



Queen Elizabeth II

**National Trust**

For open space in New Zealand

*Nga Kairauhi Papa*

# Open Space

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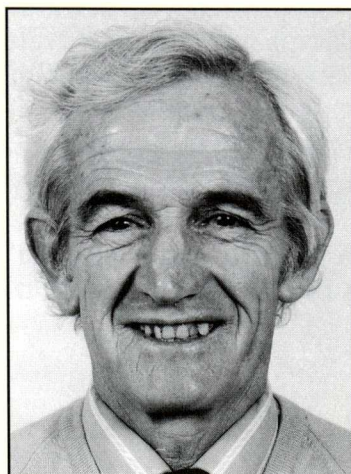
## ELECTION FOR TWO DIRECTORS

*by Brian Molloy, Elected Director*

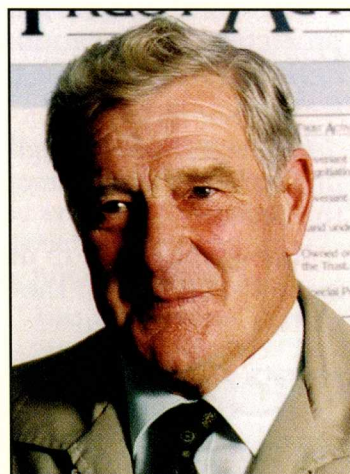
Early next year, Arthur Cowan and I will be obliged to step down as the two elected directors of the QEII National Trust Board. By then we will have served for the maximum statutory period of three terms, or nine years. We will be replaced by two new directors to be elected by the Trust membership later this year.

For my part, I would like to thank the membership most sincerely for having the confidence to elect me in the first place, and for maintaining that confidence in two subsequent elections. It has been a great privilege to represent you for what now seems, on reflection, a relatively short time. It has been a truly wonderful and fulfilling experience for me, and I thank you all for that.

The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust - the "Trust Family" - is a unique organisation by any standards, national or international, and its achievements in open space protection and advocacy since its inception in 1977 are immense and defy comparison; there is simply no other comparable organisation like it, or with such an impressive record in managed conservation. From modest beginnings, the Trust's network of protective covenants - not to forget its property portfolio - is rapidly approaching the 2000 mark. This remarkable network of places and people, stretching from Kaitia to Bluff, embraces a wide range of the nation's forest types, wetlands, tussock grasslands



Brian Molloy



Arthur Cowan



and shrublands, geological and cultural features, and landscapes, all voluntarily negotiated with the Trust by landholders, be they freeholders, leaseholders, Maori or European. This network, which I often refer to as the "People's National Park", is all the more remarkable for sustaining priceless, isolated remnants or "museum pieces" of our natural and cultural history in the areas in which we live, work, and play.

The maintenance and extension of this prestigious national network places considerable demands on the Trust Board and staff, and is a constant challenge in ever-changing times. Goals and objectives, and policies and procedures all require careful

and measured re-assessment from time to time to meet changing circumstances and the continuing growth of the Trust as a conservation body. To achieve this the Trust needs to attract people of the right calibre and mix of expertise and experience, both technical and practical, to its Board and its staff.

With an election of two new directors imminent, it is appropriate for me to invite members of the Trust, and especially our covenants, to step forward and make yourself available for nomination, or alternatively, to nominate a fellow member. It is not a time to be overly modest, shy or reticent. If you feel you have something to offer, and you are prepared to give of your very best, then

take my advice and go for it. You will not regret it if elected, and I am certain you will find the experience as productive and fulfilling as I have.

You will shortly be sent information about the election, including a nomination form. I hope to be on hand to help welcome you to the Board table on my way out the door. I look forward to the former, and sadly, albeit with satisfaction, to the latter. I am certain the Trust will continue to grow from strength to strength, and I thank all my fellow directors, staff, covenants and friends of the Trust that I have had the pleasure to work with for these last nine years.

## ***FROM THE TRUST MANAGER***

### *Gifts and Bequests*

The QEII National Trust, established in perpetuity under its Act of Parliament, has a unique role in contributing to the protection of New Zealand's landscape. To help in this work the Trust is able to accept bequests, gifts and endowments for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of open space in New Zealand.

For some time now, demand for the Trust's services, particularly in respect of protection by open space covenant, has far exceeded the Trust's financial capability. The Trust needs to increase its income and capital not only to assist materially now but to enable the Trust to seize upon open space protection opportunities as they become available in the future.

The National Trust has been fortunate to be the recipient of a number of bequests and gifts of money and land and has been advised of several intended bequests.

The QEII National Trust has established a substantial record of achievement in the protection of outstanding landscape features on private land throughout New Zealand. The Trust has the on-going trustee responsibility for these protected features.

One significant, tangible and permanent contribution you can make to the protection of valuable open space in New Zealand is by making a gift or a bequest to the Trust.

If you would like to discuss a possible gift or bequest please contact me in the first instance. Either I or the Trust's Estate Manager could then call on you to discuss such matters in confidence.



Tim Porteous  
Trust Manager



## BANKS PENINSULA FIELD DAY

A very stimulating and informative day was enjoyed by over 50 Canterbury covenantors and friends at Hinewai near Akaroa in early September.

With snow still lying just up the road, most of the formal proceedings were held in the comfort and warmth of the Hinewai facilities, followed by a walk through the upper part of Hinewai. Speakers included Brian Molloy, a Director of the Trust, outlining the history of the vegetation of Banks Peninsula, and the place of open space covenants in protecting what is left. This was followed by Keith Wilson, Planner for Banks Peninsula District Council, outlining the requirements of the Resource Management Act. Much of the discussion reflected the balancing act Councils must go through in promoting and providing for the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and habits of significant indigenous fauna under the Act and rules necessary to ensure it is done.

Our host, Hugh Wilson then entertained and educated us with his enthusiasm for and

knowledge of Banks Peninsula and forests and things native. The story of Hinewai, 10 years ago a 980ha gorse-ridden farm with remnant forest areas which is being allowed to regenerate back towards a forested landscape, has been written about many times and is an inspiration to all.

