



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

For open space in New Zealand

Nga Kairauhi Papa

Open Space

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IN THIS ISSUE...

NEW TRUST CHAIRPERSON
APPOINTED

Page 1

MAGNIFICENT FROST
COVENANT FIRST IN
MURCHISON

Page 2

AROHA ISLAND
ECOLOGICAL CENTRE

Page 3

TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FOR
FOREST MANAGEMENT AND
RESTORATION

Page 4

RECENTLY REGISTERED
COVENANTS

Page 6

OPEN SPACE COVENANT
STATISTICS

Page 7

CLIPPINGS

Page 13

WINTER NEWS FROM TRUST
GARDENS

Page 13

SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

Page 14

NEW PROPERTIES

Page 14

TRUST PEOPLE

Page 14

OBITUARIES

Page 15

TRUST DIRECTORY

Page 16

NEW TRUST CHAIRPERSON APPOINTED

Mrs Margaret (Maggie) Bayfield has been appointed as Chairperson of the National Trust for a three year period. Mrs Bayfield replaces Mr Hamish Ensor who resigned in May this year following a farming accident.

In making the appointment the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Simon Upton, noted:

"The QEII National Trust plays a significant and increasing role in protecting ecological and landscape features on private land. Mrs Bayfield's background in ecology and experience as a member of the NZ Conservation Authority and as a Director of the National Trust since 1991 makes her ideally suited to guide the work of the Trust."

Maggie has a Masters degree in plant ecology and co-ordinated the Protected Natural Areas (PNA) programme in Taranaki over the period 1984 to 1986.

It was as a result of implementing the findings of PNA surveys that her belief in the vital role the National Trust plays in engendering support from private landowners was confirmed.



Maggie Bayfield

"It became clear to me then that the National Trust, with its broad and widely accepted mandate to protect open space, was going to play an important role not only in protecting the ecologically valuable areas identified in PNA surveys but also in helping to protect a wide variety of landscape features," said Maggie.

Interests in conservation and land management issues are reflected in her previous appointments as Chairperson of the Taranaki Conservation Board and as a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

Maggie, her husband Bill and two young daughters live in Inglewood.

In the next issue of Open Space Maggie Bayfield will discuss her aspirations for the Trust.

MAGNIFICENT FROST COVENANT FIRST IN MURCHISON

"I don't think of myself as a landowner, I think of the trees and birds as living here in their own right, and I am just passing through."

The thoughts of Sarah Frost sum up the significant protection she and her husband Roger have just undertaken at their Upper Buller Gorge property, "Kakariki".

They have a newly registered National Trust open space covenant over the whole of their 277 hectare property, 10 minutes south of Murchison, and close to Kahurangi National Park.

Roger, who is infamous for teaching his school pupils how to hug trees, is the Murchison Area School's deputy principal and languages support teacher. The school uses satellite TV and computer links to teach Japanese, Spanish, German, Maori and French. Part of Roger's commitment to teaching is learning the first four languages, as he already knows a little French.

Sarah is a relief teacher at the school. "Roger may hug trees, but I talk to them. I see them as my friends and find serenity with them, and I am happy for them that they are safe," Sarah says.

Their new covenant is the first in the district says Regional Representative Martin Conway of Nelson. The land is a combination of high terraces, separated by low hills and perched 150 metres above the Buller River at O'Sullivan's Bridge.

Around 100,000 years ago, the lower terrace was a lake bed, and the upper terrace a glacial outwash. These terraces are the highest pakihi terraces in the Buller catchment.

Although surrounded by conservation land, fires swept through "Kakariki" in 1930 and

in 1957, modifying large tracts. This has resulted in a series of natural sequences, each showing up as different patterns of vegetation.

All four species of native beech are present, while rimu, kahikatea and miro are scattered through it, and are predominant in the wetter sites. Young kaikawaka (mountain cedar) have begun replacing a forest of the same trees destroyed in the 1930 fire. The standing skeletons of the burnt trees are still a dominant feature of part of the landscape.

Kamaha, kanuka and manuka are all providing cover for beech and podocarps to re-establish. There's a diversity of native orchids including *Thelymitra pulchella*, the blue sun orchid. Carnivorous sundew (*Drosera*) plants are also present, and there are many fern species including Prince of Wales feather and umbrella ferns.

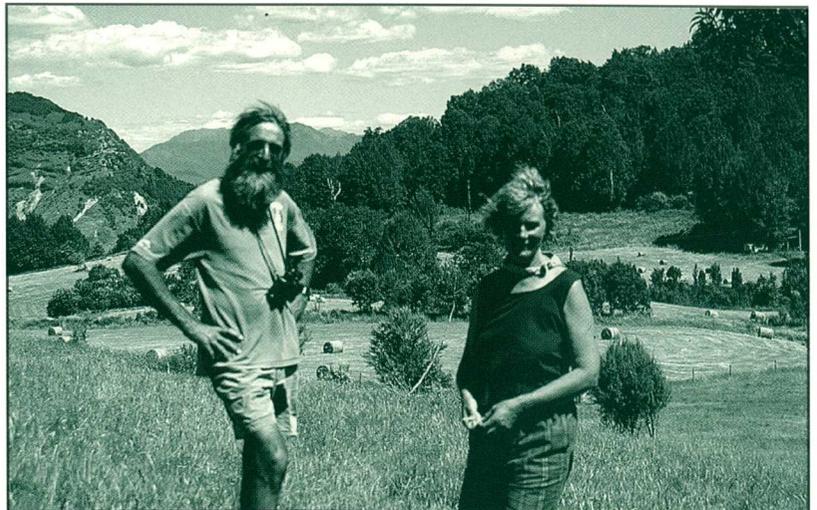
There are only 30 hectares of pasture in the property, all leased out for grazing. The pastures afford 360 degree panoramic views of the landscape, from the Lyell Range in the north to the Maruia Valley in the south. "It's a good example of the integration of pastoral farming and conservation," Martin Conway says.

While there are good tracks on the property giving access to the pylons which march through the northern part, Roger and Sarah have minimal impact trails through much of the rest of the forest, relying on snapped off twigs, and a remembered fern or notable tree as landmarks through the dense vegetation.

Sarah and Roger are happy to have safeguarded "Kakariki" for the future, ensuring its protection long after they have gone, although Sarah says they'd love to come back in 100 years to check on the trees. "We don't own the land, the land owns us," Roger says. "It feels very secure to have the covenant in place - we are very comforted by it."

Visitors to "Kakariki" enthuse over the place. "Someone said the other day: no wonder you are always smiling Roger, you are half-way to heaven already living up here." The Frosts have owned the property since 1990, building a timber house in the past few years. They used local macrocarpa and their own Lawson's cypress trees, and the only native timber is a recycled matai floor in a couple of the rooms.

Kakariki is also important wildlife habitat. "We had a falcon hunting from the roof of our house the other day, and we watched the harrier hawks carry food to their nest in the swamp this year. Later we watched an



Roger and Sarah Frost

adult train the younger one to hunt, and that went on for days," she says.

