

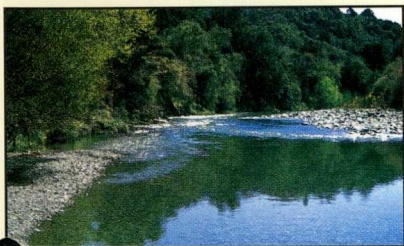


Queen Elizabeth II

**National Trust**

For open space in New Zealand

*Nga Kairauhi Papa*



## IN THIS ISSUE...

Kiwi vines go wild  
page 3

Trust turns twenty  
page 4

Trust Gardens:  
heritage & progress  
working together  
page 5

New directors  
pages 6 - 7

Recently registered  
covenants  
pages 8 - 21

Clippings  
pages 22 - 23

*Right: Sue Bennett and John Whitehead in their peat bog with the Takitimu Mountains in behind. The small shrub in front of Sue is the bog pine, *Halocarpus bidwillii*, which is regenerating well in the covenant.*

*John spent hundreds of dollars putting in the ditch in the foreground when he used the area to winter cattle.*

*But after pulling a cow out of it one day they decided to leave things to take their own course, and now the ditch is full of sphagnum moss.*

(Photo: Gay Munro)

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# Open Space

No 42, October 1998

## Boggy primeval and now well protected

**P**eat swamps are primeval places, wet and boggy with low-growing vegetation no more than a metre high.

John Whitehead and Sue Bennett's is no exception. Both botanists, they farm at Wilderness Road, 10km east of Te Anau, on land once a

moraine deposit left by a glacier.

Now their farm is mainly well developed pasture country with remnants of peatland swamps, and they have protected eight hectares of it with the National Trust.

Sue says the peat swamp is quite representative of what the Te Anau Basin used to be like





## Continued from page 1

before development for farming. The large Kepler Mire near Manapouri is the another similar area which is protected nearby, while the Wilderness protected area of bog pine, *Halocarpus bidwillii* is next to the Te Anau highway south of the farm.

Similar wetlands are protected within Fiordland National Park, and the Dome Mire near Te Anau Downs, is also protected. Right next door are two protected kettle lakes which formed when ice melted more slowly in a glacier's moraine field, leaving hole-shaped lakes.

Wire rush *Empodisma minus* and *Dracophyllum oliveri* are the main species in the peat swamp, which is part of a more extensive wetland across the boundary which belongs to Landcorp.

It had been previously partially drained in a catchment drainage scheme and on a small scale by the land owner.

The wetland was fenced last year, with half the fence funding from the National Trust. Thanks to Landcorp for paying the survey fees for the covenant.

Red tussocks grow in the drier areas, while rushes, sedges and introduced grasses surround the wetland proper. There are 36 indigenous species identified in the wetland area, including the giant sedge *Carex secta*, and sphagnum moss. Two orchids also grow in the wetland.

Sue, who has a doctorate in botany, expects the dracophyllum and bog pine to regenerate well now. The spaniard *Aciphylla glaucescens* grows over the fence in the Landcorp wetland, so Sue hopes it will seed into their covenant. A threatened sedge species *Carex tenuiculmis* also lives over the fence.

"We feel good about having put something aside, and we continue to try and fence off our waterways, which is an on-

going project. We have managed to fence one catchment out."

"I think it is important to do what we can to protect these remnants, and certainly by fencing and covenanting it, we can begin to restore the vegetation," she says.

Sue works part time as an environmental consultant, and is a member of the Southland Conservation Board. John is a DOC-appointed trustee of the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust, along with former National Trust regional rep Roger Sutton. This trust was formed when ECNZ renewed its consents for the Manapouri scheme, with ECNZ giving \$5 million for restoration and habitat enhancement.

Carrying on the family commitment to science and conservation are John's children Amy, Joanna and Ashley.

Last year Amy won the Department of Conservation's award for young conservationist of the year with a project into the red tussocks in a DOC reserve on State Highway 94 at Gorge Hill. She looked at the regenerative health of the red tussocks, did transects and looked at plant associations. This year Amy is studying zoology at Otago University.