The importance of possum control, and the improved health of the key indicator species like fuchsia, five finger, cabbage trees and *Schefflera* when possums were controlled, was one of Hugh's many success stories. His accounts of the fight with,

and 'for' gorse were both amusing and full of truisms - "it loves being burnt, trampled on, and disturbed". Of interest was the practical approach to predator control - "the susceptible birds have all gone" so Hugh's aim is to control alternative prey, eg. rats, and let cats and stoats, etc. find their natural balance - however, it would be a brave cat that put it to the test within Hugh's line of sight.

Hinewai forms part of the Banks Peninsula Track. This is a commercial track in the outer Peninsula which also traverses a number of covenantors' properties. Phone bookings (03) 304-7612.



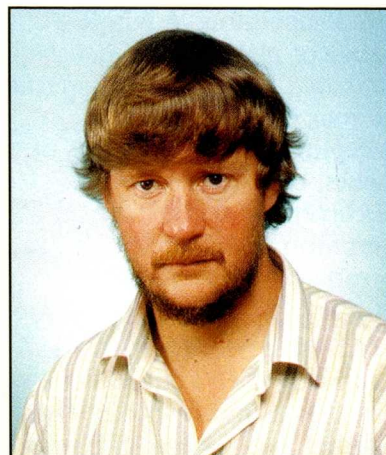
Participants in the field discussing the vegetation history of Banks Peninsula.

## NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Newly appointed National Trust Director Peter Espie is keen to see more tussock grasslands protected.

Dr Espie, an ecologist who works for AgResearch at Invermay, specialises in tussock grasslands. Much of his work in the past 20 years has been focussed on tussocks and natural systems.

He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors by the Minister of Conservation, and his role on the Board is to



Dr Peter Espie

have due regard to environmental and conservation values.

The National Trust plays a very important role in the protection of native ecosystems and provides an alternative mechanism for conservation to working through government organisations, he says.

"This has obvious appeal for private landowners. In addition, landowners become actively involved in conservation on their own land. This is absolutely critical.



I think the Trust is doing a superb job in quietly protecting land. It is making a significant contribution by preserving some of New Zealand's most important and fragile ecosystems. The other key thing is the Trust is protecting in perpetuity.

I have a particular interest in encouraging some of our grassland ecosystems to be protected. There is excellent coverage of a range of ecosystems in the North Island, particularly with forest ecosystems and shrublands." But in the South Island there isn't very good protection of short tussock grassland ecosystems, he says.

"My particular goal is to work with the farming communities in the South Island to encourage them to protect areas."

Originally from Nelson, he worked on a bird survey at Nelson Lakes National Park, and became very interested in ecology.

He was part of the Fauna Preservation and Research Committee at Nelson Lakes

then went to Lincoln University where he specialised in the ecology of alpine grasslands and forests, and the impacts of deer and chamois on forests and alpine grasslands.

Study in liberal arts at the University of British Columbia in Canada followed, and he also worked on Vancouver Island, looking at the influence of soils on British Columbian forests.

He came back to New Zealand to do a doctorate at the Centre for Resource Management at the University of Canterbury under Professor Kevin O'Connor. Short tussock or fescue tussock grassland systems in the Canterbury high country was his thesis topic.

In 1983 and 1984 he was field team leader for the Mackenzie Ecological Region Protected Natural Areas survey, which identified representative areas for conservation in half a million hectares.

He worked for the Forest Research Institute studying

the ecology of snow tussocks in Canterbury and Westland, and also worked on sphagnum moss and forest systems on the West Coast.

In 1992 Dr Espie joined AgResearch, the Crown Research Institute, focussed particularly on issues affecting the farming sector. Ecological sustainability and hieracium have been his main targets for study. "Soil plant relationships and biodiversity are the key areas I have been following." He has also been looking at the role of rabbits in reducing indigenous biodiversity and conservation of tussock grasslands.

Dr Espie has worked on projects in ecological restoration of tussock grasslands affected by infestation of hieracium. Dr Espie has also undertaken work for the Dunedin City Council looking at water use and water yield of tussocks.

Dr Espie is married to Diane, and they recently bought a 10 hectare block of regenerating kanuka forest south of Dunedin which they are keen to restore.

## SCRUB - VEGETATION ON THE MOVE

It's a much maligned thing, scrub. But what is it, what values does it hold, and why should we be protecting it?

As a general rule of thumb, the definition of scrub is where there is more than 80 % canopy cover of shrubs, and shrubland is where is less than 80 % canopy cover of shrubs. Forest is to scrub as treeland is to shrubland.

DOC botanist Shannel Courtney says scrub is much maligned, but it's where many of our special and rare plants live. "Most people think of scrub as something you burn."

"But it can be a whole range of species which are long-standing. Some species

will only live in scrub areas, and these are especially important in inland Canterbury, Marlborough and Otago."

"Scrub" often occurs in places which would have once been subalpine. A whole range of plants like *Heliohebe hulkeana* (NZ lilac), *Pachystegia* or rock daisies, pink and weeping brooms, all kinds of hebes, coral daisies (*Helichrysum* species) are all common in Marlborough scrub and shrublands.

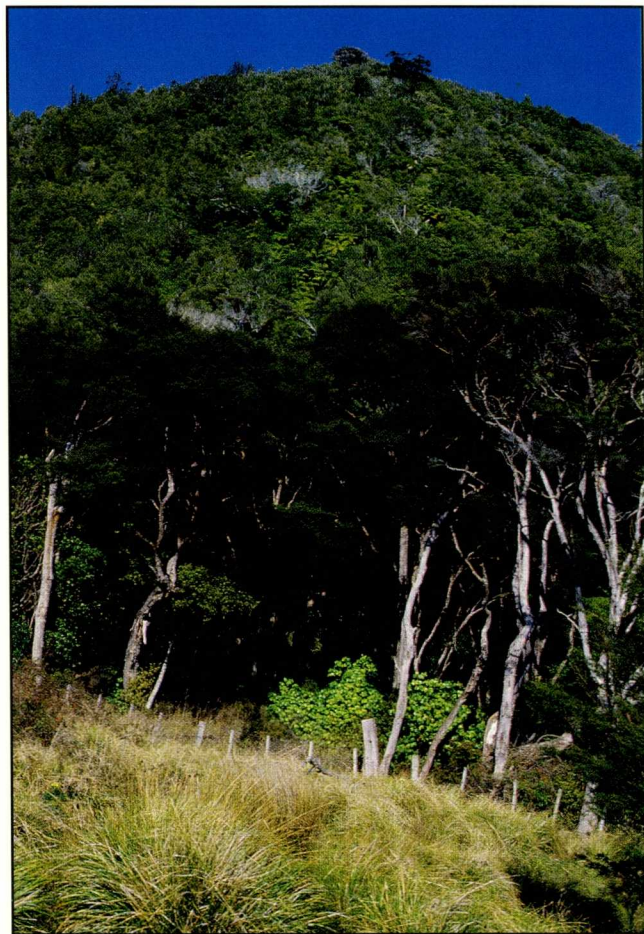
Scrub plants are often very vulnerable because they are not recognised as quickly or as easily as forest species. For example, in the Bay of Plenty *Olearia pachyphylla* is fairly