There's a huge diversity and abundance of birdlife, including kakariki (the native yellow-crowned parakeet), kaka, bellbird, tui, tomtit, grey warbler, shining cuckoo, fernbird, weka, kea, bush robin and brown creeper. Birdlife has been enhanced in the last two to three years, Roger says. It's difficult to attribute a cause, but 1080 possum control clearly hasn't harmed bird numbers, he says.

"For the past two years kakariki numbers have continued to increase, and there is hardly a day when we don't see and hear them." Before the 1080 operation they'd been watching three kaka, but after a couple of months they disappeared, and 10 months later they saw 20. "They were probably all young males and the numbers probably related to a magnificent seeding year of all sorts of fruit species in 1995."

Likewise weka numbers are strong, and last winter was named the Winter of the Kea.

"We had nine of them roosting around the house, and we had to protect absolutely everything. They managed to ring-bark a lemon, and nothing was sacred - even the lead flashing on the roof. This year we had to give them the message - a bucket of well-aimed cold water. They were all juveniles."

Roger says around the pasture/bush margins under the kanuka trees there's an incredible amount of regeneration of kahikatea, beech, karamu, wineberry and five-finger. "It's a testament to how effective stock are at preventing that from taking place."

But in some of the areas hit by the fires, regeneration is very slow and patchy as a result of the inhibiting effects of bracken and bush lawyer. "They just pull the young seedlings down. In places where bracken and bush lawyer haven't established, kanuka or beech have come away and we have beech seedlings of 10 metres."

One hillside they call Lancewood Hill is a good example revealing that only the lancewood has been able to get

through the dense bracken cover. Only until two or three mature lancewoods are able to grow together to shade the cover does anything else come through the bracken.

"The fernbirds live in the bracken, and they were very much an attraction of the area to us. So we can't wish all the bracken away."

While they are letting nature take its course in most of the property, a gully on the way up to their house is being revegetated as often as their track slips. Quite substantial red and silver beech seedlings fall off the rocks surrounding the track, and are replanted into the gully, and are surviving well. "We have some now well over three metres tall with very stout trunks. It is hard to believe we actually transplanted them, and it's been quite a success."

As they've got to know their property better they've found more mistletoe plants, the orchid *Orthoceros strictum*, *Dracophyllum traversii*, and one plant of *Quintinia* in a regenerating area - a species much more common down the Buller Gorge.

AROHA ISLAND ECOLOGICAL CENTRE

In *Open Space* No. 36 it was reported that a start had been made on developing an information centre and other facilities at the Trust's Aroha Island property near Kerikeri. The centre is to be an educational resource focussing on the conservation of the North Island Brown Kiwi and other regionally endangered birdlife.

With this issue of *Open Space* there is the second issue of the newsletter of the Aroha Island Ecological Centre.

Outstanding progress has been made with the work at Aroha and planning is underway for a formal opening in late November or early December. Advice of the date

will be given to all Trust members and supporters in the far north so that as many as possible can attend that occasion.

The National Trust has been fortunate indeed to have been in receipt of many donations towards the project. These have greatly assisted but much more funding is still required. In particular, the Trust would welcome contributions towards a range of items essential to enable the educational role proposed for the centre to be achieved. Such items include seating and collapsible tables for school groups, teaching aids such as video equipment, resource books and maps, a microscope and display cases.

All donations over \$5 are tax deductible and should be sent to:

**Aroha Island Ecological
Centre Appeal**
C/- QEII National Trust
P O Box 3341, WELLINGTON.

There is now very comfortable accommodation available at a modest charge at Aroha for any Trust member or supporter wishing to stay overnight or longer. Enquiries about staying should be made to:

Alison Chambers
Centre Manager
Private Box 541, KERIKERI
Tel: (09) 407-5243
Fax: (09) 407-5246.

Tips and Techniques for Forest Management and Restoration

PLANNING A REVEGETATION PROJECT

Revegetation is the establishment of local native plants to create plant communities using one of several methods. Commonly this is undertaken to extend or provide shelter for an existing forest area. However, it is also possible to recreate forest areas through a carefully planned revegetation programme. There are many examples of stable and self-sustaining forest areas around New Zealand that 20 to 30 years ago were areas of grass or herbaceous and woody weeds.

A revegetation project will normally span many years, so careful planning is essential to ensure that all matters have been thought through and the project will succeed.

Many revegetation projects falter after considerable time and resources are put into them because an important aspect is overlooked or because resources are not budgeted for past years one and two. For example, if weeds are a serious problem, they should be controlled or eradicated before any planting takes place. Plants need to be ordered or propagated 18 to 24 months before planting so that they are of an appropriate size for planting out (30 to 60cms).

It is important to itemise the level of resources and the time that will be required each year for the duration of the programme. The costs and time can then be anticipated and budgeted for. It is a good idea also to plan the year ahead and highlight in a 12 month plan necessary actions. For instance, controlling rabbits and hares at a planting site needs to be undertaken well in advance of planting.

The flow diagram illustrates the range of options and stages that need to be considered and planned for in a revegetation programme.

Keeping Records

The importance of recording as much information as possible about all aspects of a revegetation programme cannot be over-emphasised. Not only will this information assist in an assessment of the present methods (what has worked and what has not) but also it will assist others who may embark upon a similar programme.

If possible, record the following:

- a) Site Description
 - Site Location
 - Size
 - Status of the site
(eg. QEII National Trust covenant, Protected Private Land, etc.)
 - Purpose of the revegetation
 - Vegetation cover before planting
 - Surrounding vegetation and seed sources
 - Soil type
 - Exposure to wind
- b) Plant Material
 - Plant material (species, sources of propagating material)
 - Plant size
 - Condition
- c) Planting
 - Site preparation (weeds controlled, herbicides used, fencing, etc.)
 - Dates
 - Weather conditions
 - Layout

Treatment (fertiliser/staking, etc.)
Labour
Planting method (spade/post-hole borer, etc.)

- d) Follow-up Maintenance
 - Weeds and pest control, etc.
- e) Monitoring
 - Assessing the success of the project
 - Survival rate after 12, 18 and 24 months
 - Lessons for the future.

Site Selection and Assessment

- (a) In many cases a revegetation project will be extending an existing forest area or restoring gaps (or "light wells") within an area. Where these areas are small, the choice of site does not need further consideration. However, in larger areas there will be various sites and some parts will be more suitable for the establishment of plants than others. The more favourable microsites should be used first to establish plants. Features such as remnant patches of top soil, or moist depressions which are sheltered or frost free, contribute to rapid plant growth. Planting on favourable microsites first helps to create a more favourable environment for subsequent plantings. Take time to observe nearby sites where native plants are naturally

growing. Here, nature will have done the hard work of matching the right plants to particular sites. It is then quite a simple matter to repeat those vegetation patterns on the proposed revegetation site.