Joanna did a project into *Carex secta* growing on the farm. Nearly 1000 plants were counted and mapped, and she looked at the factors affecting the distribution of the giant sedge such as water depth, light and dark, and looked at germination issues to find out how the plants are able to grow in up to a metre of water.

Joanna won the Southland ECNZ Science Fair and came runner-up in DOC's young conservationist of the year.

John's sister Mary-Ann Stretton and her husband Trevor featured in the last issue of Open Space with their new covenant over tawa forest at Inglewood, Taranaki.

## Order of Merit for our first covenantor

The work of the Trust's first deputy chair and first covenantor, Gordon Stephenson, was recognised in the Queen's Birthday honours in June.

For services to conservation, Gordon was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

The award recognises an impressive contribution to practical nature conservation in New Zealand. Not least amongst Gordon's list of achievements is his pivotal role in getting the National Trust established.

In the 1970's Gordon had become aware of the limited options available to private landowners wishing to protect areas of nature conservation value on their land. While serving as National Chairman of Federated Farmers Dairy Section he began advocating the establishment of a statutory body to enable farmers to voluntarily protect private land by way of a legally binding agreement.

This became a reality in 1977 with the establishment of the QEII National Trust.

Gordon served as deputy chair for its first ten years. Always enthusiastic about a wider role for the Trust, Gordon was instrumental in promoting a number of innovative open space projects such as Demonstration Farms, the School Covenant Project and various landscape awareness programmes.

The Trust extends its congratulations to Gordon on this well deserved award.





## Kiwi Vines go wild in the Bay

**I**t's hard to believe, but it's true: kiwifruit vines have gone wild in Bay of Plenty, and they're proving a real problem.

Environment Bay of Plenty plant pest officer John Mather says a 3 hectare spread of kiwifruit vines through a steep sided gully in the hills behind Te Puke took only seven years.

He says the seeds are spread by birds, which means kiwifruit is likely to become an increasing problem throughout the region.

Dumped garden refuse is the biggest problem, he says. It's very hard to find where the initial crowns are because the plants layer.

The best way to control the vine might be to use a spray gun and hose or a knapsack.

"Kiwifruit is one we will have to spend a lot of time on," he says.

*Left: John Mather is pictured with National Trust Regional Representative Stephen Parr in the gully filled with three hectares of wild kiwifruit.*

*Below: Time is running out for this kiwifruit wrapped ponga.*

*(Photos: Marie Taylor)*

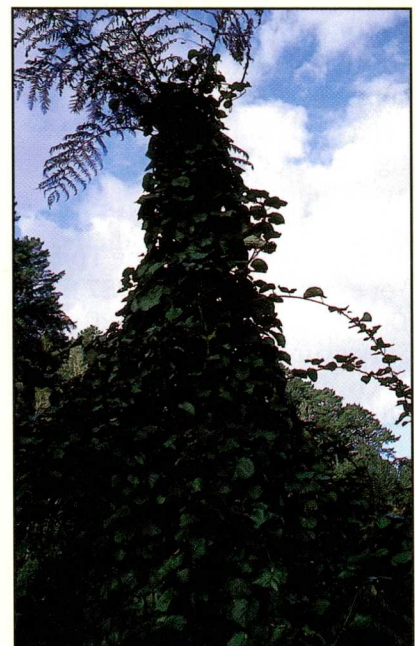
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- Learn about endangered species (particularly the Brown Kiwi)
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**CONTACT:** The Centre Manager  
Tel (09) 407 5243 Fax (09) 407 5246  
or write to Box 541 Kerikeri





# The Trust turns twenty

*In the second of two articles, Tim Porteous, Trust Manager, provides a brief overview of the second ten years of the Trust's history.*

**T**he period 1987 - 1997 saw the Trust more specifically focus activity from broad advocacy of open space protection and management to concentrating almost exclusively on the negotiation of open space covenants.

In doing so it became the pre-eminent organisation facilitating protection of natural areas on private land in New Zealand including Maori land and Crown leasehold land. There were two major reasons for this change.