vulnerable, Mr Courtney says. "You only find it in coastal scrub and it thrives where the canopy has been disturbed in some way and opened up."

It takes special plants to live in coastal shrublands, he says. *Hebe speciosa* (titirangi) is a completely coastal shrub species which will not live in the shade. It is found on the western coast of the North Island from Northland to Wellington, and in the Sounds. It is a garden centre favourite with its large magenta flowers.

Another suite of species lives in estuarine coastal shrublands - *Olearia solandrii* (coastal shrub daisy), tauhinu, and *Plagianthus divaricatus*





*Tall kanuka (Kunzea ericoides) scrub.*

(shore ribbonwood) are included in these species.

Then on the more stable sand dunes the sand coprosma *C. acerosa* may be found.

"In the South Island many of our shrublands are inland. A number of inland sites are dry, like in Marlborough where there are really special endemics." These species are confined to those areas, and not found naturally growing anywhere else. "The frost flats of the valley floors in the upper Buller catchment are where you find a lot of special species."

Scrub is not necessarily "on the move". It's only the scrub communities that have been induced by previous forest loss which are going to move back to forest, Mr Courtney says. For example, some kanuka and manuka scrub, some pakihi and some gumlands will move back to forest.

Many scrub and shrubland communities are permanent because of the special conditions of their habitat. These conditions include:

- maritime exposure to salt spray and extreme winds, which produces coastal scrub and shrubland
- highly saline (salty) substrate or inundation by sea water, producing estuarine scrub
- unstable substrates, for example dune or scree scrub
- toxic chemicals (naturally occurring) in the soil, for example ultramafic or mineral belt scrub
- rock substrate with very little soil and extreme drought producing rockland and bluff scrub
- very wet conditions producing wetland or pakihi scrub
- very frosty conditions producing frost flat scrub

- low temperatures, frequent snow, and high exposure, producing subalpine scrub and tussock shrublands
- frequent flooding leading to riparian scrub, for example on flood plains or braided river islands
- very dry, or excessively drained substrates and soil, giving dryland scrub or limestone scrub found in Otago, Southern Marlborough and Canterbury
- volcanic landscapes producing thermal area scrub.

The degree of impact by these conditions determines whether scrub or shrubland develops. Generally, the more extreme the environmental factors, the sparser the cover.

As environmental extremes increase, for example exposure, temperature, salinity, or drought, forest gives way to scrub, and then to shrubland and, finally, to open land.

Scrub can also be an excellent habitat for animals. Bellbirds and most of our insectivorous birds live in manuka, for instance. Geckos, such as the green forest gecko, thrive in scrub habitats.

And scrub provides a vital habitat for many of our special orchids and mistletoes, as well as the parasitic dactylanthus (pua reinga). "Technically, mixed secondary broadleaf scrub will grow up into mixed secondary broadleaf forest, which is where most dactylanthus is found," says Mr Courtney.

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



NEW ZEALAND

**Lottery Grants Board**



## RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

### WAIKATO

#### *McDonald and Shadbolt Covenant*

Yvonne Shadbolt and Lorna McDonald have rejuvenated their small three hectare gully at Mangatarata, 12km west of Ngatea. The committed conservationists have spent the last 10 years revegetating their gully with skill and care, says Regional Representative Tim Oliver.

Close to the existing Speedy covenant, this northeast facing gully is on the lower slopes of the Hapuakohe Range above the Hauraki Plains. It is on the farm that used to be owned by former National Trust Waikato Regional Representative Stuart Chambers. It was the last block to be cleared and is the first to be planted back into bush. When the owners started, there was some manuka and kanuka, with tanekaha, cabbage trees and broadleaves towards the head of the gully.

Now, most of the property has a canopy of native shrubs and trees and there is natural regeneration occurring, says Tim. The owners have more

than 200 species planted and have a well-tracked property. "What they have achieved in 10 years is remarkable," he says. "It is a great educational example for schools and other groups."

#### *A M Irvine and J S C Christie Covenant*

A stretch of remnant totara forest along the Piako River has been protected by Alma Irvine and her niece Julia Christie. Only two kilometres from Morrinsville, this 8.3 hectare remnant provides a natural buffer between farm land, the town's waste water treatment ponds and the ecologically sensitive river, says Regional Representative Tim Oliver.

Mrs Christie and her husband John live in the nearby Riponvale family homestead on these valuable alluvial flats. Their new covenant is almost pure totara, with manuka and kanuka in places, and a solitary kahikatea.

While it has been modified by stock, it is one of the best remnants of riparian totara forest, Tim says. And it's one of the largest areas of native

forest in the Hinuera Ecological District.

#### *New Chum Trust Covenant*

To Aucklanders, the final weekend in January is best known as Auckland Anniversary, often associated with sailing on the Waitemata and Hauraki Gulf. However, if you travel east across the northern Coromandel Peninsula at this time you will find the extended Smith and Simpson families at their annual gatherings at the little beach settlements of Whangapoua and Kuaotunu, where their lineage extends well into last century.

Saturday, 25 January 1997 was especially significant because it marked the celebration of the opening of the New Chum Trust Covenant, located on the slopes adjoining Motuto Point, between Whangapoua and New Chums Beach, a very beautiful and popular area for picnicking and surfing.

