



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

For open space in New Zealand

Open Space

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Nga Kairauhi Papa

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THE TRUST TURNS TWENTY

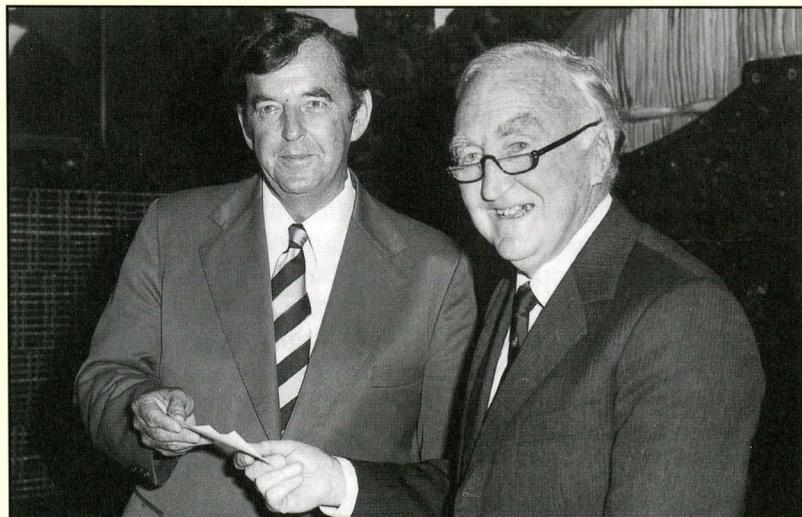
In the first of two articles, Tim Porteous provides a brief outline of the growth of the Trust from 1977 to 1987. The second article will cover the period 1987 to 1997. It is planned to commission a full history of the Trust in 2002 commemorating its first twenty-five years.

When the Trust Board of Directors met for the first time in the Maori Affairs Room at Parliament Buildings on 22 March 1978, one of the major considerations was attempting to determine exactly what role this new organisation would fulfill.

The government's original intent was to create an organisation independent of both the government and interest groups to provide advice and co-ordination on matters relating to open space. It must be remembered

that agencies such as the Commission for the Environment, the Ministry for the Environment and the Biological Resources Centre had not yet been established. In addition, the two government departments responsible for tendering advice to the government on open space and conservation matters (the New Zealand Forest Service and the Department of Lands and Survey) did not always take a co-operative or co-ordinated approach.

Coupled with the government's wish for an advisory body of the highest stature was the farming community's desire to have available to them a mechanism for ensuring the protection of areas of value on private land in perpetuity



The Minister of Lands, the Hon. Venn Young (left) presents the first Trust Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Sir Thaddeus McCarthy with a cheque to fund the establishment of the National Trust in March 1978.

without jeopardising rights of ownership.

The Trust's empowering legislation, enacted in December 1977, was broad and provided the Trust with a mandate encapsulated in ten functions covering all aspects of the "provision, protection, and enhancement of open space". (Negotiating the execution of open space covenants is but one of the ten functions.) But how and where to start?

The first Chairman of the Trust, Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, recalls well the initial frustration in attempting to get some direction from the government on what it saw as the priorities for the new organisation it had created.

"Several times I bailed up the then Minister of Lands, Venn Young, and asked him what it was he wanted us to do. We had a minuscule budget, staff borrowed from the Department of Lands and Survey and all the enthusiasm in the world, but no clear direction. We quickly realised the government didn't really have a clue in this regard and with the vision of directors such as Gordon Stephenson we set about charting our own course."

The first ten years of the Trust were characterised by innovation and experimentation as the Trust carved out a niche for itself. Overcoming initial scepticism from the public of "yet another agency" and from other organisations of a "new kid on the block" perceived initially, at least, to be duplicating the functions of some government departments, the Trust, through the enthusiasm and professionalism of its directors and staff, quickly gained recognition for its special abilities. These strengths included an ability to communicate easily with rural landowners and to draw

together groups and individuals to further open space protection and enhancement proposals.

The Trust deliberately chose to pursue new and innovative approaches to open space matters. Examples include:

1. Mt Karioi Landscape Study

In 1979, the Trust initiated a multi-disciplinary assessment of the values of the Mt Karioi area near Raglan. The study identified those areas of highest landscape, ecological and recreation value and provided guidelines for a sensible and workable compromise between these values and the need for continued agricultural and forestry production.

2. Wild and Scenic River Protection

The passage of the Water and Soil Conservation Amendment Act in 1981 provided for the protection of unspoilt rivers or sections of rivers as Wild and Scenic by way of Water Conservation Orders.

The Trust successfully led the first precedent setting application resulting in protection of the Motu River on the East Coast of the North Island. This was followed by a second successful application for protection of the Manganui-te-ao River in the central North Island.

3. Demonstration Farms

The purpose of the Demonstration Farms project, initiated in 1982, was to show the farming community how farm management and landscape design could be combined to enhance long term production. Plans for three significant properties were produced although problems were encountered in fully implementing the projects with the passage of time.

4. Waipa County Landscape Awareness Project

This project, a first in New Zealand, was based on a cornerstone of the Trust's philosophy that remains to this day; that, while open space covenants protect the highest value areas on a property, the influence of a landowner through normal everyday farming activities has a considerable impact on overall landscape quality.

The Waipa County Landscape Project consisted of seminars, booklets and financial assistance to, firstly, encourage protection by way of open space covenant of the most important areas and to encourage enhancement of these areas by revegetation plantings. Secondly, through the series of booklets, landowners were made aware of the distinctive qualities of their landscapes and the impact their farm management activities (both positive and negative) could have on the landscape.

A more limited project was later undertaken on Banks Peninsula.

5. The Revegetation Manual

In 1983, the Revegetation Manual was published. An absence of easily accessible information for landowners on re-establishing native vegetation prompted the Trust to publish the manual. The manual was highly successful and quickly sold out.

While all this and more was being achieved, the need for the Trust's advocacy and co-ordinating role was diminishing. However, demand for the Trust's open space covenant mechanism was building. The first covenant, that of Gordon and Celia Stephenson, was registered in 1979. By 1982, 16 had been registered and by August 1985 the landmark figure of 100 had been reached.

SELLING YOUR COVENANTED LAND?

The ten years to 1987 saw the Trust Board led by only two Chairmen. Sir Thaddeus McCarthy stepped down in March 1983 to be replaced by the Hon. Les Gandar, following his return from his post as NZ's High Commissioner in London.

As the first decade of the Trust's existence drew to a close, the Trust had established itself as professional and credible, with an ability to communicate effectively with private landowners, community groups and local and central government agencies alike. The Trust was adequately funded for its activities and had obtained a high level of political support.

If you are selling land with a covenant on it please notify the Trust or the Regional Representative in your area.

We need to know who the new owners are so the Representative can visit them and go through the covenant document and discuss ongoing management of the area.

Also, if you are the initial covenantor we need your new address so we can continue to send the newsletter and Trust information to you.

**STOP
PRESS**

The membership of the Trust has elected Mr Bill Garland of Cambridge and Mr Geoff Walls of Christchurch to the Trust Board of Directors.

RECENTLY REGISTERED COVENANTS

FAR NORTH

Foley Covenant

This covenant, at Awanui Road, 4km north of Kaitaia, centres on a rare and threatened little fern by the name of *Christella dentata*. This is understood to be the only place the fern grows wild. Prompt action by Chappie Foley in erecting a temporary fence around the remnant contributed significantly to the survival of the species.

Much of the impetus for protection came from the well-known Whangarei botanist Katie Reynolds.

The vegetation is a browsed remnant of kahikatea forest containing a good variety of species, suggesting that although it has been cut-over at least three times, it has never been burnt.

Such a remnant, in an intensively farmed district like the Awanui flats, is extremely rare. Matai, nikau, puriri,

taraire, black maire, kowhai and cabbage tree are all present. Several native orchids have been identified in the bush, as well as various *Coprosma* species. The Foley covenant also has the only known occurrence in the Kaitaia district of the heart-leaved kohuhu, *Pittosporum obcordatum*, and *Mazus pumilio*, an enchanting plant of the foxglove family. In total 115 species and hybrids have been identified in the bush.