(b) The other possible type of site for a revegetation project is the bare site covered only in grass or weeds. Again, the site should be assessed for areas where plant establishment

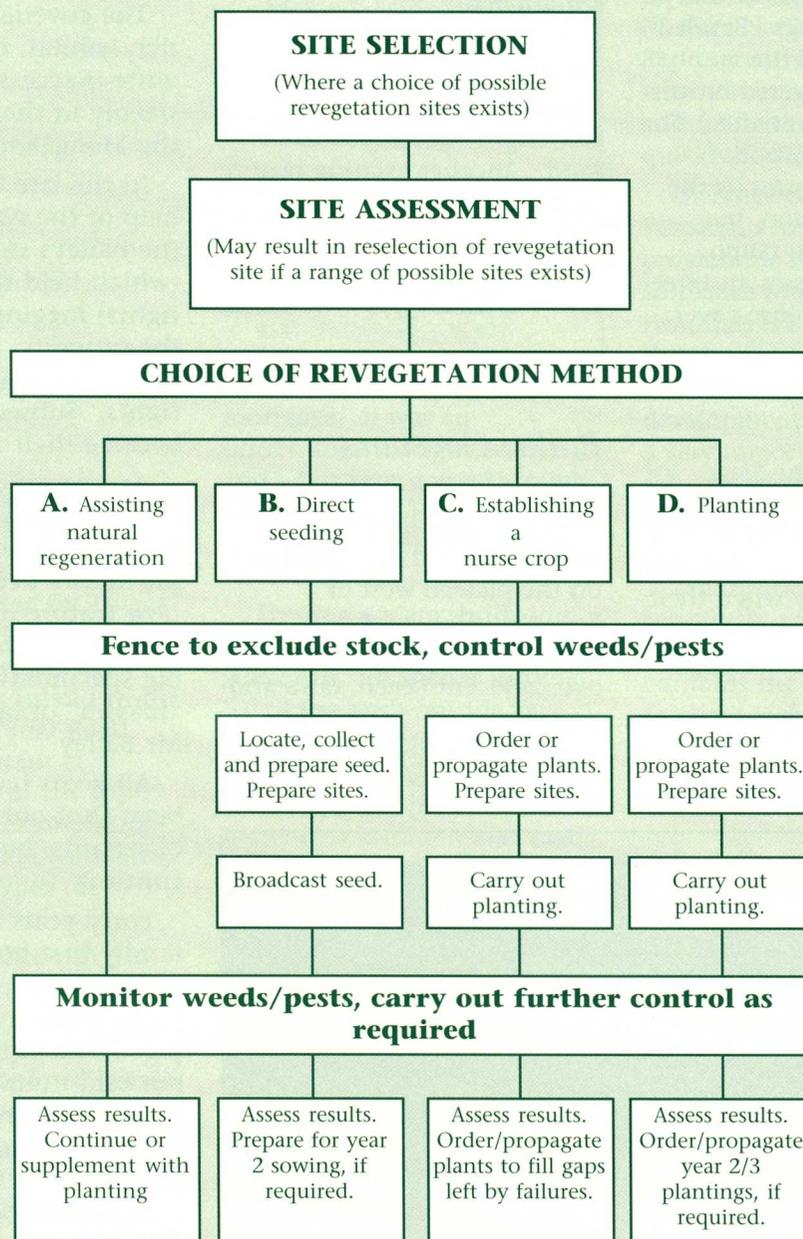
is likely to be optimised, and these areas used first.

When starting a revegetation programme and you have the choice, do not choose sites that are very exposed to prevailing winds, subject to water logging in winter or are 'frost-pockets' where cold air drains producing heavy persistent frosts. If in doubt, seek local advice from nearby landowners if they are more familiar with the area.

If possible, choose sites that are well sheltered, have adequate moisture and fertility and no problem weeds.

However, it is possible to revegetate the most difficult of sites with native plants. It is just a matter of matching the right plants for the site and the right revegetation method.

Next Issue: Selecting the Revegetation Method.



RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

NORTHLAND

Steward Covenant

An impressive wetland bird habitat has been protected by Alison and David Steward eight kilometres east of Kawakawa. Their 3.6 hectare saltwater wetland, almost isolated by the Owae Stream and Karetu River, is now protected by an open space covenant. At high tide the wetland is almost flooded.

The wetland is home to pukeko and bitterns, and is frequented by shags. Banded rail, fernbirds and the occasional endangered brown teal also use the wetland. The salt marsh ribbonwood, *Plagianthus divaricatus*, is the dominant vegetation, but cabbage trees, flax, raupo, rushes, native grasses and tree ferns add to the dense cover.

Holwell Family Trust Covenant

A vital part of the New Zealand pigeon's diet in the Maungatapere area of Northland was protected by the Holwell family when their 2.6 hectare taraire forest covenant was registered recently.

Taraire stands are very important to the pigeon (kukupa) in winter and early

spring, by providing berries which make up 70 to 80 per cent of the diet. Because other late autumn and winter-fruiting trees such as miro and pate are scarce in the area, or very susceptible to possums in the case of kohekohe, taraire has become a vital species.

The answer to this problem is to fence off remnants and monitor their regeneration, which is exactly what the Holwells have done. Their covenant also contains several puriri, the staple summer food for kukupa.

This new covenant is two kilometres south of the Wilson covenant, and is on flat, highly developed dairy land. Another exciting feature of the covenant are the historic dry stone fences made from volcanic rocks which are part of the covenant.

WAIKATO

Bailey Covenant

Dick and Pam Bailey have added to their first 54 hectare forest covenant at Mamaku, on the plateau west of Rotorua. They now have a second 18.4 hectare covenant over adjacent beech, tawa and rimu forest.

Along with the Baileys' first covenant and the

Mangakotaha Scenic Reserve, this new covenant results in the protection of a continuous four kilometre strip of land on the north side of the river gorge, says Regional Representative (and Dick's cousin) Tim Oliver.

"With more intensive land use, as almost all the local farms convert to dairying, this buffer is important as a wildlife refuge and corridor, and for downstream water quality and flow reduction," he says.

The covenant preserves a rich habitat, but most of it is quite inaccessible as it slopes steeply in the south down the Mangakotaha Stream.

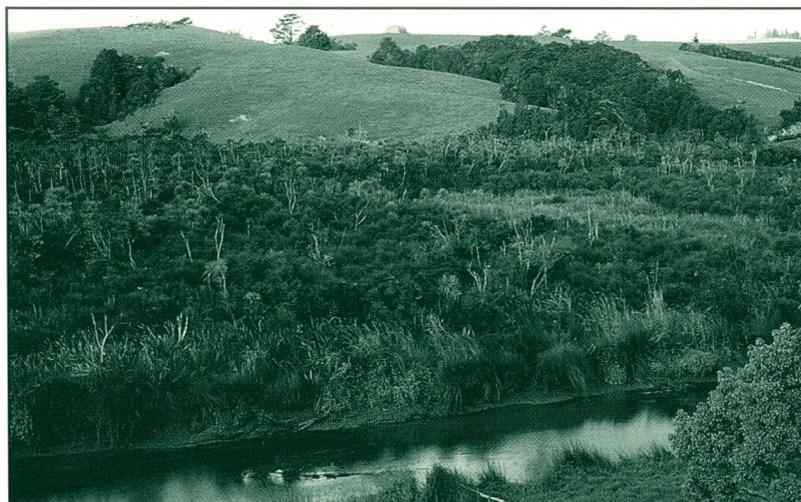
In the late 80s with the help of the National Trust the Baileys stopped Tasman (which held the cutting rights) logging the back of the property, and it relinquished its cutting rights. Subsequently this became their first covenant.