The covenant, at 1.8 hectares may seem small, but its significance, and the generosity and foresight of the Smith family, far outweigh its size and present ecological values. The covenant area adjoins the New Chum Recreation Reserve, which includes the spectacular 72 metre high basalt columns of Motuto Point. The stack of columns represent the remnant neck of a volcano, the outer flanks of which have long since been removed by erosion.

Pohutukawa are well established on the exposed point, and on boulders at the back of the beach where they protect a dense stand of nikau and kohekohe through which the access track winds. Manuka and kanuka dominate coastal broadleaf secondary forest, with some puriri and emergent rimu in and around the covenant.



Lorna McDonald (left) and Yvonne Shadbolt take a break from revegetation work in their covenant.



The special nature of this small piece of land, with its only access being by boat or along the rocky foreshore from Whangapoua, had long been recognised by Maori and early Pakeha settlers. The area was subdivided off nearly 100 years ago by the family from the farm that was being sold at the time.

It has been retained ever since, despite substantial offers from overseas interests, and it is to the credit of the trustees that they have perpetuated the earliest family wishes that the area be preserved for the children and future generations of the Smith family.

The newly registered open space covenant underpins and strengthens this decision. It is communal family land and provides a neutral meeting place for all members, in a sense it is their turangawaewae. In the light of what is happening elsewhere on the Coromandel Peninsula, it is also remarkably generous that the management plan perpetuates the right for public walking access through the covenant. The public access route passes through the saddle between the Crown reserve and the farm, and is the best track from Whangapoua on the south side to Wainuiototo Bay (New Chums Beach) on the north. On the day of the covenant opening, at least 100 members of the public walked over this track to the beach.

The opening was on an appropriately hot, sunny summer's day, with some 50 or so family members, covering four generations, gathering on the small, flat clearing at the top of the covenant. The neighbours and other guests present included local iwi representatives, the Mayor and environmental planner from Thames Coromandel

## Open Space Covenants

As at 1 October 1997, there were 1,054 registered covenants totalling 43,023 hectares with a further 336 areas totalling 59,250 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 1/10/97:

LAND DISTRICT	TOTAL NO.	AREA PROTECTED (HA)
North Auckland	209	4,123
South Auckland	250	7,298
Gisborne	55	8,494
Hawkes Bay	47	1,268
Taranaki	62	2,098
Wellington	181	9,616
Marlborough	4	201
Nelson	53	1,665
Westland	3	20
Canterbury	82	2,698
Otago	39	3,886
Southland	69	1,654
	<u>1,054</u>	<u>42,023</u>

District Council (TCDC) and their families, and the National Trust.

Bruce Smith outlined some family history, trustees' decisions about the land and the management plan they developed. Tim Oliver spoke about the role of the National Trust and the wider

significance of this particular covenant. Mayor Alisdair Thomson gave further historical information from the late Roly Smith's writings, linking the covenant with the heritage and environmental directions of the TCDC. All the speakers had their own personal and family links with



Eighty-six year old Robin Smith and 90 year old Violet Katavitch are the eldest members of three generations of the Smith family who planted a puriri tree to celebrate the opening of their covenant last summer.



the Smith and Simpson families, and with this part of the Coromandel Peninsula.

The opening was marked with the planting of a puriri tree, and short addresses by two family elders Vi and Robin, assisted by grandchildren. Further puriri and pohutukawa were planted this winter, with possums and rats being dealt to by George Simpson with help from Environment Waikato.

The action taken by the Smiths is strongly supported by the local Whangapoua community and the local iwi, and has provided a unifying role in contrast to the divisiveness that is developing elsewhere in relation to land ownership and public access. This is a very valuable covenant both for the Smith family and for the National Trust.

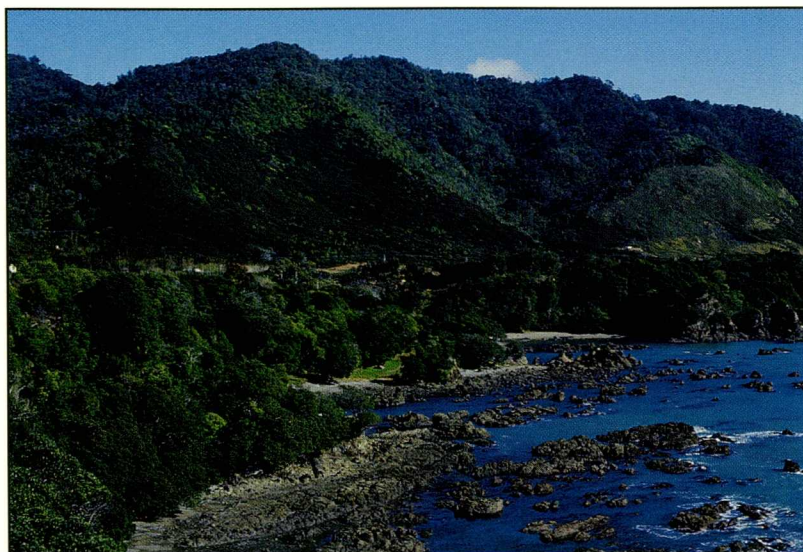
The covenant protects the open space values of the land, including the native flora and fauna, the features of the pa site and the land's scenic values. It also provides for the use of the land for active and passive recreation and as a focus for family gatherings.

The New Chum Trust Covenant is one of a growing number of extremely important coastal covenants in the Coromandel Peninsula.

### *Wallace's Tapuaetahi Covenant*

Former National Trust Director Charlotte Wallace and her husband Lin, together with their children, have fenced and protected an 18 hectare catchment of coastal pohutukawa and broadleaf forest on steep coastal hills just north of Tairua.

Their forest is very diverse, and provides an excellent kiwi habitat. This block is part of a recommended area for protection, and is also home to North Island kaka and the



*Interior of the Wallace covenant.*

skink *Leilipisma smithii*. The rare cucurbit (gourd) *Sicyos australis* has been found on exposed rocks adjacent to the covenant.

It is part of the largest, most intact and diverse area of coastal vegetation in the Tairua Ecological District. The Wallaces have already fenced several hundred hectares of this mature and regenerating coastal bush, excluding livestock.

The bush has an understorey of young podocarps including numerous totara, kahikatea, miro and the occasional rimu and kauri higher up in the catchment. Tanekaha is dense in the upper reaches, and in the central area there are some huge puriri and pohutukawa. The lower covenant is mainly pohutukawa and opens onto a rocky foreshore.