At the time the bush was being logged, giant geckos were observed everywhere, and as it was not burnt, it is highly likely a population still survives. As well as the bush, an old ox-bow of the Awanui River containing another small colony of *Christella* has been covenanted, bringing the total area protected to 7.2 hectares.

Achieving permanent protection for this remnant has been arduous and involved considerable sacrifice

on the part of the landowners. Chappie and Mrs Foley are to be congratulated for being instrumental in protecting such a valuable resource for the future.

Nesbit and Neeley Covenant

Situated on the edge of the beautiful and historic Waimate North district, the open space covenant initiated by Mike Nesbit and Suzette Neeley makes a valuable and scenic contribution to this special landscape, says Far North Regional Representative Fenton Hamlin.

Recognised in the very earliest days of both Maori and European settlement as having special values, Waimate North is still considered a very desirable place to live. Prized by early Maori for the quality of kumara cultivated on the rich soil, it became the site for the Church Mission Society's first inland mission station in the 1830s.

In typical Northland fashion, the soil types are fragmented and distinctive. The beautiful stands of almost pure puriri, readily associated with Waimate North, change quite abruptly to mixed broadleaf and podocarp dominant forest remnants as the soil type changes from volcanic to clay.

The 13.2 hectare Nesbit-Neeley covenant is in a steep sided gully. The canopy is dominated by an association of kahikatea and totara with occasional kohekohe and emergent rewarewa. The remnant is possibly the best of its type in the district, due in part to difficulty of access into the gully. Again, the difficult terrain has contributed to the remnant providing ideal habitat for a good range of indigenous fauna.

Kiwi have been recorded in the bush. Kukupa (wood pigeon) and tui are also present, with fern birds and bittern recorded adjacent to the remnant. Indeed, Mike and Suzette were first alerted to the possibility of a covenant by Wendy Sporle, a covenantor, in her role as Kiwi Conservation Officer.

The Trust now has eight separate open space covenants in the Waimate North district. Led by covenantor Geoff Wightman, the Waimate North community have recently formed a Landcare Trust to promote the recognition and protection of the numerous remaining remnants in this district.

Stevens Covenant

Neil and Marianne Stevens at Kaikohe made the Trust's task easy as they built a solid fence around the remnant at their own expense.

Their five hectares of kahikatea and totara dominant forest on the edge of Kaikohe township

Open Space Covenants

As at 16 February 1998, there were 1,092 registered covenants totalling 43,754 hectares with a further 321 areas totalling 59,140 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 16/2/98:

LAND DISTRICT	TOTAL NO.	AREA PROTECTED (HA)
North Auckland	226	4,224
South Auckland	268	7,481
Gisborne	58	8,514
Hawkes Bay	52	1,464
Taranaki	71	2,355
Wellington	189	9,854
Marlborough	6	275
Nelson	54	1,665
Westland	5	99
Canterbury	86	2,870
Otago	39	3,887
Southland	70	1,662
	<u>1,124</u>	<u>44,350</u>

contributes to the forested backdrop of the town.

Prior to fencing, the remnant had been fairly heavily browsed, with little understorey and few ground cover plants remaining. With good birdlife in the district, and the presence of substantial forested areas nearby, it's expected a subcanopy will soon establish.

There are numerous remnants similar to the Stevens' bush in the Kaikohe district. The diversity of soil types results in a wide range of habitat and forest types, with scope for Trust work in the Far North consequently being enormous.

It is hoped that Neil and Marianne's initiative in negotiating the open space covenant on their property will encourage other landowners in the district to follow suit.

MID NORTHLAND

Herzog, Bell, Pope and Bell Covenants

At the edge of Whangarei Harbour at Parua Bay is a complex of three covenants protecting regenerating coastal forest adjoining a mangrove swamp.

The covenanted forest, which has a total area of 2.6 hectares, is owned in three adjoining titles by Susan Bell, Catherine Pope, Michael Bell and Eric Herzog.

This delightful covenanted area, although small in size, contains high botanical values. It faces east and southeast and protects part of the natural vegetated fringe of Parua Bay. It is visible from both the harbour and Whangarei Heads Road. The forest is an important habitat for birdlife including kereru and tui.

WAIKATO

Taylor Covenant

Tall tawa, pukatea, podocarps and rata in two blocks have been protected by Helen and Andrew Taylor at Cambridge.

Totalling 5.7 hectares, the bush is on steeper land in largely rolling hill country. Many mamaku ferns, rewarewa, and cabbage trees make up the understorey of these two attractive blocks.

The Taylors' open space covenant protects the trees from logging, protects the steep hillsides from erosion, and protects the landscape views from Oliver Road and other nearby roads. The Oliver covenant is over the road from this new covenant.

Johnston and Osborne Covenants

Neighbouring families near Waitomo have protected three major areas of bush in the headwaters of the catchment adjacent to the spectacular Hollow Hill cave and scenic reserve.

Owen and Maxine Johnston, who farm with Owen's brother Allan, and Bob and Judy Osborne and their son Kim and daughter in law Helen have three new covenants between them.

The Johnstons have two covenants, a five hectare block, and a 31 hectare block which neighbours the new Osborne covenant of 28 hectares. The larger blocks are off Hauturu Road, the access road to the National Trust owned Robert Houston Memorial Reserve. Owen and Maxine's son, Philip, did most of the fencing on their side while Kim and Bob Osborne completed their fencing.

These two covenants protect a forest within a deep gully, downstream and

adjacent to the Hollow Hills Scenic Reserve.

The most striking feature of the covenants are spectacular limestone bluffs and partially vegetated rock walls which drop steeply down for more than 100 metres into a river system. Care has to be taken when walking along the ridgelines as the drops to the gully bottom are long and hazardous.

Vegetation within the gully includes mangeao, kohekohe, tawa, mahoe, rata, kahikatea, rimu and mamaku. The area is also rich in fossils.

There is a long boundary between the largest Johnston covenant and the Osborne covenant. The Johnstons' second covenant of five hectares of bush is mainly of tawa, rimu, pukatea and mangeao.

In addition to these covenants the Johnston family have donated a small tongue of land to the Department of Conservation forming an extension on the western side of the Hollow Hill Scenic Reserve.

KING COUNTRY

Spencer and Dunning Covenants

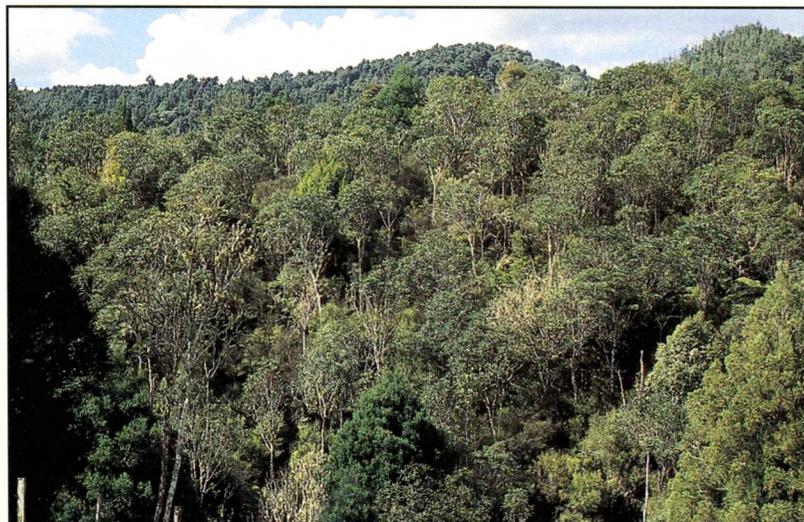
These two new covenants share a boundary with Nugget and Gloria Andrew's

433 hectare forest. Mark Spencer is delighted with his new 27.5 hectare covenant which adjoins Malcolm and Raewyn Dunning's new 7.5ha covenant. "It was plain that the area would never be useable for farming," he says.

The Dunnings, who live at the end of Patoto Road, already have covenant of 24 hectares, which is about a kilometre southeast of this new block and which acts as the water catchment for their farm. That block was covenanted by Alan Boggust in the late 1970s, not long after the National Trust was established.

Raewyn Dunning says protecting the bush with the Trust was a practical decision, as their part was already fenced into the neighbour's land. "We know these trees are going to stay, and we are preserving the area for life, that's what we like about it. We know the next person who takes over can't cut it all down.