As a result of their inaccessibility and steepness, the blocks had not previously been logged, and now feature many magnificent trees including big specimens of rimu and "masses" of large tawa, says Mr Bailey.

All goats have recently been shot out of the covenants, but possums continue to be a problem.

Forty years ago when the family first bought the land, it was named Kereru because there were so many native pigeons about in the bush, but bird numbers have decreased significantly as a result of possums and poachers, Mr Bailey says.

"Seventy hectares is enough to sustain some quite good birdlife, and we would love to see the birds come back into it."



Steward Covenant

Open Space Covenants

As at 30 June 1996, there were 954 registered covenants totalling 38,827 hectares with a further 333 areas totalling 61,602 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 30/6/96

LAND DISTRICT	TOTAL NO.	AREA PROTECTED (HA)
North Auckland	187	3,518
South Auckland	228	6,320
Gisborne	46	8,267
Hawkes Bay	43	1,180
Taranaki	54	1,473
Wellington	164	8,438
Marlborough	3	159
Nelson	49	1,550
Westland	2	10
Canterbury	75	2,564
Otago	37	3,878
Southland	66	1,466
	<u>954</u>	<u>38,827</u>

butter boxes for exporting the butter, Michael says.

The Parkers have noticed a big increase in the tui population, and Michael counted 11 by the house recently. They put this down to possum control. "I am amazed at how much regrowth has come back in the past 18 months, and the improvement in the bird life is spectacular," he says. The farm has also recently attained full "Biogro" certification, a process which has taken five years.

"We'd like to make a special mention of Richard White (former National Trust Representative in Gisborne) who was extremely helpful and made things move very quickly," Michael says.

Dr Bruce Clarkson, Landcare Research's forest ecosystems programme leader, says kahikatea forest on alluvial river flats is a rare forest type in the North Island as most has been destroyed by agricultural development. "Parker's Bush is a very important and substantial remnant of this forest type, hence its priority one ranking."

Totara and matai have been selectively removed by logging previously, but the bush also contains the narrow-leaved lacebark *Hoheria angustifolia*, which is uncommon in the district.

HAWKES BAY

Schaw Covenant

Two magnificent remnants of totara forest have been protected by Suzanne and David Schaw of Whittlewood, near Takapau.

Suzanne and David Schaw are very pleased to have their two blocks of bush covenanted. "It is something we wanted to do from day one", they say.

Their first block of 7.1 hectares, which provides an

GISBORNE

Parker Covenant

An excellent 15.5 hectare stand of lowland kahikatea has been protected by Tolaga Bay farmers Bridget and Michael Parker who farm eight kilometres inland from Tolaga Bay on Paroa Road. Their new covenant is regarded as one of the top four remaining examples of the nationally rare kahikatea/pukatea forest types on alluvial terraces.

The farm has been in the Parker family since 1958, and the bush had only light grazing pressure before fencing was completed last winter, Bridget says.

"It's right in front of our house, just a paddock away, and it's rather beautiful. Not long after we bought the farm in 1990 we were rung by someone in Auckland who asked if we realised that if we milled it we could clear our

mortgage. It was an horrendous thought really, and what kept going through our minds was if we left nothing else behind, we have left that bush."

The Parkers are thrilled to have the bush protected, and stock can still shelter in the lee of the bush outside the fence because the forest is very tall. Seeing what happens to land when people are "hell-bent" on clearing it also made them keener to get the block fenced off and protected, Michael said.

Some of the kahikatea are believed to be from 600 to 1000 years old, but Bridget says you can see parts of the bush where fire or flood must have wiped out trees hundreds of years ago, as some tiers are missing in one part of the block.

Tolaga Bay used to be predominantly a dairying area, and the kahikatea in the district was used to make

impressive backdrop to their farm entrance and home, was fenced some time ago and has a well-developed understorey.

The second block of 7.3 hectares was more open and had been grazed, but is expected to regenerate strongly now that it's fenced. The first area, which is adjacent to Mill Road, and is also the backdrop to the picturesque Ashley Clinton cemetery, includes a wildlife refuge pond.

The second block is in the middle of their farm on easy-rolling land, and is surrounded by many scattered totara trees, giving a park-like effect. Much of the property was recently leased for dairy grazing, so the Schaws wanted to protect the bush before it suffered any intensive grazing.

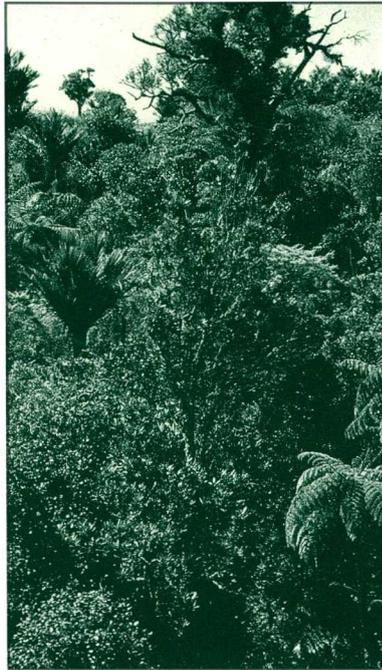
While the bush is mainly totara, there are many other species present including cabbage trees, matai, lacebarks, rewarewa, lancewoods, kahikatea and *Coprosma* species.

The Schaw covenant is also an important link for local birdlife, and ties in with nearby local reserves.

Tapui Land Co Covenant

Tautane Station is a landmark property at Cape Turnagain, in southern Hawke's Bay. Like many farms in Hawke's Bay, it was largely grassland when settled, and so it is surprising to find Panikau Bush tucked into a far gully on the farm, notes Regional Representative Marie Taylor.

This 24.3 hectare coastal broadleaf and podocarp forest covenant is part of an area recommended for protection and was fenced more than 10 years ago by the owners. The forest has few canopy gaps, and is largely tawa, nikau, kaikomako, karaka and



Panikau Bush

rewarewa. Pukatea, kahikatea, matai, and totara trees emerge through the canopy.

This is a very significant covenant in a largely pastoral landscape, and is an important addition to the few protected areas in the Eastern Hawke's Bay Ecological District.

McHardy Covenants

Neighbouring Aramoana and Ouepoto Stations have protected a valuable coastal forest remnant on flat land near Aramoana.

Chip and Mary McHardy of Aramoana Station and Chip's aunt Mary McHardy of Ouepoto Station have together protected a total of 4.5 hectares.

At first it was thought all the bush was on Aramoana Station, but when the area was surveyed, the boundary between the two stations was discovered to run through the centre of the bush. Ouepoto Stream also runs through the centre of the bush, which was fenced 15 years ago.

The bush, largely karaka, kowhai, titoki, rewarewa and tawa trees, is tucked into a

valley near the imposing Aramoana homestead, an important historical building protected with the NZ Historic Places Trust.