The first was money. April 1987 heralded the start of the radical restructuring of government agencies with responsibilities for land and environmental administration. The relevant divisions of the Department of Lands and Survey, New Zealand Forest Service and the Wildlife Service of the Department of Internal Affairs were brought together to create the Department of Conservation. Although the Trust was not directly affected by the restructuring itself, the subsequent introduction of "user pays" policies and general tightening of funding availability resulted in a reduction in real terms of funding available to the Trust. For example, prior to 1987 the Department of Lands and Survey undertook the majority of covenant surveys at no charge to the Trust. Survey costs amounted to over \$200,000 per year but the no cost service ceased on 1 April 1987 with no compensatory funding being allocated to the Trust.

The second major factor

contributing to the focus on negotiating open space covenants was the broad mandate of the new Department of Conservation. The Department was established with a wide ranging conservation advocacy brief which it enthusiastically responded to. It became clear to the Trust that duplication of effort was likely to result if the Trust continued with some of its initiatives.

The concentration on open space covenant activity since 1987 has not however been without its rewards. Both the total number and the quality of covenants registered has been impressive by any standards.

The commitment and voluntary contribution made by landholders towards new covenants has generally been outstanding and undoubtedly enabled the Trust to achieve as it did during the period.

Building on the ground work of the first 10 years, a total of 989 covenants protecting 40,248 hectares have been protected since 1987, 83% of the total registered to date of 1,150. The size of the areas protected has varied from less than one hectare to 6,563 hectares with an average size of 41 hectares. Of course, these statistics convey nothing of the quality of the areas protected, many of which are the best remaining natural areas in their locality.

Not all open space protected by the Trust has been by way of open space covenant. During the last ten years, 11 properties containing a range of open space values were gifted to the Trust.

The combined area of these gifts is over 1,125 hectares. A total of 18 properties have been gifted to the Trust since its inception. In all cases where properties are under consideration for gifting to the Trust the potential donors are made aware that the Trust can only undertake to retain and manage individual properties for as long as practicably possible.

Careful consideration is therefore given to the potential contribution each property can make to the achievement of the Trust's broad statutory purpose having regard to the likely ongoing costs of day to day management.

The Trust's core activity of protecting privately owned open space results in relatively few points of contact for the general public, and thus a limited awareness of the Trust's vital contribution to conservation and protection of natural areas.

Trust properties can provide a focus for the public. In 1996 the Trust Board identified an opportunity to establish a public facility at one of its properties, Aroha Island at Kerikeri.

In November 1996, the Aroha Island Ecological Centre opened its doors to the public. The Centre has the aims of raising awareness of the role of the Trust in New Zealand, of conservation issues generally and specifically the plight of the kiwi, a small population of which resides on the property. The Centre has proved popular with school groups and the travelling public as limited accommodation is also available.

Despite the Trust's withdrawal from general landscape advocacy projects, the need for easily accessible information on

*Continued on page 5*





Above: Tupare - one of New Zealand's foremost landscape gardens

# Trust Gardens: Where Heritage and progress work together

*Heritage has become something of a buzz word for the 90s as we grapple with the speed of change in technology and wallow in the comforts of nostalgia.*

**T**he leisure industry has been quick to capitalise on the attractions of our heritage, developing it as a theme and, in some cases, as a destination. Included among these are Napier with its art deco style, Wanganui and its Victorian architecture, Oamaru which takes much pride in the use of its stone, and Christchurch which boasts, among other things, a collection of very fine old trees in Hagley Park.

The QEII National Trust has also become well aware of the responsibility it has to protect the heritage of its properties.

Tupare has long been recognised as one of New Zealand's foremost landscape gardens and, along with the Chapman-Taylor designed house, has attracted numerous national and international visitors to New Plymouth. As the garden and house have matured and fashions and lifestyles changed, they have become, for many admirers, an intriguing window into the past.

However, it is no longer enough simply to preserve a heritage. Anyone involved in a business which relies on gate takings will recognise the need

to enhance the experience on offer in order to compete successfully in an increasingly aggressive and wide-ranging marketplace.

Before 1996, the house at Tupare had been open to the public twice, during the time of the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival. This had proved to be hugely popular and also our annual visitor surveys showed that the house was much admired and a strong part of the attraction to Tupare. Today it operates as a function centre and thousands of people enjoy both the gardens and the ambience of the old house.