It's quite good to see it reverting back to native bush. It's neat to see all the lancewoods and tarata regenerating through the ti-tree." Last spring they had a brilliant display of clematis, which they had never noticed before. "It showed up very well and seemed to stand out," Malcolm says.



The Dunning covenant.

They enjoy the bush so much they moved their house higher up the hill from its previous site so they could see into their initial covenant, which was protected by the previous owner.

The bush is predominantly tawa, rewarewa, kamahi and pukatea forest with emergent rimu and matai. Some is tall mature forest, while other parts are regenerating after cutting 30 to 60 years ago.



Bog vegetation in the Russell covenant.

Ross says the top of a broad flat ridge running parallel with the Andrew boundary has a very interesting plant association of *Lycopodium deaterodensum*, really robust specimens of parsley fern *Botrychium biforme*, and *Coprosma rigida*. "They are all growing under pole kamahi, and I have not seen such an extensive association anywhere else in the King Country."

The landowners agree controlling the goats is the next step in the project. Mark Spencer says he'd like to see the goats out of it. At times, 60 or 70 have been seen in a mob. A team of hunters may be employed to go through the bush to shoot both pigs and goats. Possum control is already in place.

BAY OF PLENTY

Russell Covenant

Mallyon Russell, who owns land 10 kilometres northwest of Tairua, has two new covenants totalling 611 hectares over large areas of regenerating scrubland on broken country. Running from 420 metres above sea level down to 200 metres, the land is covered in a mosaic of modified natural vegetation.

Mallyon Russell is a well known local identity who has until recently lived a solitary life in a hut on the property for the past 20 or so years. He used to regularly walk the 10 kilometres to Tairua for provisions.

Regional Representative Stephen Parr explains that the original forest was heavily modified by logging, burning, gum digging and gold mining, with kauri log dams and an old steam hauler still evident. But the vegetation which was left is now in good condition and includes:

- bog vegetation on a high plateau with sedge and manuka, and some *Dracophyllum*
- exposed dry hill tops of stunted montane scrub including *Olearia* species, *Gaultheria antipoda*, *Pomaderris kumeraho*, *Pseudopanax discolor*, stunted *Weinmannia silvicola* and manuka.
- slopes of mainly manuka and rewarewa
- kauri, totara, some rimu and miro emerging through an understorey of shrubs and tree ferns in the damper and more

protected lower slopes and gullies with the benefit of deeper soils

- some uncommon plants include a fern *Loxosoma cunninghammii*, *Gaultheria paniculata* and *Pomaderris rugosa*.

These new covenants are very important in the Tairua Ecological District as they form part of an almost unbroken chain of bush areas running from the coast to the central Coromandel ridgeline. The nearby Weidmann covenant and adjacent Trust property, Te Moata, are part of this chain.

Howie Covenant

In close proximity to the existing Tuart open space covenant, Ron and Pat Howie, who live half way between Rotorua and Tauranga, have protected a 2.4 hectare forest remnant in a steep sidling and gully. It's in a landscape of rolling farmland, orchards and many unprotected bush remnants.

They fenced off the tawa, rewarewa and mangeao, which has never been logged. A large old mangeao is a special feature of the Howie covenant. Ron and Pat have a delightful

garden and have hosted home stay visitors. Although small, their area of bush is an important landscape feature in the local area well worthy of protection.

Steele Covenant

Five kilometres inland from Katikati, Horace and Ivy Steele have protected seven hectares of regenerating bush.

The Steeles' bush is one of the closest to Katikati and is very visible from Busbys Road. A small stream runs through the block, making it a delightful remnant to walk through. It contains a good range of plants including kauri, puriri, kohekohe, rimu, tawa, pukatea, miro, mamaku and nikau.

The bush has been used as a teaching block in the past by Katikati College students. The action taken by Mr and Mrs Steele has already resulted in two neighbours expressing interest in protecting their bush.

TARANAKI

Whitehead Covenant

Two very attractive areas of semi-coastal forest totalling 4.7 hectares have been protected by Colin and June Whitehead at Onaero, a few kilometres north of Waitara.

Colin and his late father Horace, who purchased the farm in 1922, have both been very protective of these forest remnants and have had more than one argument with prospecting oil companies over the years.

The larger area provides excellent shelter for the house, garden and orchard, from the cold southerly winds.

The canopy is dominated by kohekohe, puriri and tawa behind the house and gradually changes to pukatea and kahikatea where it runs down a steep gully. There are more than 60 native species present.

A unique feature of this covenant is a healthy colony of king ferns just behind the house. With no family to take over the farm, Colin and June decided to retire in 1997. Before the farm was sold at auction on 18 February, Colin had completely ring-fenced the larger area at their own expense.

Colin and June have retired to New Plymouth where they have built a new house at Spotswood, and the new owners are the Honeyfield brothers, Barry and Rob.

Waterson Covenant

Tony and Karen Waterson, who milk 170 cows at Stratford, decided to buy another farm on Manu Road for the purpose of grazing their heifers and other dry

stock. Their lawyer informed them it was a condition of sale that the purchaser would proceed with an open space covenant agreement to protect a small area of bush next to Manu Road.

The Watsons were more than happy to comply with this condition and suggested a second area that adjoins the Mangus Forbes Scenic Reserve be included. The bush has kahikatea, rimu, matai, miro and one very large totara. Tony removed a row of mature macrocarpa trees from alongside the area next to Manu Road, taking great care not to damage any native trees.

Regeneration in this area has been impressive, and especially pleasing has been the large number of matai and tawa seedlings. Since the Taranaki Regional Council introduced the self-help possum programme into the district three years ago, Tony has acquired his own possum licence and, with regular poisoning, possum numbers are almost nil.

Stretton Covenant

Trevor and Mary-Ann Stretton and their five



Western side of the Whitehead covenant.

children moved to their Kaimiro dairy farm in 1992. They were very taken with the bush and the Waiongana River which runs through the covenant when they first visited the farm with the land agent, reports Regional Representative Bill Messenger.

Briders Covenant

Gregory and Christine Brider of Inglewood have protected two hectares of native bush on the property they purchased seven years ago. It is original tawa forest with some rimu, miro and



Trevor and Mary-Ann Stretton with their newly covenanted bush.

On Egmont Road, 9km from Inglewood, their 1.7 hectare tawa forest is on flat land except where it slopes down to the river on the eastern boundary. It's a good example of a Taranaki ring plain forest remnant, and it is important as a link for wildlife including whiteheads.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides camp close to the bush and the Strettons have provided toilets for these groups and any other clubs or societies that may wish to camp on their property.

The Taranaki Tree Trust paid for the survey and 50% of the fencing costs, and Trevor employed a youth from Taskforce Green to assist with erecting the fence.

When the covenant was registered, the Strettons received a letter from New Plymouth District Council mayor Clare Stewart, congratulating them on protecting in perpetuity an area of native forest on their farm.

kahikatea. Regeneration has been excellent.

In 1996 when they applied to the New Plymouth District Council to subdivide, the council asked that an open space covenant be placed over the bush. The Briders had no hesitation in doing this, and the covenant was registered later in the year.

The Alpha Foundation Trust farm trainees, based at Lepperton under the guidance of tutor Charlie Peters, erected a new boundary fence along the southwest boundary. The farm now has new owners, Neville and Sandra Moratti.

GISBORNE

Manuel Covenant

An area of tawa forest flanked by regenerating kanuka forest has been protected by Malcolm and Margaret Manuel at Te Karaka, 38km northwest of Gisborne.

The 14 hectares of forest is an area recommended for protection because of its high botanical values, and it also has a high scenic value as the forest-clad hills overlook Te Karaka and can be seen easily from State Highway 2.

The bush also includes a small area of pukatea, titoki, kowhai, lacebark, putaputaweta, and mamaku tree ferns.

McLean Covenant

The McLean family who farm Waitawa Station on State Highway 2 at Otoko, 60km northwest of Gisborne have a new 5.6 hectare covenant.

Protected by Joan McLean, her son Andrew McLean and daughter Margaret Wright, this covenant can be seen easily from the road, and is on a steep, south-facing hillside and river bench divided by the Waihuka River.