The Wallace covenant adds to a network of protected areas in the locality including the Carter covenant of kahikatea to the west, the Wiedmann covenant four kilometres south and Te Moata six kilometres to the southwest.

Miss Lilian Valder and the Waikato branch of Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society assisted with the costs of fencing. These people, plus

neighbours, friends and National Trust Reps, were hosted by the Wallace family on 14 June 1997 for a most enjoyable opening and visit to this covenant and to see some of the other bush areas and coastal landscape on the property.

### *Andrew Covenant - Okiwiriki Bush*

A spectacular and exciting area of bush at Mapiu, 36km south of Te Kuiti, has been protected by Nugget and Gloria Andrew, and has been the catalyst for a larger and very important community protection scheme. Nugget and Gloria, who now live at Te Puke, first approached Trust Director Arthur Cowan late in 1994.

The Andrews' 433 hectare forest block is 10km west of the Mapara Wildlife Management Reserve, and while this is the largest private block remaining in the district, the Andrew bush is not isolated, being part of an 800 ha block which includes five other adjoining private properties and the four hectare Omaru Falls Scenic Reserve. All the other private landowners (Carter, Dunning, Gower, Richardson and Spencer) have already protected most of their bush



or are currently covenanting with the National Trust.

National Trust Regional Representatives Ross Bishop and Tim Oliver are working with the owners and Lyall Babington, Steve Thomson and now Campbell Stewart from Environment Waikato. Environment Waikato are contributing towards 35% of the total fencing costs.

The Okiwiriki trig (loosely translated as "place of the little kiwi") is close to the junction of the boundaries of the Andrew, Carter, Gower and Richardson properties, and is the name selected by local landowners when they formed a community landcare management group with Environment Waikato.

The name is appropriate because there are ongoing reports of kiwi still being present in this bush. There have also been anecdotal reports of *Dactylanthus taylori* (a root parasite) being found in the area.

The bulk of the Andrew bush, which contains a variety of vegetation types and sizes, is in a deep valley trending north then west, and the eastern face of the main ridge running north from this valley. Some large podocarps are still present but tawa predominates, and rewarewa and lancewood are dominant in regrowth areas as manuka and kanuka are overtopped. Rimu is showing strongly through this new canopy, together with one large cabbage tree.

Very large tarata (lemonwood) stand out in some parts of the bush where small bluffs have broken the canopy. Matai and narrow-leaved maire are found near the western boundary. The western outlet of the main valley is a large natural wetland which is botanically interesting for the significant population of maru or burr reed (*Sparganium subglobosum*).

Much of the bush has been severely modified, and some of the area is regrowth ranging from 30-60 years old, with dense treefern growth in the north. Parts of this regrowth and some bush can be seen from State Highway 4, but it is most visible from the southwest where it is an extension of the neighbouring Gower Bush.

Access is difficult at present, but when protection of the whole Okiwiriki project is completed, access may be possible from the northern roads. Environment Waikato undertook an aerial 1080 operation in this bush in May 1995 and follow-up will continue for several years. They will also assist with goat eradication when boundary fencing on all properties has been completed.

### Haggas Covenant

Adding to an existing network of three valuable covenanted remnants relatively close to the Te Anga and Waipuna Roads, James and Linda Haggas have recently protected two more inter-connected remnants adding up to 51.9 hectares in the Waitomo Caves catchment.

The new covenant protects most of the steep eastern

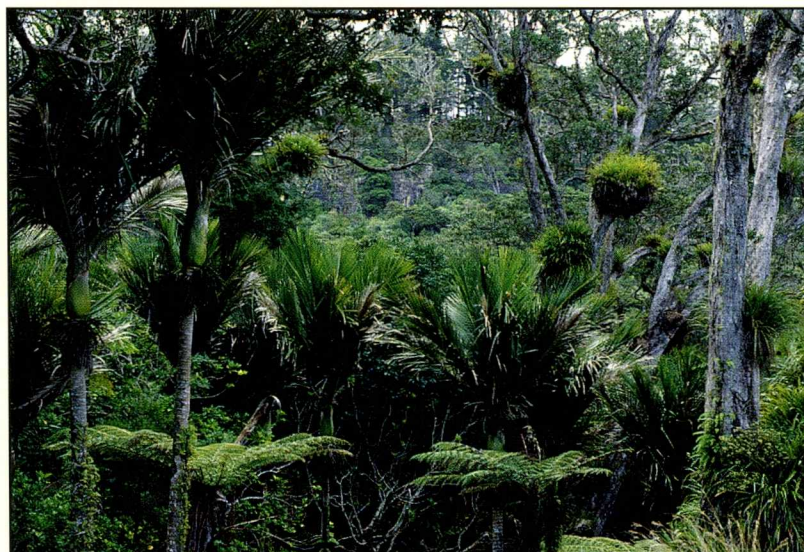
boundary of their farm, extending north from the National Trust's Tumutumu Bush almost to the Te Anga Road. It protects the western side of the upper reaches of the Waitomo Stream where it first flows above ground, some six to seven kilometres above the Glowworm Caves.

There is some exotic forestry on lesser slopes by a tributary stream and also along the southwest boundary of the covenant where a narrow section of tawa-mangeao-kamahahi forest perches above limestone bluffs which form a deep gorge. These bluffs are on the same fault line that exposed the spectacular and very visible Waipuna Bluffs just southwest of the Tumutumu Bush. They are also close to the exit from an impressive cave complex.

### GISBORNE

#### Goldie, Brock & Brock Kawenata

To ensure permanent protection of the aesthetic qualities and flora and fauna of Whanarua Bay, Tom Goldie, Tangiwai Brock and her son Stuart and members of the Walker family have taken out a kawenata (or covenant) on 110 hectares of forest in the Motuaruhe IC



Whanarua Bay with the Goldie, Brock and Brock kawenata behind.



block, 86km north east of Opotiki.

The forest drops steeply from a peak of 663 metres in the southeast, (Puangiangi), where it abuts the Pohueroro covenant area. It is part of the Whanarua-Kereu corridor block identified in the Motu Ecological District Protected Natural Areas Survey report as a Priority One area for protection.