These two adjoining covenants, albeit small, are important remnants in the Eastern Hawke's Bay Ecological District. When this district was surveyed as part of the protected natural areas programme in 1993, only 400 hectares of the district were protected.

With the addition of several covenants like this one, and the Tapui Land Co covenant at Tautane Station further down the coast, this protected area is slowly increasing, says Regional Representative Marie Taylor.

TARANAKI

Young Covenant

A small forest remnant within the New Plymouth city boundary has become Taranaki's first urban covenant. Max and Patricia Young have protected half a hectare of semi-coastal forest on their Branch Road property.

The area includes a stream bed and slopes gently to the east. Pukatea dominate the gully and stream bed, changing to tawa and kohekohe, with some rewarewa near the top of the slope. Another 15 native tree and shrub species are present.

It is pleasing to note this bush remnant has been preserved for its aesthetic values, and to provide a food source for native birds, namely the pigeon and tui which are present in good numbers in New Plymouth.

Many other small forest remnants in this area have been cut into, and in some cases have completely disappeared due to housing developments.

This covenant was completed with the assistance of the Taranaki Tree Trust, which helped pay for fencing and survey definition costs.

"I was also impressed with the bird life, observing, amongst others, the fattest wood pigeon I've seen in 40 years." Roger and Karen are keen to covenant a further

It has considerable rarity value, and is visible from State Highway 2 just south of the Waiohine River bridge. The bush is seen, at a distance, by many people, because it forms the backdrop to the Swingers golf driving range, operated by the Wrights.

De Jong Covenant

Near Gladstone, Stephen and Frances De Jong have protected a three hectare remnant of podocarp forest. Out on its own in a shallow gully in a paddock, the forest was never milled, and includes some very big totara, matai, kahikatea, pukatea, tawa, titoki and kanuka.

This makes it very unusual in the area, says Stephen, and the bush was one reason they wanted to buy the block. The undergrowth is "growing like crazy" and will get a helping hand soon when the regional council poisons the remnant for possums.

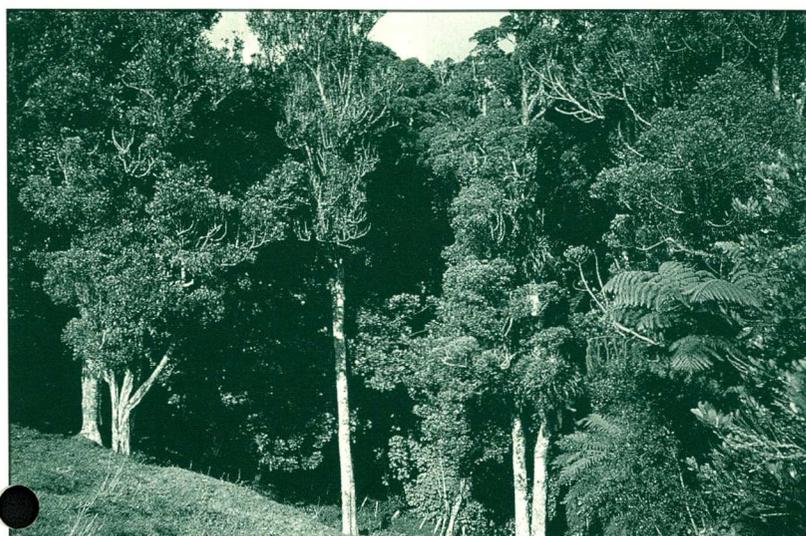
"It's a unique piece of bush, and it would have been a real shame not to protect it. If every owner thought they could take one tree to do some panelling in their house, then all the big ones would be gone in 50 years," he says.

NELSON

Manuka Farm Covenant

Strolling across the Marahau Estuary on a boardwalk to begin the world-famous Abel Tasman National Park walk is an experience few trampers would forget. It's a marvellous introduction to the Park, and the boardwalk and linking causeway is also the eastern edge of a new National Trust covenant.

Protected by Anthony Opie and Rhonwen Seager, the 1.3 hectare newly registered covenant protects part of the



Young Covenant

MANAWATU

Bird Covenant

Started back in 1991 by Susan and Hamish Watson who then owned the property, this new seven hectare covenant has been continued through to registration by Roger and Karen Bird.

Five kilometres from Kimbolton, this covenant ranks as one of the best in the Manawatu says Regional representative Bruce Kirk.

Most of the bush is on a big flat which has never been clear-felled, and it runs into a couple of steep gullies, dropping behind their house. Roger says the small gully is filled with just about every native tree imaginable, and he's really impressed by its variety.

On a recent visit he was impressed with the completed fencing and with "masses of seedling material bursting through". As well, Roger's father John has propagated and transplanted native trees into suitable places in the covenant, and this has worked very well.

block of land on the farm with the National Trust. They lived for 11 years in the King Country where their property was surrounded by native bush, and they were keen to buy a place with bush on it when they moved south.

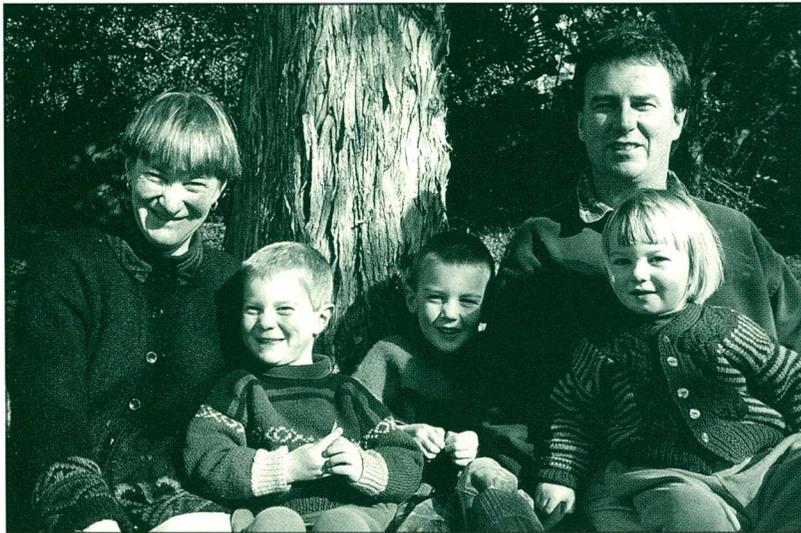
The Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council helped with this covenant by contributing towards the cost of the new fencing.

WAIRARAPA

Maxey and Wright Covenants

The Maxey and Wright families each own a portion of the forest, which is predominantly tawa, with smaller proportions of pukatea, kahikatea and lowland ribbonwood and kowhai.

It occupies about four hectares of one of the best horticultural soils in the Greytown district, the Ahikouka silt loam, on the floodplain of the Waiohine River.



Frances and Stephen de Jong with their three children Oliver, Patrick and Bridget.

estuary and adjoining bush. It's a critical area which could have easily been lost through indiscriminate grazing, but thanks to the owners' dedication, this saltmarsh is now safe.