The covenant mainly comprises tawa and pukatea forest with rewarewa, and with kahikatea and matai on the lower terrace. There are several magnificent buttressed pukatea, and large kahikatea present. There has been no stock in the forest for several

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years, and as a consequence it is in good condition.

HAWKES BAY

Dooney Covenant

Hawke's Bay's 1997 farmers of the year Chris and Debbie Dooney have two newly covenanted blocks of bush.

Their farm is on the easy to moderate rolling hills east of Waipukurau in Central Hawke's Bay, where they farm 285 hectares.

The Dooneys' covenants are vestiges of much larger areas of mixed broadleaf and podocarp forest which extended over the rolling mudstone hill country in the Omakere district.

Chris had already fenced most of the 13 hectare block and it was in very good condition when he approached the Trust, who helped complete the fencing on this area. This is tawa, titoki, kahikatea and totara forest, and it has a strong subcanopy and diverse range of groundcover species.

The second, smaller block, a kahikatea, totara and titoki forest and treeland which had been grazed out, was fenced and protected by Chris with the help of the Trust and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Both areas are part of a larger network of forest which was recommended for protection when the Department of Conservation carried out the protected natural areas survey in 1993.

The Oueroa Station covenant immediately to the west of the Dooneys' farm has three separate bush areas protected, and negotiations are continuing for the final block on neighbouring land to also be protected with the Trust.

Regional Representative Marie Taylor says there's a growing appreciation of the



Tim Williams in front of his newly fenced covenant.

value of bush remnants in the Hawke's Bay landscape, particularly in areas which have little left.

"The Dooneys' field day was a great opportunity to tell people about the National Trust and its work, and we received several enquiries about covenants from farmers that day, too," she says.

Von Dadelszen Covenant

Five hundred metres up in the Tourere Range of hills overlooking the Takapau Plains, is Dan and Caroline Von Dadelszen's covenant on Hinerangi Station.

Right at the back corner of their north-facing farm the bush is a magnificent backdrop to the grandest views of the Plains and Central Hawke's Bay stretching out from the Ruahines to the west and over the eastern Hawke's Bay.

The newly protected 13.7 hectares of bush is podocarp and broadleaf forest and treeland, and it's regenerating strongly, with some kahikatea more than 30 metres tall, mature totara, rimu, matai, miro and tawa as well as rewarewa.

Dan and Caroline fenced the bush just in time to arrest the grazing damage from stock, says Hawke's Bay Regional Representative Marie Taylor. Despite the damage,

a wide range of canopy species, climbers and ground covers were still present.

Dan remembers when it was impossible to ride a horse through the bush, but now it is much more open. Hopefully it won't be too long before the block thickens up again.

Not far from the covenant, in a deep, unfenced gully, is a nikau, which could become a seed source for the protected bush.

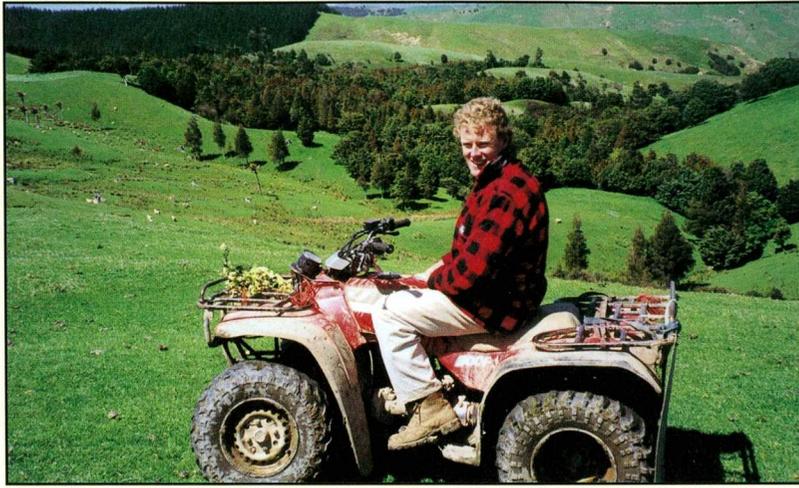
The Von Dadelszens' bush, the most northern remnant in the Puketoi Ecological District, was ranked as a recommended area for protection in 1992 and it was noted to be by far the best area in the Tourere Range.

Williams Covenant

Tim and Sam Williams, who farm at Oporae Road, Horoeka, 40 km south of Dannevirke, have a delightful covenant along the edge of the Waihi Stream.

Waihi Falls is a 25 metre fall in the Waihi Stream, surrounded by a 21 hectare scenic reserve.

The new Williams covenant protects a hectare adjacent to the reserve on the upstream side of the falls, and protects several hundred metres of riverbank and totara dominant vegetation.



Hamish Crosse with the Kelvin Grove East covenant in the background.

The falls are a popular spot for visitors, and the scenic reserve includes good stands of totara and matai, with broadleaf scrub, flax, kowhai and manuka.

Crosse Covenant

Brothers Hamish and Grant Crosse farm at Kelvin Grove, 40 kilometres southeast of Dannevirke on Provincial Highway 52.

They bought the 1200 hectare farm from their grandparents 12 years ago.

Remnants of a very old rabbit control fence, which stretched from the Ruahines to the coast in an attempt to curtail the spread of rabbits, may still be found on their farm.

As part of a major fencing programme on the farm which saw 30 km of high quality electric fencing erected last winter, two blocks of bush have been protected with the National Trust.

The brothers and their families have protected a total of 32 hectares, one a gentle gully on easy land with totara, kahikatea and tawa forest which is regenerating strongly. The second area is a steep sided gully, 50 metres deep, of totara, kaikomako, kowhai and manuka.

Hamish and his wife Joanne are pleased to have been able to preserve their bush for the future rather than having it all cut down, burnt or grazed out. "It wasn't run on a sustainable basis before."

Fencing both blocks has made stock access and movement much easier, and he says it's nice to see it regenerating now. "In years to come it is going to be a benefit to the farm."

"The bush has really been hammered by the stock moving through and grazing it. Just keeping the stock out has made a big difference. I can already see some of the new bits and pieces coming away."

WANGANUI

Herlihy Covenant

Registered some while ago, the Herlihy covenant is in the Okoia district east of Wanganui, at the far end of Kaukatea Road, 9km from Okoia village.

Russell and Lois Herlihy approached the Trust with a view to placing some form of protection on a fine stand of bush on a steep, south-facing slope on their farm. Now retired, but maintaining a very active interest and involvement with the bush,

the Herlihys can hardly ignore this covenant as it sits directly opposite their home and delightful garden.

Tawa dominant, this 5.7 hectare covenant provides a visually eye-catching balance of species which include rata, kahikatea, rewarewa, titoki, hinau, lancewood, rimu, nikau, silver fern, five-finger, matai, miro, red and black matipo, kawakawa, supplejack, lemonwood, with mahoe and manuka towards some of the edges.

This block provides a real vista for any who take time to travel up Kaukatea Road. It is a pity that such a fine block is not on a more public road, but those who do take the trouble are well rewarded. The public is able to gain access to the covenant with the Herlihys' permission.

MANAWATU

Shannon Covenant

Situated only a few kilometres north of Feilding, this recently registered covenant is a good representative of some of the few pockets of secondary forest remaining on the Manawatu Plain.

Ruth Shannon, who with her late husband farmed in the Waituna district for a large part of their lives, retired to a smaller block on the northern outskirts of Feilding a number of years ago. The property contained a shallow valley which had been cut over at about the end of last century, but had since regenerated strongly with stock being mainly confined to a droving track.

Since her husband's death, Ruth and the trustees explored the idea of total protection of the four hectare block, and subsequently approached the Trust. Stock browsing in recent years had been very minimal, with the

result that even the old droving track was totally shrouded in native canopy. Complete enclosure fencing was arranged, and the covenant duly registered.

The block is dominated by totara, titoki, kanuka and tawa, which at this stage in their regeneration have reached an average of nine metres in height. Helping provide a balance is a good spread of rewarewa, cabbage tree, pittosporum, lancewood and a strong understorey of mingimingi.

Since fully enclosing the area, both the trustees and the local North Street School have embarked on an annual revegetation programme which aims to fill in the gaps at the edges. Young trees are being planted among tree ferns providing excellent shelter to assist their establishment.

