's Bay, as there is nothing of similar size and quality.

### *Awapai Trust Covenant*

Congratulations to the Beamish family of Whanawhana who have protected two small but significant forest remnants on their farm Awapai in the Hawke's Bay hills. Ralph and Joy Beamish and their son Simon and daughter-in-law Josi have protected the bush with a newly registered National Trust covenant.

While they are new covenantors with the Trust, they are widely known in farming circles throughout New Zealand. Ralph has been a member of the Royal Agricultural Society for many years and treasurer, and is currently a Hastings District councillor, while Simon is the





Ralph Beamish is pictured with his dog Mac, at the top of Henry's Bush, where he has a good view of the basin Awapai sits in next to the ranges. (Photo: Marie Taylor)

chairman of the Beef Council.

"I have wanted to put a fence around it for eight or 10 years," Simon says. "Now it's probably one of the most satisfying things I have done I think. The most amazing thing about the bush is that you climb the fence and you only have to walk in about 10 metres, and it is like going into a completely different room in the house. There's an amazing feeling about it, a feeling of being cut off, and yet it has a feel of everything growing."

The larger of the two titoki and kahikatea remnants is the 10.45 ha Henry's Bush which is named after a swagman who died there, while the smaller Little Bush is 1.5 ha.

The bush used to be a stop-over point of a packhorse route through the Kawekas to the Central North Island, and Ralph Beamish can still point out where the wagon tracks have cut into the side of a hill near Little Bush.

Other species present include kowhai, matai, rimu, lacebark, mahoe, kanuka, lemonwood and broadleaf species.

There had been little undergrowth due to grazing, and after fencing the district suffered badly from drought last summer,

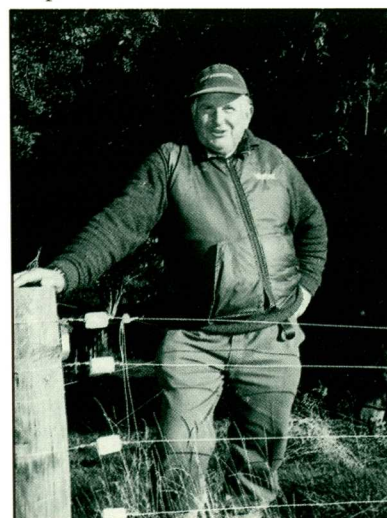
so it was surprising to see the profusion of seedlings which have regenerated under the canopy.

Both bush blocks are now very healthy, and can only improve with time.

### *Duncan Covenant*

Tucked into the steep south-facing hillside behind John and Colleen Duncan's house on the Weber Road 18 km south of Dannevirke is a newly registered covenant over 3.98 ha of forest.

This block of bush used to be riddled with possums until John used a mobile possum trap to help clean out the block. In the



John Duncan of Motea at his newly protected covenant—a seeding titoki tree is in the background. (Photo: Marie Taylor)

first 12 months of using the large Ryan bait station, he killed an estimated 1000 possums on the farm. The Manawatu Wanganui Regional Council helped to fund this covenant, which protects a good range of species.

Rewarewa, tawa, titoki, mahoe, totara, kahikatea, pukatea, five-finger, lacebark, lancewood, mamaku, ramarama, kowhai, rata vines and clematis are all included in the covenant.

It's easy to see the covenant from the Weber Road, and it's only a few kilometres west of the James and McNair covenants on Mangatuna Road.

## **WAIRARAPA**

### *Hartgill Family Trust Covenant*

Andrew and Jan Hartgill of Te Tumu, on the Akitio River Road have protected 48 hectares of podocarp forest, totara and kanuka. Originally surveyed by Eddie Suckling, the block is made up of diverse forest types, and is regarded by the Department of Conservation as having high significance.

The bush includes tawa and podocarp forest, with some very large rimu, tawa and pukatea. There are black beech associations on steep faces, and on the north facing slopes, kanuka/manuka forest with a wide range of shrubs and small trees.

There are several species present which are rare in the district, including *Pomaderris phyllicaeifolia* and *Corokia cotoneaster*. Apart from the Hunter and Herbert covenants on the north side of the Akitio River, this whole area of coastal hills has very few protected areas.

### *Herbert Covenant*

Cattle are the single biggest



problem in native bush says triple covenantor Alan Herbert of Merredin Station in southern Hawke's Bay.

"They are total destroyers of bush, and for a remnant to survive, the cattle must be kept out of it," he says.

"Sheep are a bit softer, but cattle are highly destructive."