Regional Representative Martin Conway says originally the adjacent hillslopes would have been black beech forest, and the estuary margin a swamp forest of kahikatea. Only about 20 kahikatea trees still remain in the coastal zone of Tasman Bay, and some of them are within the covenanted area. Other species present include marsh ribbonwood *Plagianthus divaricatus*, manuka, sedges and rushes. There has been strong regeneration on the margins of the covenant since fencing in 1991.

This is one of the best spots for finding banded rail, a threatened species in this district. The uncommon marsh crane is also found in the covenant.

The Lottery Grants Board helped with the survey costs of this covenant.

CANTERBURY

Holcroft and Mayne Covenant

Sixteen kilometres west of Oxford, Anthony Holcroft and Charles Mayne have protected

a 17.5 hectare forest and wetland area called Tawhai Bush.

The block, at View Hill, is made up of Oxford black beech (a mixture of black and mountain beech) and podocarps, 15 year old regenerating manuka which is giving way to beech, and a swampy flat covered in rushes and carex.

Milling took place in the early 1900s and again in the 1950s, says Regional Representative David Webster, but stock have been fenced out for the past 20 years, and regeneration is now well advanced.

Now there is a good mixture of plant species, and a fine understorey, with many vines and ferns. The

covenant adjoins the View Hill Scenic Reserve of 31 hectares. Mr Webster considers there's a high possibility kahikatea may regenerate in the wetland area of the covenant.

According to an old identity of the district, a magnificent stand of kahikatea trees once grew in the swamp, an area of about four hectares. These were milled early this century. Regeneration has been slow in the swamp, due to the prevalence of rank meadow grasses, which in the absence of grazing have tended to suppress some of the existing native rushes.

But, more recently, Mr Holcroft says a species of sedge has been colonising large areas with a dense, grass-like cover, and coprosma species and even black beech have begun seeding themselves in patches of open ground. The owners have begun a programme to help speed up the process by planting clumps of hardy colonizers like flax, and *Coprosma rigida*, both of which are adapted to the exposed conditions.

The Canterbury Botanical Society has twice visited the block, where 15 species of orchids grow - including in View Hill Scenic Reserve.



Estuary and fringe forest, Manuka Farms Covenant..

In 1969, Lucy Moore wrote "An Orchid Walk in North Canterbury" for the Canterbury Botanical Society Journal explaining where to find *Thelymitra longifolia*, *T. paucifolia*, *T. hatchii*, *T. pulchella*, *Pterostylis montana*, and *P. banksii*.

At the end she added: "Having paid your respects to these small but aristocratic flowers, and perhaps photographed them, you will find the way back to your car short and easy, and you should return empty-handed."

The orchids are not as widespread as they were because the area has been fenced for so long, and long grass and regenerating manuka make it difficult to find some now, Mr Holcroft says.

He had always wanted to buy some bush to fence off and let regenerate, and, with Mr Mayne, had been looking for some land on the West Coast when this block was offered for sale.

"It was quite slow, but eventually it all started to heal over, and recent wet summers have helped this process enormously. There was also a lot of broom and gorse which we attacked in some places. But apart from a few small problem areas, most of the property is now regenerating very satisfactorily on its own."

Now the bush looks almost primeval in some parts, with its black and mountain beech, its sprinkling of mature kahikatea, and few rimu and pokaka, Mr Holcroft says. Particularly in the wetter parts the bush is getting quite dense and difficult to walk through.

National Trust Director Dr Brian Molloy of Christchurch has often visited Tawhai Bush, and notes there are also two dwarf mistletoe species present. The bush occupies a transitional zone, and is a

fragment of the forest which once grew on the very high parts of the Canterbury Plains at the junction of the plains and the foothills, he says.

There are fragments right along this zone south to Peel Forest, remnants of what were once extensive forests when Europeans first came to Canterbury. They were heavily milled.

"The swampy part of it would have been pretty dense kahikatea, and may have been milled early as well as suffering from a little bit of fire, although there doesn't seem to have been much evidence of extensive burning."

He says the Holcroft and Mayne covenant has been central to the Trust's work in the district. "There are other very vulnerable forest remnants nearby, and one just approved by the Board is commonly called Taylor's Bush, which has several fairly rare coprosmas in it. Other nearby patches on Maori land have these coprosmas and the climbing broom *Carmichaelia kirkii*."

Symons Covenant

A strongly regenerating fragment of once-common bush has been protected by Danny and Janet Symons on their factory supply dairy farm 34 kilometres northwest of Ashburton.

The new 3.03 hectare covenant over Glenarn Bush is on flat land, and is largely black beech and regenerating kahikatea forest. The subcanopy is made up of pokaka, putaputaweta, broadleaf, lancewood, horopito, weeping matipo and toetoe, while the forest floor is dominated by sedges and ferns.

In common with most of the adjoining land, many of the larger trees were logged out in the 1920s. Canopy gaps have been filled by

regenerating broadleaf species, but there is prolific regeneration of kahikatea and beech. Stock have been excluded from the bush for 40 years, so it has recovered well, and there's little bare ground. The largest kahikatea are 12 metres tall.

The Symons covenant, on the western edge of the Canterbury plains, is linked to the higher altitude Mt Alford Scenic Reserve by partly modified beech forest, which provides a currently unprotected corridor for birdlife.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this covenant is that the Symons' are highly motivated dairy farmers, and at the same time keen on conservation and protection, says Regional Representative David Webster.

Coles Covenant

Gil and Gill Coles farm 310 hectares at Waituna just a few kilometres north of Waimate in the foothills of the Hunter Hills. They have now protected a third of their farm in eight separate areas, a total of 97.7 hectares of secondary forest, most of which is in deep gullies and include wetlands.

The largest area is an impressive tract says Regional Representative David Webster. "There are very good specimens of matai, kahikatea and totara, with pokaka, broadleaf, marbleleaf, and notably *Dicksonia squarrosa*."

"This is a most valuable area, and while some of the smaller areas are nondescript with mainly fuchsia, mahoe and muehlenbeckia, they represent areas for recolonisation and are a plateau for the next phase. There are abundant seed sources close by."

The whole farm is fingered with gullies says Mr Coles. Since fencing there has been a

little change, but regeneration is very slow in the dryland bush. "It makes no difference to me now that it is protected, but if I was to sell up nobody would be able to waltz in with a chainsaw," he says.

Possoms and wallabies have been causing problems in the covenant, with 800 and 400 wallabies taken out of the bush in the past two years. "They eat everything which is to their liking. It's a numbers game with them."

The Coles keep an eye on their covenant and its fences on their frequent runs around the farm. Wind, slips and snow all conspire to try and destruct fences, and it's a big job to keep them in good condition. Gil, who runs competitively, is a keen member of the local running club.

Two years ago he was fourth in the Avalanche Peak run at Arthurs Pass and he was the first to go under two hours in the Luxmore Grunt, which is part of the Kepler track. "Running is just a way of life. The farm is good hard terrain for running on."

COASTAL OTAGO

Beattie Covenant

A 4.5 ha saline soil plant community on Robert Beattie's land at Pateaeroa, on the western slopes of the Rock and Pillar Range in Central Otago, has recently been registered with the National Trust.