WAIRARAPA

Campbell Family and Waimaha Trust Covenants

The two wetlands developed by Jim Campbell, a past President of Ducks Unlimited NZ Inc., and nephew Tim, lie to the north and south of Kiriwhakapapa Road, a couple of kilometres south of the Mount Bruce summit on State Highway 2.

The covenanted areas of open water and wetland cover 5.8 and 8.3 hectares, although they form only a part of the complex developed in the catchment of the Upper Waipoua river.

On Jim Campbell's farm on the northern side of the road, there are another 12 hectares of prime wetland, as well as the fenced off

course of the Te Mara stream, so the area is a magnet for wetland birds, linking the upland rivers of the Tararua Forest Park to the west, and the string of wetlands, many of them covenanted, along the edge of the Wairarapa plains.

Much of the recent protection of wetland resources has been prompted, or carried out, by, members of Ducks Unlimited.

The fenced areas on both farms are also providing an opportunity for regeneration of native trees, with rimu, totara and kahikatea beginning to appear above the manuka shrubland.

The most obvious feature of both areas, however, is the number of waterfowl, with many breeding pairs of grey duck, shoveller, scaup, paradise duck, black swan and mallard. Dabchick and bittern are also present, and as the wetlands mature, conditions should be suited to their breeding.

NELSON

Peter Covenant

Ash and Catherine Peter's bush was logged in 1938. Some of the matai and rimu in their black beech forest at

Sunday Creek, near Dovedale, were found to be too large for the local mill and were left lying in the bush.

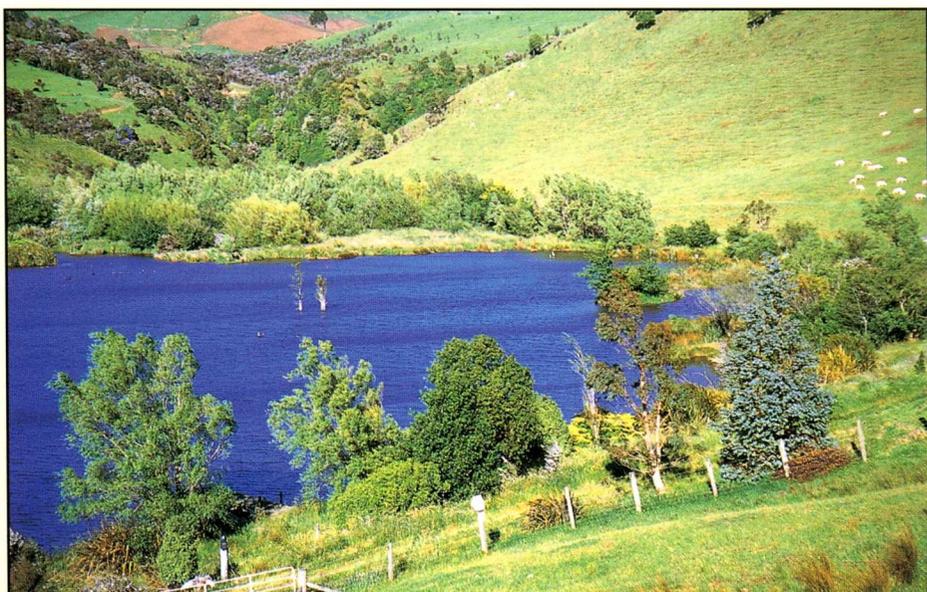
One of the reasons which prompted them to seek protection of the bush with the National Trust was to protect Ash's grandfather Dave Peter's ashes, which are scattered in the bush.

Today their forest is protected from milling, and the younger matai, rimu and totara are emerging through the canopy of beech on the western side of a ridgetop on their sheep and beef farm.

The 18 hectare block needed 1500 metres of new fencing, which the National Trust helped fund.

Only two kilometres to the north is the Coggins covenant, and another 3km further north is the Sunday Creek Farm covenant. The Peter covenant is the largest on the rolling Moutere hills, and now represents a locally rare plant community.

Regional Representative Martin Conway says, "the Peter covenant is very worthwhile, and Ash has fenced it very well. "The bush will get better and better."



The upper pond on Jim Campbell's property.

WEST COAST

Hughes and Brennan Covenant

Ross residents Annie Hughes and Ted Brennan know well the effects mining has on the landscape.

As a result, they were highly motivated to protect the bush on their lifestyle section on the main highway three kilometres south of Ross both against mining, and to fence it to protect it from current and future stock damage.

"Now it's just racing away," Annie says. "Gorse on the edges is getting shaded out and the understorey is all coming away, with broadleaf plants and ferns, which were being eaten by stock, regenerating."

Secondary forest is regenerating strongly with a canopy of kamahi and quintinia. The two hectares of bush backs onto a hillslope of Department of Conservation.

Their land was mined in the 1860s and 1870s as part of the Donoghues mining area - the township stood opposite their land and across the main highway. Nothing is left of Donoghues now, except its

name, and water-races through their bush.

Emergent kahikatea up to 10 metres in height are features of the bush, as are eight metre tree ferns, kowhai and cabbage trees, toru, rata and hinau.

An excellent bird population is present, thanks in part to a major stand of kowhai less than a kilometre away. Fernbirds are present in the swampy southern end of the property, too.

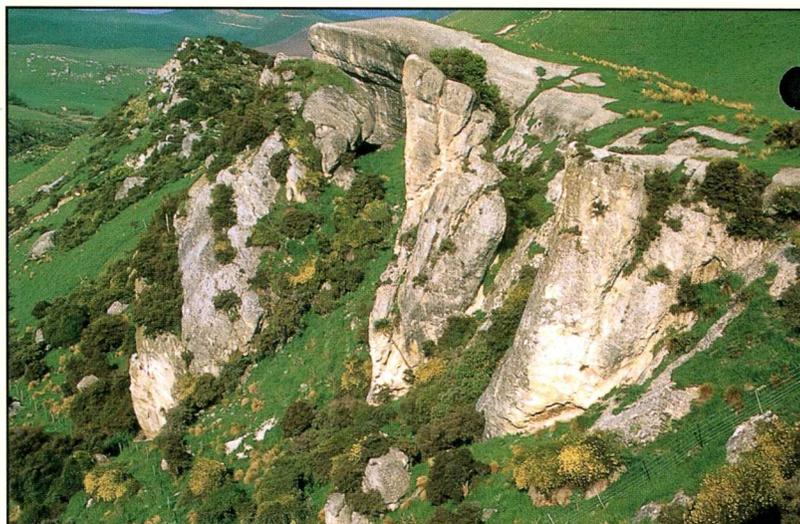
Annie says it's exciting to listen to local farmers talk about moving to more sustainable farming systems, and to see them fencing off their bush to protect it.

CANTERBURY

Belton Covenant

A few kilometres northeast of Weka Pass in North Canterbury, father and son Peter and David Belton have protected a limestone escarpment and its unique flora.

It's a geological and archaeological open space covenant, and covers two areas totalling 13 hectares. Just on 2.5 hectares is forested, with a dense scrub of *Coprosma propinqua* and climbers, with scattered *Olearia*, cabbage trees, mahoe, matagouri, bracken and silver tussock.



Limestone cliffs are protected in the Belton covenant.

SINCLAIR WETLANDS VIDEO

"Rare but Near" is the title of a magnificent wildlife video produced by the TVNZ Natural History Unit and available for purchase.

The 30 minute video features New Zealand waterfowl and the Sinclair Wetlands, a 315 hectare wetland on the Taieri Plains south of Dunedin, which is protected by open space covenant.

The cost of the video is \$29.95 (inclusive of GST and packaging and postage within New Zealand). Send your order to:

Video Sales
Sinclair Wetlands
PO Box 169
Mosgiel
OTAGO 9007

Regional Representative David Webster says the reef of limestone harbours a range of specialised plants, with bluffs and pedestals up to 20 metres high. There are scattered plants of mahoe, dwarf kowhai, mapou, matagouri, mistletoe, *Coprosma propinqua*, *Clematis afoliata*, *Rubus squarrosus* and other climbing plants. Totara would have been the prominent forest cover in the past, but recovery is expected to be slow because there are few seed sources nearby.