He and his wife Susan have their third covenant recently registered on a 7.7 hectare remnant of broadleaf podocarp forest which runs along the banks of the Akitio River, about 60 km southeast of Dannevirke.

Cattle and sheep had been run through their new covenant by previous owners, but now it is fenced, there is strong regeneration, particularly of young kowhai. "Seedlings were coming through before, but were being whipped off by the cattle."

The Herbert covenant joins up with one the three blocks the next-door-neighbours the Hunters have protected. Hunters' bush is virgin, but 20 years ago loggers took out all the best totara and kahikatea trees from the Herbert property.

Large stumps can still be seen, and the logging track up the steep riverbank is still evident. Despite this milling, there are still some nice specimen trees protected now.

"The main reason to protect the bush was because of the erodable geological formation under it. The river banks are very steep," Mr Herbert says.

The Manawatu Wanganui Regional Council helped out with this newly registered covenant, which is very visible from the river road for nearly a kilometre.

One of the most interesting aspects about the long and narrow covenant is the high numbers of kowhai, which attract the birds in springtime.

"It's the high point of the covenant without a doubt. We've also planted hundreds of kowhai and cabbage trees up here by our house as well for the birds, and for the display it presents."

"Kowhai and cabbage trees are true Hawke's Bay trees, there is no point in planting anything else other than species which grow well here."

He's pleased to have protected the covenant, and the Herberts also have approval to extend the length of the covenant by another third to include all of the Akitio River's banks on their farm. "It makes sense from an erosion point of view to do that. The Akitio River has some really high flow rates, and it is wise to have species growing all along the river bank, otherwise it will continue to slip in."

This is the Herberts' third covenant. Their first, a 120 ha block on the Sugarloaf Road at Pongaroa, is now owned by a forestry company, but they still have their second covenant, a five ha block at Green Hollows, also at Pongaroa.

### *Pearson Covenant*

Fenced 10 years ago, the Pearson family's covenant near Pahiatua is a pocket of bush in a south-facing gully. Regional rep John Kirby describes the covenant as "a rare island of bush in a generally barren locality". Originally protected as part of a catchment scheme, the 3.2 ha tawa and podocarp forest contains scattered kahikatea and immature rimu, miro and matai. The newly registered covenant, 8.5 km southeast of Pahiatua on Te Aupapa Road has been protected by Alan and Maire Pearson, and Alan's brother George.

"It's a thriving ecosystem, and difficult to penetrate in many areas. It's showing very vigorous

seedling survival, and it's protected from wind damage around the northern fringe by an exotic strip," Mr Kirby continues.

## **WANGANUI**

### *Ernest Nicholls Bush Covenant*

Just north of Wanganui, Bessie Nicholls and her daughter Maree and son-in-law Geoffrey Murdoch have a new covenant.

Named after Bessie's husband Ernest, who died in 1992, the covenant is just off Brunswick Road, 7km from Westmere.

Two areas are covenanted, one a 2.1 hectare block, the other a 7.55 hectare block. The farm is on a high terrace which has been cut through by deep, steep-sided gullies.

Even though it was cut over in 1911, the canopy and understorey are regenerating well.

## **WELLINGTON**

### *Osborne Covenant*

A small but important wetland at Waikanae has been protected by Marion and Ron Osborne. The wetland, which covers 0.9 ha, is close to the beach, and nestled into sand-dunes and may once have been part of the Waikanae Estuary.

Regarded as a good representative example of a now uncommon ecological unit of flax, toetoe and *Coprosma propinqua* flaxland on a sandplain, the covenant area, though small, is very unusual being a small area still in a more or less natural state.

The Osbornes have planted several hundred flax bushes around the covenant, which attracts water birds all year round.

The Lottery Grants Board



helped with finance for this valuable covenant.

## NELSON

### *Sunday Creek Farm Covenant*

A group of 10 people have protected two stands of second growth beech and tall kanuka on their farm at Sunday Creek near Dovedale in the Moutere Hills, 55km south of Motueka. Murray Simms, Susan Booth, Julian George, Inez Kolff, John Soulsby, Penelope Soulsby, Andrew Budd and Judith Hesketh make up the farm community.

Some kahikatea and a vigorous understorey of mixed hardwoods is also present. Regional rep Martin Conway explains that, typical of much of the Moutere Hills, this land once supported beech forest on the hill slopes, and podocarps in the valleys. Now only small remnants remain due to milling, burning and pastoral farming.