At Hollard Gardens we don't have the heritage architecture but we certainly have the heritage garden, the result of the extraordinary lifetime work of the late Bernard Hollard. Visitor surveys we conduct there show us that a place for refreshments is top of the "wanted" list.

The possibility of such a facility is currently being investigated as are other ways of making this horticultural treasure better known to more New Zealanders.

## ***The Trust Turns Twenty - continued from page 4***

techniques for the management of forest remnants led, in 1993, to the publication of the handbook *Native Forest Restoration: A Practical Guide for Landowners*.

While many agencies had produced information on various aspects of management, there was no single reference publication addressing plant and animal pests, plant propagation and revegetation

techniques. Sales confirmed the needs for such a practical book.

In the first 20 years of its existence the Trust has built up an enviable reputation based on professionalism, integrity and its perpetual nature. The Trust is well placed to continue to assist those landowners with foresight who wish to protect elements of New Zealand's unique landscape for future generations to enjoy.



# Welcome: Geoff Walls

**N**apier consulting ecologist Geoff Walls (right) brings broad ecological experience to the Trust.

He is one of two new Trust Directors elected recently by Trust members.

Cook Strait and its environs were formative areas for him: he was raised in Nelson; went to university in Wellington where he studied zoology including working with tuatara on Stephens Island, and also worked extensively in the Marlborough Sounds, making solo surveys of all the scenic reserves.

His ecological experience is both academic and practical. He worked as the DSIR regional botanist in Nelson for eight years, then had a year overseas, including working on a seabird island, the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth, Scotland.

On returning, he was appointed DSIR regional botanist for Hawke's Bay and the East Coast, based in Havelock North, where he worked for six years.

He picked up the role of NZ representative in the Commonwealth biodiversity conservation programme, which led to DSIR creating an ethnobotany (traditional plant use) programme. "That work took me around the Pacific, to London and to Sri Lanka."

In 1990 he transferred to DOC as an advisory scientist for Hawke's Bay and the East Coast, and also worked on outlying islands including the sub-Antarctic islands. He has been monitoring vegetation changes on the Chathams and advising conservation management on these since 1980.

Other work includes forest



## New Trust directors bring wide range of experience

remnant surveys, kiwi and bat surveys and research, threatened plant protection, PNAP assessments, dune-land and wetland conservation, and advice on wild animal and weed management.

"I am excited about my new role, and surprised and flattered to have been elected by the membership."

*"...I think the trust is one of the best things that has ever happened to conservation in New Zealand and it is doing a wonderful job, but it is clearly under resourced..."*

"I think the Trust is one of the best things that has ever happened to conservation in New Zealand, and it is doing a wonderful job, but it is clearly under-resourced for the demand."

"I have watched that demand

really burgeon. Now 20 years on, some of the problems of protection - animal and plant pest control for instance - are starting to bite for the Trust."

"It concerns me there is inadequate base funding for the agency to maintain its existing covenants as well as encourage new ones." He wants to try and help get better funding for the Trust, either direct funding or by creating partnerships. Local community self-help groups to help maintain existing covenants would also be very worthwhile.

Geoff would also like to see the Trust and DOC working more closely together. And he wants to bring some consistency to the Trust's approach to issues such as weed control.

He and his partner Sue Scheele, an ethnobotanist working for Landcare Research, have a son Finn, and they are all in the process of moving to Christchurch.



# Welcome: Bill Garland

New National Trust Director Bill Garland and his wife Sue have one of the oldest open space covenants in the country.

The Garlands farm sheep and beef on their 420 hectare Kairangi property, 18km from Cambridge on the slopes of Mt Maungatauteri.

They protected 13 hectares of beautiful mangeao, tawa and rimu forest not long after the Trust was set up.

Bill is best known in farming politics. For 13 years he held various offices in Federated Farmers, including President of Waikato Federated Farmers. For three years, until 1996, he was the national chairman of the meat and wool section of Federated Farmers.