The atmosphere of the limestone scarp is unique and it is possible to imagine

oneself in the "Badland Mesa" in North America.

Morrison Covenant

At Kakahu near Geraldine, members of the Morrison family have added another valuable covenant to the areas they have already protected.

This new covenant, with John and Anne Morrison at Hanging Rock Road, Kakahu, protects six hectares of scrubland on the south bank of the Kakahu River.

Representative of the riparian vegetation which clothed the Kakahu River, its greatest value is as a link in the complex of protected land encompassing a full range of open space values nearby, says Regional Representative David Webster.

The matipo, wineberry, *Coprosma*, lancewood and *Muehlenbeckia* shrubland is taking over from a cover of gorse, broom and blackberry.

South Canterbury Conservation Trust Covenant

Kakahu is a very special landscape. Forty kilometres northwest of Timaru, near Geraldine, the landscape features Torlesse period rock outcrops, balancing rocks, fossils, regenerating forest and a host of historical features.

The South Canterbury Conservation Trust has recently added to its protected areas with a new 148 hectare covenant. Its other registered covenant of 43 hectares was protected initially by Ian Morrison.

"It's an interesting area from many points of view," explains Regional Representative David Webster. "While it is a worthwhile area of bush, it is equally important for local history and geology. There are the remains of lime kilns on the site, and there are

fossils of very early sea-dwelling creatures, the only fossils of the carboniferous age in New Zealand."

"Maori made tools nearby from the hard rock called chert. They used to chip bits of the chert off for knives and chisels."

As well, there is evidence of Maori mahinga kai, which are gardens for cultivating vegetables, and umu ti, which are ovens for preparing cabbage trees for eating and sugar extraction. Rock drawings are also present.

On rolling country, the new covenant features a series of truncated spurs which have been worn by water, with a modest little river, the Kakahu. A small portion of Kakahu gorge is included, where there is an attractive remnant of bush.

Alongside that is the site of a proposed sanatorium, where English trees were planted 90 years ago, but the sanatorium was never built.

A third of the new covenant is made up of pasture, while another third is regenerating kanuka, mahoe and fuchsia as well as gorse. The remainder is older kanuka-dominant shrubland, well on its way back to hardwood forest.

This section contains a mix of mahoe, wineberry, matipo, and lemonwood, as well as some young podocarps, notably totara.

This new covenant protects linkages between the existing stand of podocarps already covenanted by Ian Morrison and extends the protection to the kanuka shrubland, giving the largest remnant of podocarp forest in the Geraldine ecological district better protection.

Bats have been recorded recently here, as well as the New Zealand falcon. The South Canterbury Conservation Trust sees the potential for reinstating the

wetland and umu ti site as well as giving better protection to the timber milling tracks and sawpits.

Visitors are welcome, and the area is tracked, but please contact South Canterbury Conservation Trust member Ines Stäger first.

Guild Covenant

Four metre tall matagouri it's possible to walk under are part of an important new open space covenant in Canterbury.

James and Anna Guild of High Peak Station, west of Windwhistle, have a new covenant in the headwaters of the Selwyn River at the far end of their farm.

The 93 hectare covenant over a three kilometre stretch of the Selwyn River and its banks includes 15 hectares of this matagouri which has been estimated up to 200 years old James says, "It's quite different to younger matagouri which forms a dense mat. This is tall and open."

While most of the covenant is the braided shingle banks and stony river bed and its associated wetlands and tussock grasslands, some steep hill country running up 100 metres is included, as it is next to the river.

"The covenant land is the lowest altitude land on their property, and is very valuable in that respect," he says.

A former Canterbury National Trust Regional Representative, the late Dr Ian Blair, encouraged the Guilds to protect their part of the river. "He was a professor of mine when I was at Lincoln, and he was a very keen fisherman. He was very keen to preserve this bit of river bed in its natural state," James says.

It took quite a lot of fencing on both sides of the river to complete the covenant, as it is

a long stretch, and up to 800 metres wide. At each end flood gates are strung across the river. "It can flood quite badly here, and flooding is a fact of life living in a large catchment as this is."

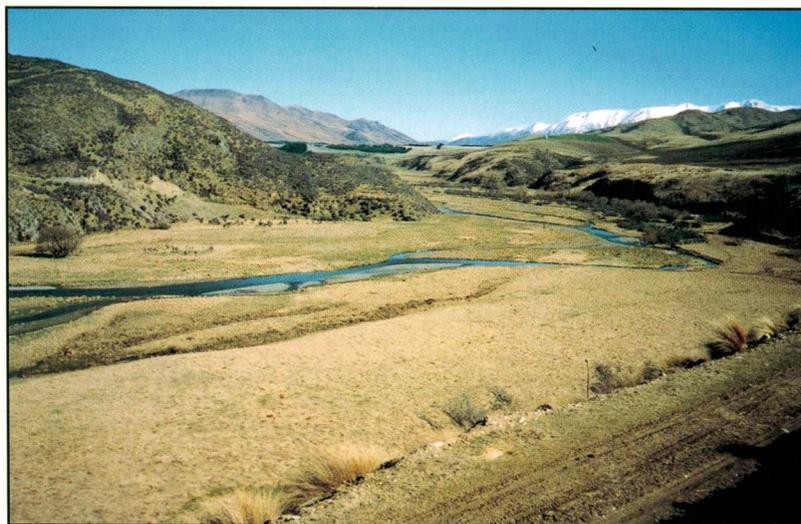
He explains the covenant includes some flats in native grasses and tussocks which could be cultivated. "But we don't need to cultivate everything on the property," he says.

There are sedges, rushes, and flax, and quite a lot of 1.5 metre-high red tussock, which is the largest of all tussocks. Silver tussock and fescue tussocks are also present, as is *Carex secta*.

Some grazing is allowed in the covenant to keep the fire hazard down. Weed control is also necessary to keep the gorse at bay. "Farm economics being what they are, it is a battle to keep on top of it."

The wetlands, where water levels fluctuate naturally, are home and host to a wide range of birds: harrier hawks, grey and mallard ducks, shelducks, Canada geese, a few pukeko, pipits, dotterels, pied oystercatchers, pied stilts, spur-winged plovers and yellowhammers.

Furthering his interests in conservation, James was recently appointed to the North Canterbury Conservation Board.



The headwaters of the Selwyn River within the Guild property.

TE MATA PEAK PROTECTED

Hawke's Bay's best-known landmark, Te Mata Peak, now has protection with the National Trust.

The 94 hectare park, owned by the Te Mata Park Trust Board, has a new open space covenant on it.

A dawn ceremony was held on Te Mata Peak on March 7 to celebrate the new covenant over the park, and to begin "Hands On Hawke's Bay", a week-long celebration of the Hawke's Bay environment and coastline.

The best views of Hawke's Bay are found from the top of the 399 metre Peak, which has a public road running almost to the top.

The panorama includes the Tukituki Valley to the south and east, the Heretaunga Plains, Ruahine, Kaweka and Maungaharuru Ranges to the west, and Napier, Hawke's Bay and Mahia Peninsula to the north.

Havelock North spreads out at the northern foot of the peak, with Hastings only a few kilometres beyond.

Te Mata Peak is the place Hawke's Bay people bring their visitors to show off the Bay. And it's also a great place for roaming around.

Thousands of people use the park each year, as it is full of walking trails and the limestone cliffs are ideal for abseiling.

Te Mata Park was gifted to the people of Hawke's Bay by the public spirited Chambers brothers, John, Bernard and Mason in 1927, as a memorial to their pioneer father, John Chambers senior.

It had been part of Karanema's Reserve, and was sold to John Chambers senior by the Hawke's Bay County Council in 1862.

Since 1927 it has been administered by the Trust Board, which is made up of members of the Chambers family and local communities and councils.

The Park Board is chaired by Havelock North farmer Mason Chambers, whose grandfather was the original owner of the land. Mason can see Te Mata Peak from his home, and from all parts of his Tukituki Valley farm.

"Te Mata Peak is a focal point in Hawke's Bay. It's a beautiful place for anyone to go to for walks, or study the natural landscape and see the surrounding views. It's a special place where people can go and see what has been done by the Chambers family."

Mason has worked in and for the park for the past 30 years, and says there is still a lot of work to be done.