Scientists consider that saline and alkaline soils formerly covered more than 40,000 ha of the Maniototo basin. Irrigation and conversion to farmland have substantially reduced much of these communities.

The protected area is considered to be the most important site in New Zealand from a botanical and entomological point of view.

It has a typical saline soils plant as well as a rich array of plant species adjacent to the saline areas that may depend to some extent on the presence of the saline soils. The lepidoptera fauna is excellent with species of high interest, a rare species and new species present.

McLaren Covenant

Part of a block of bush approximately 10 km south of Balclutha in South Otago in the middle of rolling lowland hills dominated by sheep and cattle grazing on fertile alluvial soils. This important bush block has been described by Landcare Research Botanist Ralph Allen as "the most southerly example of relatively unmodified low rainfall totara-dominated podocarp forest in New Zealand".

Noeline and Donald McLaren have owned the 10.4 ha bush for six years. Noeline McLaren believes that when the land was surveyed off for farm blocks, a "bush block" would have been included in each title to provide wood for buildings, fencing, etc. for the new farm. The covenanted land was the "bush block" for their farm, purchased by Donald's great great grandfather in 1865.

Some logging did occur in the block, but not throughout, and, as neither logging nor grazing has occurred for many years, the bush is in excellent condition with a well established understorey of ferns, shrubs and young canopy trees.

A haven in an area where extensive land clearing has occurred in stages since about 1200 AD, this block adds to the Awakiki Bush, an adjoining DOC scenic reserve.

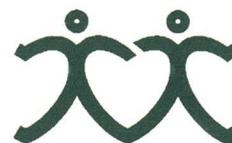
Noeline and Donald love the bush and have good knowledge of the species

present. Covenanted the land with the National Trust has ensured that this very important bush block will remain protected.

Gardner Covenant

Recently registered are two adjoining wetland areas next to SH92, approx 7 km south of Balclutha, totalling 11 ha. In gently sloping gullies the wetlands have been enhanced by the erection of two low earth dams in recent years. These dams have created shallow water areas ideal for wading birds. Flax, *Carex secta* and rushes are the main species in this typical wetland plant community. A good range of waterfowl species inhabit the area both for autumn flocking and for breeding. In an area where the trend has been towards losing wetland areas, this restoration and protection project is seen as very important. A revegetation project to further enhance the area is already underway.

The work of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust is supported by



NEW ZEALAND

Lottery Grants Board

Clippings

Congratulations to covenantors David and Christine and Peter and Christine McNeil for winning the Waikato Farm Environment Award. They farm 300 hectares east of Te Poi at the foot of the Kaimai Ranges, and have an 80 hectare covenant.

Congratulations also to Lesley Nicol, the new captain of the Silver Ferns, the NZ netball team. Lesley, a 23 year old student, is the daughter of Russell Nicol, who has a newly registered covenant in the lower Maitua Valley, Southland.

And congratulations to new covenantors Dianne and John Le Grove of Motonui, Homewood, on the Wairarapa coast, who won the Wairarapa Federated Farmers sheep and beef farmer of the year award. They won the John Daniell Memorial Trophy, and have been farming the 412 hectare property for 14 years.

Dannevirke covenantors the Massie family of Don and Ann, Brenda and Grant, have won the Tararua Farmers of the Year competition. They farm 476 hectares just north of Dannevirke, and have a small covenant.

the garden in front of it to create an impressive vista down into the Swamp. A new interpretative display has recently been erected adjacent to the Shelter. The display includes an up to date map, and information including historical photographs. This project was kindly funded by life members of the former Friends of Hollard Gardens.

Major tree surgery has been undertaken on a number of trees throughout the property. The impact of this work is not only beneficial to the health and structure of the individual trees but the surrounding plants receive more light and air movement, consequently better health and vigour results and therefore a better experience for the visitor.

New plants in the garden include *Podocarpus totara* 'Pendula' planted in the carpark. This complements the tree in the Dell which is one of the largest pendulous totara in New Zealand.

Another special plant is a *Tsuga canadensis* 'Aurea' or the Golden Eastern Hemlock planted at the northern end of the Main Lawn.

Other plants recently acquired include a good range of *Penstemon* hybrids. These are wonderful plants for the perennial border. They are hardy plants that flower from December to May and simply require a cut back in late winter. Hybrid colours range from white to purple with all sorts of colour variations in between.

Mark Jury Nurseries kindly donated one of their new hybrids, *Rhododendron* 'Floral Sun' which contributes to the colourful collection of rhododendrons which are a wonderful feature during the Bank of New Zealand Rhododendron Festival held in the first weeks of November every year.

For further information about the Tupare and Hollard Gardens, contact Greg Rine, Gardens Manager, Phone: 06-764 6544.

WINTER NEWS FROM THE TRUST GARDENS

Winter is traditionally the quiet time of year in terms of colour, variety and growth in the gardens, but for the staff it is a chance to get on with those bigger jobs.

At Tupare, the general garden refurbishment is at last coming to an end. The split stone walls which retain the paths in the North Garden have been completed. A new fence has also recently been completed on the river flat using timber grown and milled on the property.

Winter is also the time for planting, and as Tupare is a formal landscape, choice and placement are critical in maximising the plants' effect in the garden and to the overall garden structure.

Picea omorika or Serbian spruce should thrive on the lower bank of Russell Avenue, and *Camellia chekiangoleosa*, a recent import from Southern China, will complement the other Camellias in the North Garden. Many other plants

have gone in 'the ground' including a group of *Rhododendron* 'Tupare' planted in the paddock above the drive. We have also continued our programme of underplanting bare areas under established trees. This year we have lifted and divided an attractive pink form of *Arthropodium cirratum* from Hollard Gardens and have planted this at the top of the Dell under the magnificent Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*).

In the house, the project to convert the house to a restaurant/function centre is drawing to a close with extensive redecoration of the interior.

We will run a special feature on this in the next newsletter.

During all this activity at Tupare, Hollard Gardens has not been neglected. Many exciting projects have taken place over recent months, including the renovation and painting of the Summerhouse and opening out

SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

The two National Trust gardens, Tupare and Hollard Gardens, in Taranaki, will hold a sculpture exhibition from October 26 to November 17. The exhibition will partly coincide with the extremely successful BNZ Taranaki Rhododendron Festival which attracts large numbers of visitors each year from throughout the country.

The exhibition is being curated this year by Andreas Ries who has gathered together the work of North Island sculptors in a wide range of media. It is planned to make the sculpture exhibition an annual event.

NEW PROPERTIES

Awapikipiko

Legal formalities have recently been completed which finalised the transfer of two gifted land parcels to the National Trust.

An area of 28.3 hectares of dominantly tawa lowland forest near Kumeroa, southern Hawkes Bay, has been gifted by Mr David Druce. Mr Druce is now married to the former Josephine Jackson who together with her late father gifted the 76.6 hectare Durslade property at Hopelands to the Trust in 1982.

For his part, David Druce first indicated to the Trust in 1985 his wish to eventually gift the forest remnant. In the interim, an open space covenant was registered to protect the forest in 1993.