The covenant area includes a complete altitudinal sequence of forest from coastal pohutukawa forest at State Highway 35 up to montane hard beech, tawari, kamahi and *Quintinia* forest.

The first approaches for protection were made in 1983 at the suggestion of the Maori Land Court, with negotiations carried out by Richard White, the previous Gisborne Regional Representative. The proposal was reactivated in 1995, and recently completed.

### *Savage Covenant*

Satisfaction of completing what the older generations of the family had started is how Tom Savage describes his reaction to having fenced and protected 18 hectares of forest on Poututu Station near Te Karaka.

Tom, who manages Poututu for the Savage Family Trust, is very pleased to have the bush protected.

Tom's father David says older members of the Barker family retained the bush, protecting it from milling because of its aesthetic and scenic values, although it was not fenced until almost two years ago.

The changes have been amazing since fencing, David says. "The regeneration is happening really quickly, with ferns three to four feet high and thousands of seedlings everywhere."

"There are already many seedling trees coming up in the understorey, and controlling the possums has made a big difference. Previously there were only a couple of nikau palms in the bush, but now the seedlings are as thick as grass. We find it really interesting just seeing it revert," he says.

"We've seen up to 25 kereru flying around above the bush, and four or five weka have been seen as well, plus the usual native birds which are more common."

This is a small primary forest remnant on moderate mudstone hill country, and it contains tawa-titoki forest with the occasional nikau, pukatea and kahikatea. Beech occurs on the ridges and a small area of dense totara forest is on the eastern margin. The forest canopy is closed, but before fencing the understorey had been highly modified by cattle.

This covenant is important for its biological conservation values, particularly the kahikatea on the mid-slope.



*Hughes and Hughes covenant.*

Local schools have used the bush as a study area.

### *Cook Covenant*

A small stand of mature puriri make up one the Trust's

smallest covenants six kilometres from Gisborne and only a kilometre from Grays Bush.

Started by the previous owners, Ann Field and her son Tony, the covenant is on Back Ormond Road. The large puriri trees are local landmarks on well drained and very fertile alluvial soils, and provide excellent bird habitat. Seed from these trees is used extensively by many local nurseries.

## **WANGANUI**

### *Hughes and Hughes Covenants*

Maxwell farmers and agricultural contractors Russell Hughes and his son Robert have covenanted 2.1 hectares of forest at Pukerimu Road to prevent milling.

Near the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's Bushy Park and Elliots Bush, this new covenant covers a remnant of broadleaf forest. It is in a lowland coastal gully which was originally singled

out by the former Wanganui Catchment Board for protection, says Regional Representative Bruce Kirk.

"Since being fully shut up from stock, it displays a fine tawa-dominant canopy but



with an excellent balance of titoki, karaka, ngaio, lancewood, lemonwood, rimu, totara, miro, rewarewa, matipo, clematis, kahikatea, pukatea, cabbage tree, rata vine, nikau and supplejack.

It has a well-above-average native bird population, which is not surprising considering its reasonable proximity to Bushy Park." Native pigeons, tui, grey warbler, fantail and even kiwi have been reported.

On neighbouring land, Russell Hughes has 5.9 hectares of similar forest protected in a second covenant.

"These covenants are well protected naturally from prevailing winds, and have an excellent water supply, combining to provide a unique micro-climate which is assisting the recovery process markedly. These are two of my fastest recovering open space covenants, and the bush is a real delight to observe," Bruce says.

## CANTERBURY

### Hopefield Covenant

A very fine stand of kowhai complemented by a large number of cabbage trees reading over 20 hectares has been protected near Waiau.

Marten Satterthwaite and his mother Diana Satterthwaite have covenanted the bush, which is on the steep and north-facing side of Jimmy's Knob Creek.

Many of the kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) are thought to be more than 100 years of age, says Dr Ron Close, a former president of the Canterbury Botanical Society. Regional Representative David Webster says, "I first inspected the area in November when both the kowhai and cabbage trees were in blossom, and the effect was spectacular."

The kowhai range in size from seedlings up to very mature specimens, and the canopy is supplemented by kanuka, *Coprosma*, *Olearia*, *Pittosporum*, *Pseudopanax* and *Carmichaelia* species.

This area is said to be the largest stand of such kowhai in the South Island, and it's the first such area in the Hundalee Ecological District to be protected. The covenant is on soil unusual in the area, a pocket of weathered mudstone overlying greywacke gravels.

### Miles Covenant

Mountain beech in pure stands and in association with podocarps have been protected at Oxford.

This south-facing bush, owned and cared for by Audrey and Noel Miles, represents a rare example of natural forest on the interface between the plains and foothills, says Regional Representative David Webster. Nearby is the Holcroft and Mayne covenant.

Audrey says it was the dream of her parents, Robert and Marjorie Taylor, to have the bush protected. Her father took over this family farm in 1939, and let it regenerate. She expects it had been cut over as there was a sawmill on the property before the turn of the century.

With help from two of their sons, Rodney and Andrew, and the National Trust, the Mileses completed fencing of the bush in July 1996.

Kahikatea is common throughout the 8.3 hectare remnant, and there are numerous matai, and some rimu as well as Hall's totara. Within the swampy portion, kahikatea is supported by *Coprosma propinqua*, lancewoods, cabbage trees and

rushes. "Regenerating rimu in this district qualifies as a rare occurrence," he says.

The canopy of the bush is dense and includes pokaka, putaputaweta, Pittosporums and horopito. Except under the stands of pure beech, the ground cover is almost complete, he says. Several ground orchid species have been identified in the bush too.

A combination of snows, heavy rain and northwest winds in 1945 blew many beech trees over, and the impact of those storms can still be seen today in the bush, Audrey says. "It has regenerated in my life time but it is still fairly bare underneath."

Vandalism of the bush was a problem until it was fenced. People used to take their chainsaws into the bush and there was also theft of plants she says. Fencing it has made it much less accessible. However people wishing to leave only their footprints in the bush are welcome to arrange a visit.

### Hueston Covenant

Botanist and covenantor Hugh Wilson describes Doug and Pam Hueston's bush near Hickory Bay on Banks Peninsula as a "startlingly good forest remnant".

The two blocks, with stock access in between, total 11.3 hectares, and run between Hickory Ridge and Hickory Bay Road, 27 km east of Akaroa.