"One of my greatest wishes is to complete the signs on the tracks so future generations of New Zealanders and tourists can enjoy the park. It is nice to have something for the public of Hawke's Bay and New Zealand, and our visitors."

"I've met people from all over the world in the park,

and some have said to me it is quite the best view they have ever seen."

"Along with the Te Mata Park Board, I'm proud to be made a member of the National Trust with the covenant being confirmed on the Trust Board land. It is very nice to know the National Trust has taken on the covenant which will help perpetuate the protection of the park."

This new covenant comes at a time when the wider Te Mata landscape is coming under increasing pressure for subdivision. "It would be nice if we could get some of the neighbours with adjoining land to have a covenant taken out on their land as well," Mason says.

The Trust Board and the National Trust hope this

covenant will be a catalyst for covenants on the surrounding land.

The covenant protects and maintains the open space values of the park, and protects the natural flora and fauna on the land. As well, the covenant protects the park from any urban development and inappropriate tree planting.

Geologically, the Peak is a steep, tilted block of limestone, with many fossils. Most of the park is danthonia grassland, with much production and amenity forestry on the lower slopes, as well as a two hectare block of secondary forest, Webb's Bush. Webb's bush is made up of mahoe, ngaio, pittosporums, karo, karaka, karamu, cabbage trees, lacebark and kowhai.

A flax, *Phormium chileans*, is prominent on the limestone rock outcrops, as is the large tussock grass *Cenacle flavicans* forma *temata*. This grass is a northern species which reaches its southern limit on the Peak.

The unique vegetation on the cliffs is not affected by either animals or tourists as it is largely inaccessible.

A marvellous part of the park is the redwood stand near the Tauroa Road entrance. The redwoods, planted 64 years ago, are now cathedral-like, and are a magnet for visitors.

Paddocks on the Peak are leased for sheep grazing, but much of the forestry is fenced, as is the bush. The National Trust helped fund the refencing of Webb's Bush before covenanting.

NEW GARDEN BOOK TELLS THE STORIES OF TARANAKI GARDENMAKERS

The two Queen Elizabeth II National Trust gardens, Tupare and Hollard Gardens, feature in a book published in November by two Taranaki women.

The Gardenmakers of Taranaki is written by journalist Susette Goldsmith and designed and illustrated by graphic designer Verne Barrell. The book traces the earliest history of gardenmaking in the area from Maori and early Pakeha settlement when Taranaki was known as "The Garden of New Zealand". A chapter is devoted to the garden of Ratanui which is believed to be the first nursery in Taranaki and established by nurseryman John Nairn, who arrived in the young New

Plymouth settlement in 1841 with the intention of establishing New Zealand's first branch of the Royal Horticulture Society.

A chapter on Duncan and Davies follows the development of the business from a three-acre plot established in 1898 to prominence as the largest exporter and importer of plants in the history of both New Zealand and Australia.

The history of four women botanical artists, Martha King, Emily Cumming Harris, Georgina Burne Hetley and Francis Bertha Good, all with strong Taranaki connections, has been researched and told along with their paintings in a chapter entitled "The Art of Gardening".

Historical and original drawings and a mix of old and new photographs make this an extremely attractive book. Interviews with notable Gardenmakers themselves have revealed the personal stories of the gardens which are not widely known. Gardenmakers interviewed include Susie Shearer of Wairau, Oakura; Bernard Hollard of Hollard Gardens, Kaponga; Felix Jury of Tikorangi, Waitara; Lady Matthews of Tupare, New Plymouth; John (Jack) Goodwin of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth and Michael Hudson of Pukeiti.

The 100 page book, *The Gardenmakers of Taranaki* is available from:

Ratanui Press
P O Box 291
New Plymouth
Phone/fax: (06) 752 7422
E-mail:
susette.goldsmith@taranaki.ac.nz
Price: \$42.00 (includes GST)

Clippings

- Mr H B (Bill) Williams of Gisborne has been given benefactor membership of the National Trust.

The award, to acknowledge Mr Williams' outstanding level of assistance to the work of the National Trust, was made at a function at Trust Director Pat Seymour's home at Whangara in November.

Gisborne to the Trust with an endowment towards on-going management. The area is a memorial to Bill's sister Jan who was killed in the Erebus crash in Antarctica.

The Turanga Trust, chaired by Mr Williams, has made substantial donations towards the establishment of the Trust's Aroha Island Ecological Centre.

Recently the Williams family have also taken

Representative, Malcolm Piper and his wife, Olive.

- Congratulations to Hawke's Bay environment award winners Roger and Michelle Thomsen of Patoka. They are in the middle of a nine kilometre fencing programme which will eventually protect 100 hectares of deep bush-clad gorges with the National Trust. (Photo: Marie Taylor)



From left: Elizabeth Williams, Marcus Williams and daughter Mitra, Bill Williams, Phillida Elvers, Maggie Bayfield, Angela Williams and Simin Sebti-Williams.

PHOTO: GISBORNE HERALD

Trust Chair Maggie Bayfield said she never ceased to be amazed at the goodwill and community support for the work of the Trust. This ranged from the contribution people made when covenanting an area on their property, to contributions by way of donations or gifts of property.

Mr Williams purchased the Eastwoodhill Arboretum when it was struggling, and ensured it was sufficiently funded to enable it to be maintained. This arboretum, acknowledged as the finest collection of Northern Hemisphere trees in the Southern Hemisphere, is protected by a National Trust open space covenant.

Mr Williams and his family also gifted the Pouawa Sandhills just north of

steps to covenant parts of Turihaua Station.

More than thirty East Coast covenantors and supporters of the National Trust attended the function co-hosted by Gisborne Regional

Changes in vegetation will be monitored in the next few years to document the impact of the deer in the forest.

All the work on the enclosure and plots was voluntary and all materials donated.



Hartree Forest deer enclosure: Wilton Hartree, Geoff Walls, Bill and Sam Hartree, Richard Croad, Greg Hartree and Simon Hartree.

PHOTO: MARIE TAYLOR

Tips and Techniques

FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

CONTROL OF MUSTELIDS (STOATS, WEASELS, FERRETS)

Introduction

Mustelids are a group of small to medium sized carnivores, with long thin bodies, short legs and sharp non-retractable claws. They are adapted to a wide range of habitats. There are three species of mustelid in New Zealand, the stoat, the ferret and the weasel. Mustelids were introduced to New Zealand during the 1880's to control rabbits. While they perform a role in the control of rabbits, they are also predators of native birds, lizards and insects, and are vectors of bovine tuberculosis. Mustelids also carry parasites and toxoplasmosis which cause abortions in sheep and illness in humans. Mustelids are very mobile, have large home ranges and are difficult to trap.

You may never see a mustelid on your land but they are almost certainly present.



Stoat

PHOTO: DOC



Weasel

PHOTO: DOC



Ferret

PHOTO: DOC

Control Methods

TRAPPING

The *Fenn* trap is designed to catch mustelids. There are two models: the Mark 4, a smaller version for catching rats, stoats and weasels; and the Mark 6, the larger version that will catch the smaller animals as well as ferrets and rabbits. Both traps are RSPCA approved.

Placing the trap: Good trap sites for mustelids include: wood piles, small animal tracks that pass under fences, piles of stones, rabbit burrows and small drain pipes. Other areas include the edges of ponds and streams and under trees where the vegetation is short.

Making a tunnel: Mustelids cannot resist tunnels and frequently run through pipes, over logs, and in and out of holes. Setting your trap on a run, inside a pipe or tunnel, or down a rabbit burrow, will increase your chances of catching a mustelid.

You can make a tunnel out of drainage pipe, wood, field tiles, sticks, etc. or recycled plastic tunnels can be purchased from Phil Thomson (see Useful Contacts).