However due to the conservation policies of the Sunday Creek Farm community, regeneration is vigorous and a new "forest" is emerging. The covenant is registered over the whole title of 6.8 hectares, while the bush makes up about 4.4 hectares in total.

One of the joint owners, John Soulsby, is well known to the National Trust in the Nelson region as a supervisor with Task Force Green, and he's been responsible for clearing up some serious infestations of Old Man's Beard in Trust open space covenants.

Until recently there was little protection in the Dovedale area, but this is changing with the Sunday Creek covenant and two more in the valley approved but not yet registered.

## CANTERBURY

### *Wilding Covenants*

A clutch of covenants have been registered at Parnassus by well-known Angus cattle breeders Frank and Jo Wilding and their son Tim and daughter-in-law Katie.

The four new covenanted bush remnants are close to another Wilding covenant—a 28 hectare block protected by the Wildings' son Michael and daughter-in-law Pippa on their farm Landsdowne.

Frank Wilding's father Edwin started the Te Mania Angus stud in 1928 with cows from his father-in-law Mr Armstrong, whose own stud began in 1905. Now Tim Wilding runs the stud, and sells 90 or more bulls each year.

Three of the new covenants are on Frank and Jo's farm Rafa, while the fourth is on Te Mania.

The first three blocks add up to 19.7 hectares and are in the Ploughman's Gully stream area which is very close to the coast, south of Conway Flat. Some may also be seen from the Conway Flat Road. It's easy to walk up the creekbeds of the steep-sided gullies, although progress up the largest bush block stops when the 15 metre high waterfall is reached.

The fourth block, a 2.2 ha gully, has been fenced for 40 years, and has very good regrowth with a dense cover including matai, Frank Wilding says. The protected areas are very attractive, and Marlborough rock daisies grow on some of the open cliffs, he says.

### *Belton Covenant*

Peter and Judith Belton and their son and daughter-in-law David and Adele have protected a 5.2 hectare remnant of lowland hardwood forest near Amberley.

## NEW GISBORNE REPRESENTATIVE

The Trust welcomes new Gisborne representative Malcolm Piper.

Malcolm, who started working life with stock and station agents NZ Loan and Mercantile in the Waikato, made steady progress in the farming world, capping off his career when he won the Gisborne Wairoa Hill Country Farmer of the Year title in 1993.

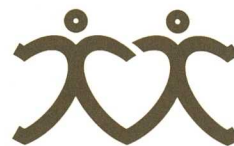
In between, he became a farm manager for the then Department of Lands and Survey in Taupo before he moved to Kairoa Station, which borders on the Ureweras. He and his wife farmed this station on their own account since 1969. They will soon be moving to a small holding on the flats near Gisborne.

Mr Piper has taken over the regional representative's role in Poverty Bay from Richard (Tiny) White, who worked for the Trust for 10 years before retiring recently.



Malcolm Piper (Photo: Marie Taylor)

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NEW ZEALAND

**Lottery Grants Board**



The bush is representative of much more extensive areas of lowland hardwood forest which existed on these southern faces before settlement and fire.

The covenant itself is made up of a small stream and gorge, a steep south-west facing slope and a gently sloping area above the steeper land. It is a narrow strip of land almost a kilometre long and 100 metres wide.

The block has four main plant communities. The first is a hardwood gully forest dominated by mahoe and coprosma species with cabbage trees and the climbers Muehlenbeckia and lawyer. The second area is more open with dense bracken and emerging cabbage trees, coprosma, mahoe and toetoe. The stream contains excellent specimens of *Carex secta* and toetoe, and a good fern population. The fourth area is shrubland on the upper terrace with *Coprosma propinqua* and matagouri with cocksfoot and native grasses.

### Loomes Covenant

A limestone landscape of almost 36 hectares and incorporating a 2.33 hectare forest remnant has been protected by Don and Beatrix Loomes, who live on McLeods Road, just off Limestone Valley Road, at Taiko in South Canterbury.

A limestone scarp, which almost cuts off a quarter of the farm on the south, has some steep 30 metre cliff faces, as well as more gentle slopes. Some very large limestone blocks have separated in the past from the main cliff face, and now stand as monoliths.

One of these isolated blocks has a shallow cave on its southern side, containing some Maori drawings on the cave roof and sides.

Remnants of hardwood bush along and on the cliff face add to the attractiveness of the new covenant. The largest and most compact area of bush has been fenced, and this contains mainly lowland ribbonwood, *Plagianthus betulinus*, some of which are 15 to 20 metres tall. The most common species is mahoe, and there are some broadleaf trees and kowhai. Areas of bush on the limestone are now rare.