As well, he spent six years on the Waikato Conservation Board and three years on the

*"....Bill feels the Trust is facing pressure to do more work on an ever-increasing number of covenants with less funding...."*

Animal Health Board.

Now he's chairman of the Waikato Farm Environment Trust, which runs an annual competition to identify top performing farmers who manage their properties sustainably.

While Bill is away, Sue runs the farm. "She tells me what I have to do when I get home," he says.

He's pleased to be elected onto the Trust Board by Trust members. "Gordon

Stephenson, one of the initiators of the Trust, suggested I might stand.

My real interests are conservation and environmental issues, although I have been in farming politics for a long time. I felt it was opportune to put something back into conservation issues."

Bill feels the Trust is facing pressure to do more work on an ever-increasing number of covenants with less funding. "Because our funding comes through Vote Conservation, there will always be competition between ourselves and DOC and other

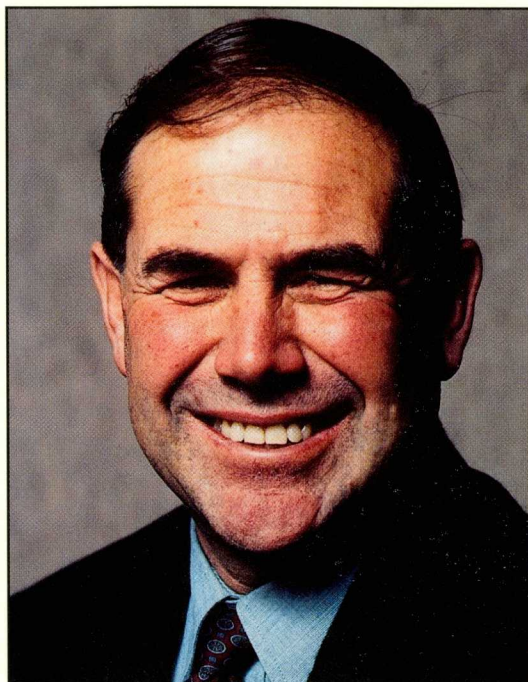
*"....at the end of the day, the only way to make sure we get our fair share is for those people who are allocating the funds to feel that this is a good way to spend taxpayers money...."*

conservation priorities.

"Whether we like it or not, successive governments have put increasing pressure on government spending, and so we are in a very difficult situation.

I am aware that there has been a series of attempts to try and increase funding. But, at the end of the day, the only way to make sure we get our fair share is for those people who are allocating the funds to feel that this is a good way to spend taxpayers' money - that requires a pretty good PR job on our part."

As covenants change hands, new owners often have different expectations from the initial covenantor. "Some of them don't have a good appreciation



New Trust Director Bill Garland

of their responsibilities," he says.

"Resolving both these issues will become an increasing demand on the Trust and its resources," he says.

"Working in other organisations, it is very easy to get bogged down with problems and lose sight of what you are there for." Bill is anxious the Trust does not become side-tracked from its core work of protecting bush.

"It is important that the Trust Directors make sure as much money gets out on the ground as possible, and that a disproportionate amount of funding is not spent on the bureaucracy of the organisation," he says.

**Tell a friend  
about the  
National Trust  
and get them  
to join the Trust  
to help continue  
its work.**



# Recently registered covenants



## Southland *Sanford Covenant*

Otatara, a picturesque suburb of Invercargill near the Oreti River estuary, retains much of its tall forest, despite subdivision for housing.

Jocelyn and Philip Sanford, who live close to the estuary in Otatara, have protected the whole of their 1.35 hectare property with a new covenant.

This tall coastal podocarp forest contains the only known southern rata trees in the Otatara peninsula area. On sandy soils which are part of ancient sand dunes, the covenant runs down to the foot of a steep terrace on the edge of the New River estuary.

The vegetation is dominated by mature tall podocarps - matai, miro, kahikatea, rimu and totara. There are pokaka and three large rata.

There are six existing covenants nearby, as well as Bowman's Bush, a reserve of 1.3 hectares.

## Westland *Champness Covenant*

Less than one per cent of coastal forest remains in Westland. More than a century of burning, farming and mining has changed the landscape beyond recognition

*Above: Philip and Jocelyn Sanford at their Otatara covenant.*

*(Photo: Gay Munro)*

from its original cover.