Identification

	Stoat <i>Mustela erminea</i>	Weasel <i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Ferret <i>Mustela furo</i>
Colour	Summer: brown above, white below. Winter: usually same, but may be white or pied.	Brown above, white below all seasons.	Cream white underfur, usually with black tipped guard hairs; no distinct white belly.
Markings	Brown face. Thin brown tail with bushy black tip. Brown legs Brown face.	Thin brown tail with no black tip. Brown legs.	Dark face mask. Thick tail, usually all black. Black legs.
Mean length head and body.	Male: 284mm Female: 256mm	217mm 182mm	417mm 350mm
Mean length tail	Male: 106mm Female: 91mm	53mm 42mm	165mm 130mm
Mean body weight	Male: 324g Female: 207g	126g 57g	1200g 600g

The tunnel should be about one metre long and wide enough for the trap to be sprung inside of it (20cm wide and 17cm high for Mk 6 traps; 15cm wide and 13cm high for Mk 4 traps). The tunnel should have sides and a top - no bottom. Setting two traps in one tunnel may be more effective.

Setting the trap in a tunnel prevents accidental catches of other species and prevents children from stumbling over them.

Baiting the trap: Rabbit meat, the entrails of poultry and eggs are attractive to mustelids. Place twigs and stones around the trap to guide the animal to it. Place the bait on or behind the trap in such a way so that the animal must walk over the trap to reach it.

Kills may be increased by dragging the bait around the trap site, leaving a blood trail. Baits should be replaced every two-three days, or in hot weather, every day.

LEGAL REQUIREMENT: All traps to be checked every 24 hours.

Useful Contacts:

Phil Thomson
07-829 4712
Supply of mustelid tunnels,
Fenn traps and other pest
control equipment.

Pest Management
Services
04-293 1392
Pest control equipment
supplies and information

Note: Your farm supply
store may be able to order
equipment for you.

Information from *Animal
Pest Series No. 6 (1996)*,
published by Environment
Waikato.

POSSUM WARS

**BY HEW MCKELLAR, COVENANTOR OF
HUNTERVILLE**

People with open space covenants all have one problem in common, possums, and probably most of you are nett importers of this pest. The reasoning behind my saying that is that many pastoral farmers do not regard possum control as high priority compared to, for example, fly control in sheep.

Assuming you have a bush area fenced off and have possums coming in to the area, what can be done? Your Regional Council may be willing to do a one-off job of bringing the numbers down but you will get better co-operation if you can persuade your neighbours to collaborate with you. In our case, three northern ones are helping but we have not been able to get the southern ones to collaborate, hence the bulk of our reinfestation is coming from the south.

We took over this 260ha block in 1984 and at that time it had some pasture, plenty of gorse, areas of cut over bush and some gorse regenerating to native shrubs. Since then we have shut up 30ha of bush, planted 50ha of *Pinus radiata*, 10ha of other species and planted many trees in the pasture areas to prevent erosion.

For the first few years a local person came in and trapped about 200 possums every six months, and this kept the population under some control. When he stopped in 1990, the population exploded until we came to live here at the beginning of 1994. For the next two years regular night shooting yielded about 50 possums per month and in addition our sheep dogs were

regularly getting up to five per day. Since 1996 we have been putting 10 kg of Talon bait out per month and it is still being taken constantly.

As to the method of baiting, we have been putting a handful in a plastic bag and tying the bag on trees and fences (squeeze the air out of the bag as trapped air causes condensation which spoils the bait). As a general rule, put out baits at least 300 metres apart and repeat at one to two weekly intervals. Possums tend to go along tracks so places where you go are generally good places to lay bait and over time you will get to know where their play trees are, and what they are eating at any particular time, such as flowering time in pines, leaf break with willows and poplars, fruiting time for tawa.

In the winter of 1996 we planted an area about 80 x 200 metres in mixed conifers and since then have been replenishing one bait place there at least three times per month but we have had no damage to any of the trees. Further in we have young fruit trees which have only had minor damage during that period.

Since 1990 we have shot and had confirmed dog kills of 2000 possums plus the unknown number poisoned. As a by-product we appear to have no rats and have just seen the first lizard on the place.

Apart from what possums eat (just about anything that grows or moves), they can cause considerable damage as a result of their curiosity and play damage. Possums climb up young trees and their

weight will break the top over.

You may think you have only a small population on your farm but once you start controlling them and keeping a tally of kills, you will realise

just how large the population is.

Your field rep should know where, as a covenantor, you can get the best discount on bait.

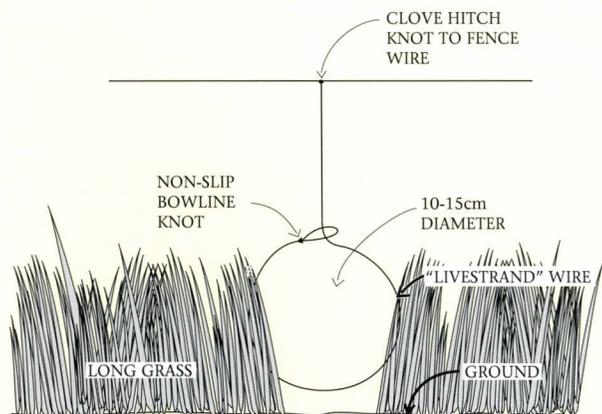
SNARING POSSUMS

By Mr R.P. Dennis, Covenantor of Coalgate

This method of killing possums is humane and non-toxic, cheap and simple. If you have a covenant area it will be fenced off from stock; this allows the grass growth to mature inside the fence. This in turn requires rabbits, hares and possums to create "runs" or tracks in and out of the covenant area. These are only as wide as the animals using them.

To set snares use a noose constructed from "Livestrand" flexible electric fence wire (the wire does not need to be live)

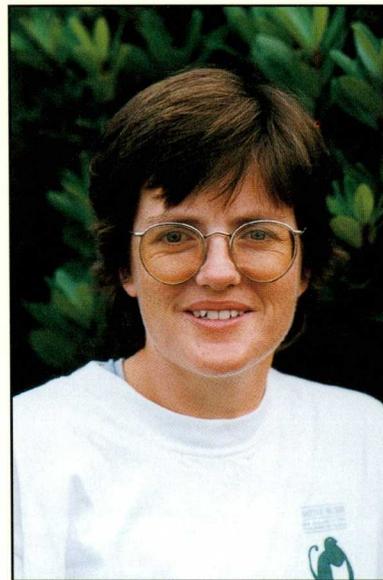
Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of animals caught will be killed through strangulation, the remainder just require a quick stun blow to the head in the morning. If rabbits have been eaten or dead in the morning, immediately set a ferret trap.



NAN PULLMAN:

**CENTRAL
NORTHLAND
REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

Nan, her husband Malcolm and their two boys, Conor and Kieran, live at Sandy Bay, a surf beach 34km east of Whangarei. They work from home as freelance journalists/photographers and publishers.



Nan Pullman.

In recent times Nan has also regularly worked as a relieving media liaison officer for both the Department of Conservation and the Northland Regional Council.

One of her most recent projects was writing and producing the *Kukupa Survival Guide* for the Northland Conservancy and, with Malcolm, a piece on Kukupa conservation work at Motatau in the latest *Forest and Bird* magazine.

Much of their spare time is spent looking after pockets of coastal bush on both private and public land, as well as running their own small farm.

She takes over from long serving Regional Representative, Murray Tapp, who resigned earlier this year.

VISIT THE TRUST'S UNIQUE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION PROJECT NEAR KERIKERI



AT THE AROHA ISLAND ECOLOGICAL CENTRE YOU CAN:

- Learn about endangered species (particularly the Brown Kiwi)
- See displays about the flora and fauna of the island and the Trust's activities in Northland
- Enjoy a picnic and a coastal walk.
- Stay in the accommodation available (Special off-season rates apply for National Trust members)

CONTACT: The Centre Manager
Tel (09) 407 5243 Fax (09) 407 5246
or write to Box 541 Kerikeri

HELP US PROTECT THE LANDSCAPE

JOIN THE NATIONAL TRUST

- **Membership Application**

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone _____

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

- | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$22.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - business | On application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18) | \$11.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - special | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$33.00 | (societies, voluntary | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$550.00 | organisations, schools) | \$33.00 |

Signature _____

- **Gift Membership**

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

Gift from (name and address):

QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Appointed by the Minister of Conservation in terms of the QEII National Trust Act 1977

Margaret Bayfield of Inglewood, Chairperson
Patricia Seymour OBE of Gisborne

Dr Peter Espie of Dunedin
Sir Paul Reeves GCMG, GCVO, QSO of Auckland

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TRUST MANAGER **Tim Porteous**

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