It's easy to see this highly attractive covenant from Limestone Valley Road, but permission for access must be obtained from the owners.

The newly registered covenant is quite close to the Gliddon covenants.

### Central South Island Fish and Game Council Covenant

An important South Island wetland next to Lake Wainono has been protected with a National Trust covenant. The Central South Island Fish and Game Council has protected the wetland on the coast near Waimate.

Fish and Game Council officer Graeme Hughes, who is based in Kurow, says while the whole title covenant is over 179.9 hectares, the actual wetland is made up of a 30 ha area and a 26 ha area. The remainder is leased out for grazing.

The wetland keeps improving, with islands constructed, a major revegetation project underway and water levels controlled.

The wetland is home to a wide range of birds, many which move to the reserve when Lake Wainono's level drops very low. When the lake levels increase, so too do the numbers of waterfowl, Mr Hughes says.

Numbers keep increasing until flooding, and the numbers drop there, and increase in the reserve, which offers more feeding areas for waterfowl.

"We don't get the same complaints from adjacent landowners as we did before. Swans or geese used to feed on their pastures, but now they stay in the covenanted reserve to graze. It has solved a pasture depredation problem." Up to 3500 mixed ducks use the covenant, and it is also a favourite haunt of the protected grey teal, which may number more than 4500, he says. "They seem to like the shallow areas." Canada geese move in depending on the season, and there may be from 200 to 300. Black swans may number 650, with many moving over from Lake Wainono at times.

Stop-logs, rather like a cat door which only opens one way, are used to control water levels in the covenant, and they work very well, he says.

Revegetation work has been carried out by the Waimate Rod and Gun club, and species planted include salt bushes, flax and oak trees to provide bird food.

There are 10 hides throughout the new covenant balloted each season, Mr Hughes says. Lottery Grants Board money was used to pay for the management plan of the covenant.

### COASTAL OTAGO

#### All Day Bay Lagoon Covenant

The Central South Island Fish and Game Council has protected the 10.59 hectare All Day Bay Lagoon 14 km south of Oamaru with a recently registered National Trust covenant.

The estuarine wetland is a salt marsh adjacent to All Day Bay.



It's a small but valuable wildlife and indigenous fisheries habitat which supports four hides used for recreational hunting. A full range of waterfowl from black swans to grey teal frequent the area.

A good collection of wading birds, both local and transequatorial migrant waders, are also present depending on the season. All are dependent on the mud flats and shallow water.

Royal spoonbills are frequent visitors, as are white herons. Graeme Hughes of the Fish and Game Council says the birds have got used to traffic close by, and aren't bothered by people watching them.

The newly protected area is easy to see from the All Day Bay

road, and also from the Wainakarua Road along the coast.

## **SOUTHLAND**

### *Hodge Covenant*

The small but significant Hodge covenant must be one of the quickest covenants ever to be registered with the National Trust. Approved last November, the whole title 0.55 ha Otatara forest remnant was registered in March this year.

Jim and Sandra Hodge have protected the bush and its natural values in perpetuity with their newly registered covenant. On flat sandy soils only a little above sea level, their bush is a

remnant of coastal podocarp forest. It adjoins the well established Chas King covenant and complements the nearby National Trust owned Bowmans Bush and also a further eight covenants, all in the Otatara suburb of greater Invercargill.

Mature species of totara, matai, kahikatea, rimu and pokaka are included in the covenant. The area supports a good selection of native forest bird species ranging from native pigeons to grey warblers, tui and bellbirds. White-faced herons nest in the bush.

Regional rep Roger Sutton says the dominance of good-sized totara is the most notable feature of the covenant.

## **TRUST QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

Thank you to everyone who responded to our questionnaire in autumn. Victoria University masters student Lauren Turner, who compiled the questionnaire for the National Trust, reported the overall attitude to the Trust is positive.

### *General Comments*

Altogether there were 1618 questionnaires sent out, and 510 were returned, a response rate of 31%.

The aim of the questionnaire was to help the Trust assess the quality of its services. The results show that most of the people who responded were covenant life members, with subscription and honorary covenant members close behind.

The vast majority had learned about the Trust from newspaper and magazine articles and Trust promotion. Trust staff or directors and other covenantors or members of the Trust were also important ways to find out about our work.

When asked what aspect of being a member of the Trust was most important, 255 people said that their contribution to landscape protection had been acknowledged by the Trust, and protection of a landscape feature and wildlife in perpetuity.