So it is remarkable to find a major block of forest on the coastal scarp north of Hokitika which remains, and is in good condition.

Grahame and Janet Champness have protected half their property in four forested areas adding up to 76 hectares on their One Mile Line property just north of the Arahura River.

The covenant runs down the 40 metre high scarp to the main road, including 1.6km of road frontage, and Viaduct Creek, the site of an old tramway which ran to Stafford and was used for logging more than 50 years ago.

The rimu, rata, kamahi and quintinia forest has a magnificent understorey of wineberry, regenerating podocarps including kahikatea and tanekaha, as well as lancewood, red matipo, pigeonwood and fuchsia.

Some of the terraces have been logged, but many trees emerge through the 10 metre high canopy.

The property has recently changed hands and is now owned by David McIntosh and Sue Thompson.

## Canterbury *Weir Covenant*

Covenantors Rodney Weir and his brother Derek live on the west side of Akaroa Harbour at French Farm.

In 1988 they covenanted 4 hectares of remnant podocarp forest, and now they've protected 4 hectares in a special geological covenant over a giant shield buttress of tractyle lava which formed in the late stages of the Akaroa volcano.

It is known both as Otehore, which translated means "place of the fairies", and Pulpit Rock. Locals often walk to the top, and last summer a group included an 80 year old.

With a flat, almost polished top, it drops in steep bluff faces, and is a striking feature of the local landscape, facing northeast and standing out from many harbour features.

Rodney Weir relates an account of rescuing an unfortunate sheep which had strayed and fallen onto a ledge. "It took Derek and me quite a long time to retrieve the wretched animal. We tired of watching it remain in the same place for a week or so, and finally overcame our nerves. I recall that the sheep didn't seem at all grateful."

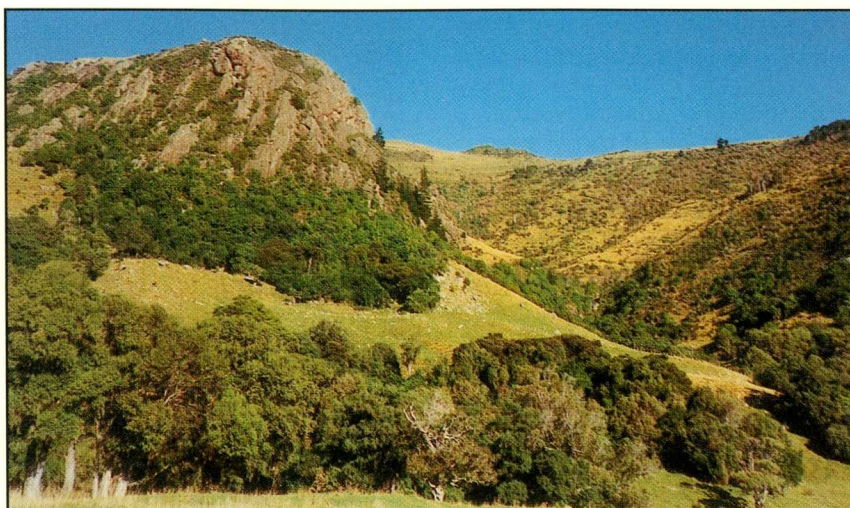
Last October regional rep David Webster and his Christchurch climbing companion Bruce Naylor took out eight inaccessible pine trees growing in crags on the lava peak. They had to abseil down to the trees with chainsaws, a process which took longer than expected.

"From a distance the rock appears bare, but in reality supports a wealth of algae, lichens, mosses and in crevices, shrubby plants including dracophyllum, hebe, cassinia and cyathodes."



Mahoe, broadleaf, wineberry, kowhai, ngaio, five-finger, fuchsia, tarata, lacebark, kanuka and a wide variety of ferns make up the surrounding forest at the base. There's also an unusual wealth of lichens on the rock, and the moss *Grimmia laevigata*. This area makes up part of a recommended area for protection identified by Dr Hugh Wilson in his Banks Peninsula survey in 1996.