The covenant was opened officially on August 16, commemorating the fencing and protection of the bush. "It was a job we had to do in spring time and we invited tramping friends and farmers who are particularly interested in conservation," says Doug.

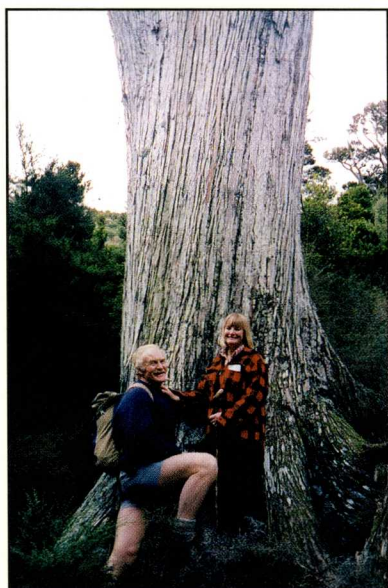
"We walked down the main Hickory-Le Bons Bay ridge,



down the historic Christie's pack saddle track, and through our property to the bush. We spoke about how it had been 10 years since Hugh Wilson did the original report, and we put up a plaque to Hueston's Bush Reserve."

"We'd like to thank all those who assisted with the covenant, including David Webster and the National Trust, our fencers, my son Tim, Phil Rolston and Neil Cullins, Robin Burleigh who helped sign the documentation, and Hugh Wilson for his support."

"We had a look at our ancient podocarps and the waterfall. Hugh Wilson found five different plants in that short walk he had not seen on his previous visit."



Doug and Pam Hueston at the base of a giant totara within their covenant.

"We set up photographic points to re-photograph each year to show the process of regeneration. Now the podocarps are protected forever, my biggest fear (of dying before they were protected) is overcome, and I am quite happy. I have always wanted to do this."

The outstanding feature of this bush is the presence of one of the finest populations of mamaku tree ferns on

Banks Peninsula, and it is at its southern limit here, says Regional Representative David Webster.

"But even without these, the occurrence of native totara and matai, in association with kahikatea makes this area outstanding. Very little lowland and mid-altitude forest dominated by ancient podocarps remains on Banks Peninsula."

The area remains damp even in the worst droughts because it faces south, and runs from 80 to 500m above sea level. Much of the canopy is tall kanuka and mahoe with a very diverse understorey of native trees and shrubs. Four species of tree fern - *Cyathea dealbata*, *C. smithii*, *C. medullaris* (mamaku) and *Dicksonia squarrosa* are present.

All of the forest has been logged in the past, and it is all the more remarkable that so many sound and attractive specimens remain, David says.

This covenant is included in an area recommended for protection, and it's the fourth registered covenant along the Hickory Bay Road. Each of these - two Chetwynd covenants, Grigg and Hueston

- protect completely different but representative features of outer Banks Peninsula.

## SOUTHLAND

### Story Covenant

Venlaw Station is a well known eastern Southland property in hill country some 16 kilometres east of the township of Wyndham. It has been occupied by the Story family since 1906, and is currently run by David and Dian Story.

This 172 hectare covenant is the latest to be registered in Southland. In terms of size, outstanding landscape values and ecological diversity it ranks very highly indeed, and is a most significant addition to National Trust protected land in the Southland region, says former Trust Regional Representative Roger Sutton.

This native forest remnant is some four kilometres in length and is on a south-facing slope which runs parallel to the south branch of the Mimiha Stream and an adjacent public road.

The Mimiha Stream is a tributary of the world-famous Mataura River brown trout fishery. Both enjoy Water

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Conservation Order status because of their outstanding amenity and intrinsic values. The covenant and the protection order combine to recognise and preserve outstanding natural character.

The vegetation in the covenant is a rich mixture of native species typical of this locality and ranges from large mature podocarps to stream-margin shrubs such as koromiko. The outstanding vegetation feature is an abundance of large kowhai which, in spring, attract many honey-eating birds and are visually spectacular.

The native bird life in the covenant is rich and conspicuous. In addition to the honey-eating tui and bellbirds, native pigeon, tomtit, fantail, warbler and

brown creeper are ever present.

This section of the Mimiha Stream is readily accessible by road and has a high recreational use such as trout angling and picnicking. In addition to the very genuine open space values,

this forest covenant provides a magnificent backdrop to such recreational activity.

The Story of Venlaw have made a notable contribution which will long be appreciated by the community.



Fourth generation farmers of Venlaw Station, David and Dian Story, with part of their 172 hectare covenant behind.

## NATIONAL TRUST COVENANTS AND CONSERVATION WEEK CO-OPERATION IN THE WAIKATO

*Native Bush - New Zealand's Own*, the theme for Conservation Week 1997, provided the catalyst for an exciting, co-operative approach by the Trust, DOC, Environment Waikato, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and science education advisors in organising a professional development training course for teachers.

The eye-catching combined letterhead (below) symbolises the excellent on-the-ground co-operation which exists between people in these organisations.

A "teach the teachers" day seemed to be the best way to get maximum and on-going results from all the effort, and involved introductory lectures on bush protection and

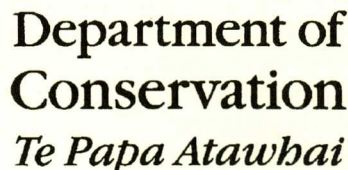
biosecurity and biodiversity issues, followed by practical field workshops.

These related to and updated the QEII National Trust Schools Project which had been used in the mid 1980s. Such was the response that two teacher training days were held.

The first day, August 3, was based at Hauraki Plains College, Ngatea. The new McDonald-Shadbolt revegetation covenant was visited, en route to Jo and Robert Speedy, who proudly showed us some of their kauri-tawa-tanekaha bush while science advisor John Charteris noted items of scientific interest, and demonstrated ways to hold the children's attention.

Judging from the questions and note-taking, many classes will be repeating and expanding on these exercises, and by "doing" will really start to understand some of the qualities and complexity of our native bush.

The second day, August 9, began at Environment Waikato's Otorohanga depot, and headed past Graham and Rosemary Davison's very significant kahikatea covenant. The rest of the day was held in the garden and bush of Arthur and Pat Cowan, with several kereru swooshing among the teachers in the bush tunnel, clearly demonstrating their appreciation of a safe haven. As a result of this day, at least one school will be





actively helping a local covenant. Some others may organise teacher support for a repeat performance in their district.