Others said giving financial and moral support to the Trust and its work rated highly, while others said simply being part of the Trust's wider family and receiving "Open Space" was most important to them.

When asked how they felt about the Trust, 307 people respected its independent and professional attitude to landscape protection, while 302 said they were proud to be associated with it, and would recommend it to others. A further 181 said the Trust needed a higher public profile as it was virtually unknown to the wider public.

Of the 500 respondents, 158 had visited a Trust property, with 116 visiting the Taranaki

gardens of Tupare and Hollards Gardens, and 212 had visited a covenant other than their own. It was suggested a list of properties and gardens be included in Open Space.

While most (297) respondents were not keen on forming a regional group of Trust members, there were 159 who were interested. The groups would organise field trips, working bees, fundraising and social occasions, it was suggested.

Only 46 respondents said they would be keen to help with the costs of covenanting such as fencing, weed and pest control. However, a higher number (162) were keen to help with work such as fencing, weed and pest control, botanical surveys and revegetation projects.

### *"Open Space"*

Almost all of the respondents read Open Space.

More practical management tips were suggested by 23



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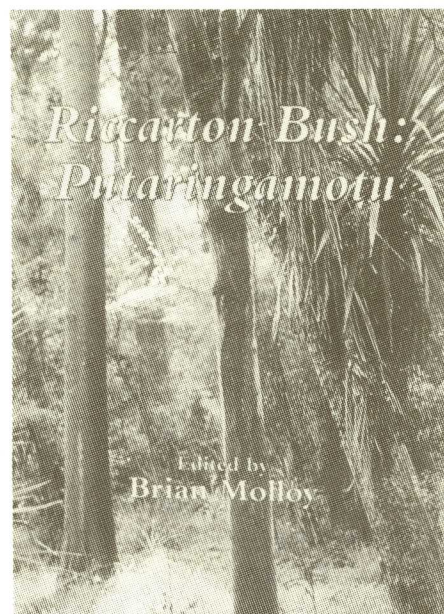
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Edited by Brian Molloy



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people. Policy issues, costs and board decisions were of interest to nine people. One suggestion was to cover failures as well as success stories to portray some realism, and also help prevent mistakes being repeated.

Almost everyone was happy with the new format of the newsletter, with 30 people finding it hard to read. (That's one issue we are definitely clearing up, with the bigger type sizes and less textured paper).

### *"Native Forest Restoration"*

A third of respondents have read the Trust's "Native Forest Restoration" handbook, with one reply emphasising the importance of planting species ecologically appropriate to an area.

### *Role of the Trust*

While the Trust has traditionally avoided getting involved in contentious political issue, 279 respondents said they'd like to see the Trust be more proactive in this area.

On the other hand, 204 people said they would not like the Trust to be more proactive, and preferred the Trust's low key approach which was non-judgemental and non-political. "Taking a strongly partisan line could prejudice its role in mediation between land-owning and conservation interests."

Those who said the Trust should be more proactive, explained it by preferring the Trust to be more active in conservation generally, also in regional and district schemes and plans and in resource management issues.

### *Working Relationships*

When it came to the question of which organisations the Trust could be working more closely with, respondents were divided

again. While 203 people said the Trust should maintain its independence, 275 said we should work more with regional and district councils, DOC, Federated Farmers, and conservation lobby groups (in that order).

### *Role of the Government*

The vast majority of respondents felt Government had an obligation to fund the Trust. Costs should be shared with the individual to give the maximum protection for each taxpayer dollar, 307 people said. The protection provided by covenants is vital for preserving NZ's biological diversity, 337 people said, and 289 people said the Trust was providing a community service which benefits all New Zealanders, therefore all should contribute.

### *What to Protect*

Ecological or scientific value is the criteria respondents felt should be used first to evaluate covenant proposals since the Trust cannot accept all the proposals put to it. The next most important criteria was how threatened the feature is, followed by the soil and water conservation values. The scenic values of the proposal ranked next in importance, followed by the owner's enthusiasm and contribution. Education values came next, then cultural values, and the cost to the Trust ranked quite low. The last criteria to use was the amount of use the public can make of it, respondents suggested.

### *Priorities for the Trust*

The Trust currently operates on a very tight budget. If money became available, respondents wanted the Trust to seek and approve more covenant proposals. Then the next most

important activity was to invest more in covenant management such as fencing, revegetation, and weed and pest control.