Right: Otehore, the place of the fairies, is a new covenant protected by brothers Rodney and Derek Weir.  
(Photo: David Webster)



donated Robb's Bush to the Trust.

In an opening ceremony performed by the Right Honourable Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, the first chairman of the Trust, the lifetime contribution of Airini Woodhouse was celebrated and reference made to the living memorial in the wonderful old cabbage trees.

### *Studholme Covenant*

Michael Studholme's great-great-grandfather took up Te Waimate, a Hunter Hills property only a kilometre from Waimate, in 1854.

Now Michael and his wife Jan, have legally protected the 30 hectare Bellbird Bush at the entrance to Waimate Gorge with a National Trust covenant.

The crescendo of bellbird song can be quite euphoric in the spring when the kowhai is in bloom says regional representative David Webster.

Bellbird Bush is right on the edge of State Highway 82 from Waimate to Kurow, and its regenerating lowland forest on a very steep slope running from 200 metres above sea level up to 1100 metres above sea level. "In fact it is the only significant area of forest which the motorist passes between Timaru and Omarama."

The canopy of the forest has totara, lacebark, some rimu, cabbage trees, kowhai, flax, mahoe and ngaio, and has almost closed over since the

great 1878 Waimate fire. This fire devastated most bush in the Waimate district.

In the past 30 years the Studholmes have controlled wallaby and possums, and there's been good regeneration.

### **Marlborough** *Euro Confiserie Covenant*

Started off by previous owners Chris and Patricia Redwood, this fascinating covenant on Forsyth Island protects two separate areas of broadleaf forest.

Twenty five hectares of kohekohe, hinau, mahoe and karaka forest which wrap around the southern end of the island are protected, as well as 11 ha of bush in an extremely steep gully behind the homestead at Sunday Bay. The gully is predominantly kohekohe, with manuka, tawa, karaka, puka, mahoe and an understorey of tree ferns. This island is free of possums, which gives the area a huge advantage over mainland forests.

Forsyth Island is a remote offshore island in the outer Marlborough Sounds, and its just over 700 ha in size. Apart from these two bush blocks, the island is covered in a mosaic of grassland, bracken, tauhinu and manuka.

The Redwoods have since sold the property to overseas investors.

### *Meares Covenant*

Blue Cliffs farmers Gerry and Odette Meares have a new 2 ha covenant downstream of Robb's Bush in the Hunter Hills.

They already have an adjacent 9.4 hectares of forest protected with the Trust, and take care of the 16 hectare Robb's Bush for the National Trust.

Muehlenbeckia has proved particularly troublesome and the family have been energetic in releasing emerging trees from crippling malformation.

The new covenant, while highly modified bush, has a five metre high canopy of mahoe, broadleaf, red matipo, and scattered kowhai, putaputaweta, cabbage trees, tarata, and fuchsia. The Kohika Stream runs through the bush.

### *Craigmore Farming Co Ltd*

Former National Trust chairman Sir Peter Elworthy and his wife Lady Fiona have extended the areas protected on Craigmore by the addition of a small area of silver tussock and cabbage trees.

Known as the Airini Woodhouse Reserve, the parkland covenant was fenced by the Elworthys. Airini Woodhouse was a descendant of the Rhodes family who



## Nelson

### Rowell Covenant

Belinda and Brian Rowell bought their bit of the Wairoa Gorge near Brightwater in 1993 because of its native bush.

A skinny strip nearly 2kms long, the thoroughly grazed-out titoki podocarp forest ran down to the river in terraces, and there was an equally long and skinny area of pasture between the bush and the Wairoa Gorge road.

In some places the terraces are replaced with sheer rock faces dropping to the river with its argillite rock outcrops. In amongst all this are little waterfalls, beautiful mosses and ferns.

The following year the Rowells, who have two children James, 12 and Richard, 15, built a house there. Belinda and Brian work together in Stoke, Belinda is a legal executive and Brian a family lawyer.