The forest is dominated by tawa but includes titoki, kahikatea, maire, rimu, totara, mahoe, rangiora, lacebark, lancewood, miro, matipo and rata. A survey of the block in 1988 by members of the Wellington Botanical Society recorded 131 species of native plants, some of them rare to the district. It is home to, and visited by, a range of native birds including the shining cuckoo, New Zealand pigeon and tui.

Located on a hillside face and extending from a ridge to

a stream, the forest remnant is an outstanding natural feature in a generally deforested landscape.

Known as the Awapikipiko Reserve, the property is located on Druce Road some 3km south east of Kumeroa village. Visitors are welcome but access is limited to pedestrians during daylight hours only.

Tata Headland

Former 1956 Olympic gold medalist yachtsman Jack Cropp has gifted to the National Trust a strip of coastal land at the southern end of Tata Beach in Golden Bay. On the Tata Headland the strip is of visual, geological and archaeological interest.

Although at first sight the headland appears to be dominated by gorse, there is a basal fringe of coastal scrubland with intact shrublands within the gullies. Regeneration is occurring through bracken and gorse patches and in time a coastal forest comprising taupata, kawakawa, karamu and mahoe will emerge.

The headland is popular for nesting sea birds and occasionally seal.

Public access to the headland may be gained on foot along an adjoining esplanade reserve.

TRUST PEOPLE

Dr Colin Little

It is pleasing to congratulate longtime National Trust supporter Dr Colin Little of Auckland on his recent investiture with the Queen's Service Order.

Colin Little and his wife Margaret formerly lived at Aroha Island near Kerikeri. Because of concern at the potential of their property to be more intensively developed and settled, an open space covenant with the Trust was registered against the property title in 1984. In 1991 the property was transferred to the National Trust and is now the site of the Aroha Island Ecological Centre being established by the Trust.

Colin Little had an extensive international career as a plant scientist working in such interesting countries as Romania, Kenya and Tonga. During the 1960's he travelled the world as a weed control expert for the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation. He retired to live at Aroha in 1970.

Walter Willis

In September 1983, Walter Willis was appointed as the Trust's Local Correspondent for the Auckland area. When acknowledging a letter from the Trust advising him of his appointment Walter wrote - "I look forward to working with the Trust to the maximum possible extent."

Walter Willis joined the Trust after a distinguished service career in the New Zealand Navy and a period working as a consultant/planner with the Auckland Regional Authority. He therefore brought to the Trust valuable professional skills and experience and quickly adapted these to the benefit of the Trust.

Unfortunately, due to changed personal circumstances, Walter recently reluctantly

resigned as the Trust's Auckland Regional Representative. In reaching the decision to resign Walter indicated it had been a sad one to make.

Trust Manager, Tim Porteous has acknowledged the exceptional service and advice given to the Trust by Walter Willis over a very long period of time and wished him well for the future. There is no doubt that Walter achieved his aspiration expressed when he accepted the position with the Trust.

OBITUARIES

It is with great regret that the National Trust notes the recent passing of three strong supporters of the Trust.

The Trust was saddened to learn recently of the death of *MR BERNARD (BERNIE) HOLLARD*.

Bernie, with his wife Rose, created the nationally renowned Hollard Gardens now owned and managed by the Trust.

The gardens, which are located near Kaponga, 14km from Stratford, are among the most comprehensive and botanically significant gardens in the country, containing a unique collection of native and exotic plants ranging from tropical succulents to rhododendrons and alpine species.

In 1926, Mr Hollard began farming the property and fenced off a forest remnant which became the nucleus from which the gardens grew. In 1942 Mr Hollard married, and he and Rose worked in the gardens together, planting swamp land and paddocks.

They propagated azaleas and rhododendrons which flourish at the 450m altitude and in the 1950's they began hybridising rhododendrons including the early red "Kaponga".

In honour of Bernie, a spectacular red rhododendron was named "Bernie Hollard".

In recognition of his contribution to horticulture, the Royal New Zealand Institute

of Horticulture awarded Bernie the distinction of Associate of Honour. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. A further accolade came in 1984 when Bernie was awarded the QSO for his services to horticulture.

In 1982 Mr and Mrs Hollard gifted the gardens to the National Trust to ensure their protection for all New Zealanders to enjoy. The gift was accompanied by a generous donation to the Trust.

Bernie Hollard was 93 on his death and is survived by his wife Rose and sons Milton and Thoron. The National Trust extends deepest sympathies to the Hollard family.

MRS DOROTHY YARDLEY of Opotiki died in early June. Mrs Yardley and her predeceased husband Ronald were keenly concerned to ensure native forest and other natural features on private land were protected.

In 1986 they entered into a covenant agreement with the Trust which protects some four hectares of native totara-rimu dominant forest land they owned at Takaputaki, 48 kms south east of Opotiki. Mr and Mrs Yardley were not satisfied with their covenant as whenever the opportunity presented itself they told others about what they had done and encouraged many other landowners to think about covenants with the National Trust. The existence of their covenant remains a living memorial to their foresight and advocacy.

MR LES CLARKE of Howick died in mid June.

A successful businessman for over sixty years, Mr Clarke and his predeceased wife Dorothy purchased a substantial property at Mellons Bay, Howick in 1959. Dorothy Clarke had a particular interest in plants and gardens and, together with Les, actively supported the establishment of Eden Gardens in Epsom.

During his lifetime and through his estate Les Clarke most generously favoured the National Trust.

The National Trust was saddened to learn of the recent death of *LLOYD GEORGE MORRIS* of Dunedin. Lloyd and Dorothy Morris were loyal supporters of the National Trust for many years and had recently covenanted 81 ha of their native bush covered land on the flanks of Mt Kettle, 12 km north of Central Dunedin. The native bush on the property is Libocedrus, totara, broadleaf forest with rimu and miro. Much of the bush can be seen from the Mt Cargill Road and the area adds significantly to the ecological and landscape values of that area. Bellbirds, tui and woodpigeon frequent the area and fernbird have been reported. Regeneration is strong in areas previously cleared.

Born in Canada, Lloyd and Dorothy emigrated to New Zealand in 1962 seeking a more self-sufficient and healthy lifestyle. They settled near Dunedin on their present property, living a simple life in harmony with the land. They supported and assisted many local conservation groups and always remained firm advocates for a nuclear free, herbicide and pesticide free world and a tobacco, alcohol and drug free lifestyle. Lloyd lobbied for the formation of peace parks where people could find balance and tranquillity in their lives and along with Dorothy started the Volco Trust (voluntary co-operation parks). It was Lloyd's dream that parts of his land through the Volco Trust would one day be used as a retreat and peace park. This dream is becoming a reality as local environment volunteers are presently creating a bushwalk and environmental art park on a nearby three hectare area owned by the Volco Trust.

Helen Clarke represented the National Trust at a memorial service for Lloyd. Our thoughts and sympathy go to Dorothy at this time.

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Address _____

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• *Subscriptions* (GST included): Tick appropriate category

M Individual	\$22.00	M Corporate - business	On application
M Junior (under 18)	\$11.00	M Corporate - special	\$33.00
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