The next most important project was to increase promotion of the use of Trust properties, followed by becoming more involved in property ownership and management, and then producing an annually updated booklet of covenants open to the public.

When asked where their donations and bequests should go, 252 said to general work, and 204 said to specific projects, with 90 of these choosing fencing first. Other specific projects listed were revegetation assistance, and management of existing covenants.

If the Trust was offered more gardens, 286 people felt they should be accepted, but warned they should be at least partially self-funding, endowed or otherwise funded. On the other hand, 125 people said no, and that open space covenants were more important.

### *Membership Subscriptions*

A total of 143 people said their subscription gave value for money, but six said no it didn't. Those who said it did give good value welcomed the opportunity to help the Trust.

### *Fencing*

On the topic of fencing, 206 people supported a 50% contribution to the owner's share of new and replacement fencing. However, since the questionnaire was designed, the Trust policy has changed to only offer 50% of new fencing to new covenant proposals (see page 3 for Chairman's comments). Only a handful of people supported funding up to 100% of fencing, depending on circumstances.



## Rate Relief

The majority of respondents felt they had not received satisfactory rate relief from their local councils.

## Public Visits

Almost half of the respondents allowed the public to visit their covenants with prior permission, and 62 said they allowed the public to visit at any time. Only 24 did not allow public access.

## Assistance from other Members

Many of the respondents would appreciate help from other Trust members and supporters for weed and pest control, botanical surveys and revegetation projects, and general advice.

A quarter of the respondents were interested in operating a homestay, with 11 already operating one. Almost a quarter of the respondents had the facilities already, and 52 said they would go ahead on a 50/50 share basis with an entrepreneur.

## Covenant Members' Comments

Almost half the respondents said the main reason they approached the Trust for a covenant was to protect a special landscape feature or rare species. A further 81 said the Trust covenants were more suitable than other types of protection.

For those who bought land with covenants already in place, 84 said it was a major influence in buying the property, and 73 said it was not.

Half the replies said they had no concerns about covenanting, but some said the process was complicated and the Trust slow to respond.

Several respondents had not

known they must advise the Trust if there is a change of ownership. On a question about the Forest Heritage Fund, 60 people knew the Trust gets funding for fencing and survey through the FHF, but 78 people didn't. For forest remnant covenants, this is the Trust's major funding source.

One of the constraints of using this money is that once a covenant is approved, it has to be completed and registered within two years, which some respondents were unaware of.

Asked if the Trust had required an endowment when the covenant was registered, 141 said they would have still gone ahead with the covenant, but 108 said they would not. Many would not have been able to afford to endow the covenant. Only 48 said they would consider making an endowment now, while 194 said they would not, but could consider it later if they could afford to. One person said they had formed a trust with its own finance to maintain both fencing and plantings.

Most of the people with management statements for their covenants found them helpful. "They should be encouraged for all covenants as a clear statement of direction, especially for future owners."

Most also said the management statement gave adequate guidance for future owners.

More than half of the respondents said they were pleased they came to the Trust for a covenant, but a few had lost interest or found it a financial burden.

Only 59 of the respondents had sold their covenanted land, with half of them or their solicitors notifying the Trust. Sellers said half the potential buyers were attracted by the covenant, while it had no effect on the other half.

Most said the covenant had no effect on the price of the property, while others felt it was an attraction and a smaller number felt it lowered prices.

In most cases the previous owner told the new buyer of the covenant, while solicitors were evenly divided (12 each way) in explaining, or not, the effect of the covenant.

## Subscribing Members' Comments

Lauren Turner found subscribing members rated the newsletter more highly as it is their most immediate source of contact. Subscribing members also felt the Trust needed a higher profile. Many subscribing members (44%) have visited Trust properties, but only 20% had made visits to covenants.

Subscribing members were more inclined to see the Trust have closer working relationships with other organisations, and were also more likely to donate money.

## Northland Ecological Conference

A two day conference with an ecological theme "Enhancing our Environment" will be held at Waimate North, Northland on 28 and 29 October.

Professor John Morton is the key-note speaker with the theme "THINK GLOBALLY—ACT LOCALLY" and the programme includes a number of interesting guided field trips including two Trust covenants. Trust members are encouraged to come along and meet other members and supporters of the Trust's work in Northland.

For further details contact Fenton Hamlin (Tel/Fax 09 407 7562).



## HELP US PROTECT THE LANDSCAPE JOIN THE NATIONAL TRUST

- Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Gift Membership

Please send a gift membership to my friends—details above.

Gift from (name and address):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

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