Both days were very successful and good fun. Their success is a tribute to the 45 teachers who gave up a weekend to become pupils again. Key facilitators included Karen Denyer and Andrew Jenks of Environment Waikato, Jan Simmons, Phil Thomson and Jason Roxburgh of DOC, Roger Strong, and Gordon

Stephenson. Special appreciation is due to Environment Waikato education officer Kirsten Craig.

At Ngatea we were privileged to have Neil Clarke, chairman of Environment Waikato, participating with the group for most of the day, and seeing for himself what his staff and others can achieve at the grass roots level.

We were all greatly encouraged by his interest in the concept of the day, and

the Trust appreciates the continuing leadership Environment Waikato provides in environmental education and sustainable landuse initiatives throughout Waikato.

The work of the Trust in the Waikato is considerably enhanced by the physical and financial support that its covenants and other projects receive because of the helpful approaches of individuals who combined to make this Conservation Week such a success.

## NEWS FROM THE TRUST GARDENS: TUPARE AND HOLLARD GARDENS

Spring and summer are times of revelation in the garden. The dividends of planning and hard work carried out during autumn and winter now start to show as the growing season gets into gear and the warmer months fill the tree canopies and flower beds.

With such a comprehensive and diverse plant collection spread over a large area, Hollard Gardens requires a constant maintenance cycle including both hand-weeding and the use of herbicides.

Over winter, the Swamp or Bog Garden has had a major revamp. The area which is a colourful showstopper during Labour Weekend and the annual Taranaki Rhododendron Festival could, in past years, have well qualified for a prize as "the most weeded garden". This year, things are different.

The perennials - mainly Hostas, Primulas and Lobelias - have all been lifted and divided, and the area has been dug over and given a good dressing of blood and bone. The new divisions have been re-planted with reasonably close spacing and the old

plant material has been discarded.

The results will continue to be worth the effort with more vigorous growth and flowering and a resultant suppression of weed growth. Come and see for yourself.

At Tupare, things are a little different. It is the lawns which pose the challenge, especially in spring. They have become a feature in their own right by accentuating the topography of what is a very shapely garden. The texture of the grass also provides a monochromatic and soft foil for the trunks of the mature and stately trees. Lawns, however, require a great deal of careful grooming through spring and summer if they are to continue to look good and, in certain areas, we use three different machines to mow them.

Developments to look out for this season include a new planting of trees in the bluebell bank above the tennis court. They include the Coral Bark Maple, *Acer palmatum* 'Senkaki' which has proved to be a very useful tree at Tupare, also forming the established avenue at the bottom of Mary Lane. Two -

three years of growth will create a satisfying layer which will enhance the bluebells underneath.

In The Glade, where major tree removal took place two years ago, the new plantings are beginning to establish. The Glade remains a very special area of Tupare. The area slopes up to a ridge and with its tightly-grouped deciduous trees and the backing of enormous pines has always dominated the south-east corner of the property. The new planting will eventually re-establish that strong feature.

The native Bush Rice Grass first nurtured by Sir Russell Matthews as a ground cover on the steeper banks is now busily colonising The Glade and has recently has been mowed for the first time. It will now be allowed to seed and, with selective weeding, will be encouraged to re-establish.

While maintenance is necessary to good management during spring and summer, in this instance, so is the work of Nature and a good dash of patience.

Greg Rine  
**Gardens Manager**



## GAY MUNRO: SOUTHLAND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

The Trust is pleased to welcome new Southland Regional Representative Gay Munro. She and her husband Ron, who live at Mokotua, east of Invercargill, have covenanted a 64 hectare wetland with forest remnants. Therefore Gay is familiar with the Trust and the landowner's perspective of protection.

The covenant is particularly interesting because of the innovative use of moats instead of fences to provide natural barriers to stock. It consists of two large dams which cover about 10

hectares, and the remainder of the land is covered by wiregrass, bog pine, rushes, manuka and regenerating native bush.



*Gay Munro.*

A wide range of bird species such as grey teal, shoveler, paradise duck, Canada goose, mallard, pukeko and black swan are permanent or frequent visitors. Less common species such as grey duck, marsh crake, scaup, and fernbird have also been spotted, sometimes in large numbers and for lengthy periods.

Gay, a graduate in botany, is very involved in the local school and community activities in the Mokotua area. She and Ron have two teenage children.

She takes over from long-serving Regional Representative Roger Sutton who retired earlier this year.

## Clippings

### CLARIFICATION: W.W. BOUSKILL FAMILY COVENANT

This Waikato covenant, in the Onewhero district of Tuakau, is owned by Rae Bouskill. She and her late husband Bill farmed "Rangihauputa", which now has three Trust covenants.

Bouskill was one of the first people in this area to promote forest protection and formally protect forest remnants.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Wairarapa covenantor David Holmes whose

Shorthorn bull Pakaraka Quebec won the all breeds champion of champion prize at this year's national beef bull sale in Palmerston North. Mr Holmes won the same prize last year, and the champion ribbon in the Shorthorn section in 1991, 1993, 1994, and 1996.

- Marlborough covenantors Ross and Chris Beech, of Stronsay, who won the inaugural Marlborough Rural Environment supreme award this winter. They are proving that protection is an integral part of farm management. Ross and Chris farm Merinos on 1017 ha of improved tussock hill country in the Medway Valley, in the headwaters

of the Awatere Valley. They also have a 20 ha soon-to-be-registered covenant over a deep and steep gully with kowhai, manuka, matipo and olearia. The competition focus was on sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

"We were very humbled by winning", Ross says. He is keen to see more people enter next year so others can enjoy the experience of having time with people who ask them to justify the things they do.

Wastes are either burnt, buried or recycled on Stronsay. "There's no over-the-bank stuff, and we recycle whatever we can, and that means taking material to town," he says. A field day will be held on their farm in early November.

- Hawke's Bay covenantors Chris and Debbie Dooney who won the Richmond Hawke's Bay Farmer of the Year award this year. The Dooneys have two blocks, totalling 16 hectares, protected with the Trust.

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