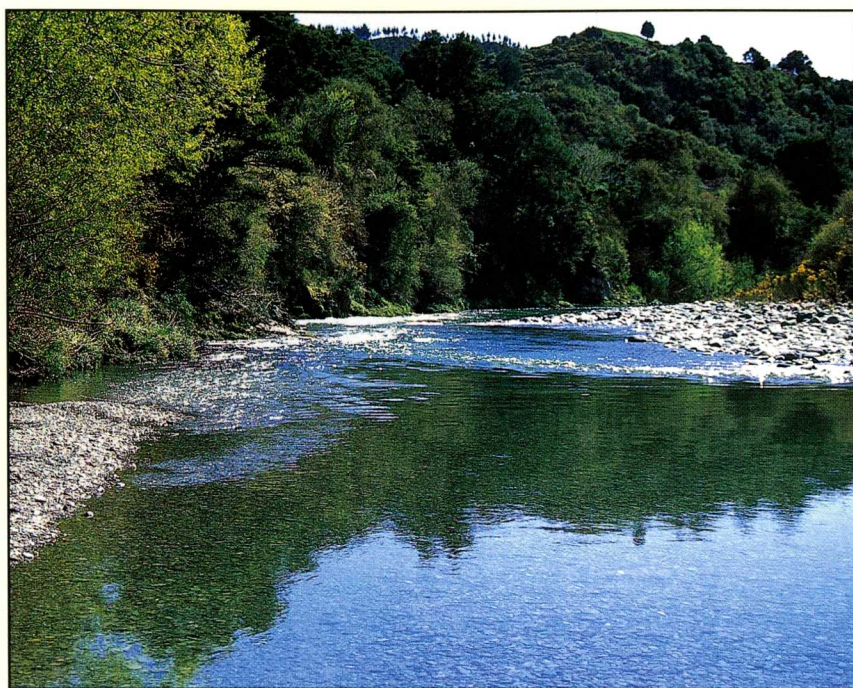
With the pasture leased out for grazing, it was interesting to see the surprised reaction of full-time farmers in the area when they began the protection process, Brian says.

"The native bush was getting hammered. The sheep were cleaning out any blade of green that came up except on inaccessible spots hanging on the cliffs," Brian says.

"I wanted the bush protected if anything happened to me. We don't intend selling our property, and if everything goes well I hope to die there."

Regional rep Martin Conway says the new covenant has important potential as a plant refuge, recreation as well as providing a means for good riparian management to create a buffer between the farmland and the waterway.

The Trust helped with fencing the bush, which is made up of titoki, totara, matai and kahikatea, as well as a few hard beech and pokaka. Under the



canopy and elsewhere are found karamu, *Astelia fragrans*, red matipo, putaputaweta, koromiko, kohuhu, wineberry and kowhai.

"Some of the totara are two metres in diameter - I don't know how they escaped the axe. There is a nice stand of 15 to 20 white pine trees, and I have had people tell me how they are good for boat building."

A few narrow leaved lacebark *Hoheria angustifolia* are scattered throughout, and described as locally rare. White maire, which is confined to a few valleys around the Wairoa River, is also present.

But the most significant plant found in the new covenant is *Pseudopanax ferox*, one of only a few Martin has found in Nelson after many years of searching. He hopes to plant more of this lancewood and species such as maire in the covenant.

Brian was happy with the covenanting process, and says while the Tasman District Council gives rating relief for covenants, that was a minor reason for protecting the area.

"We were contemplating subdivision when we bought the property. If a subdivision went ahead I wanted to make sure the new owners wouldn't put an axe or chainsaw to the

Above: The Rowell covenant is the first fresh water riparian covenant site in the Nelson area. In addition to protecting the river borders offers magnificent swimming holes.

(Photo: Martin Conway)

bush," he says.

The Taskforce Green team employed by the Tasman District Council put a track through two-thirds of the length of the bush.

Martin says this covenant is the first riparian site in and around Nelson except for Pearl Creek, which is an estuarine wetland.

"Riparian management is a very topical issue at the moment. This covenant is a rare example of someone coming forward and wanting to protect their river margins, and allow people access to the magnificent swimming holes in the river. There is only limited access to swimming holes in the Wairoa Gorge. I rejoice in their public-spiritedness," Martin says.

He says the Wairoa Gorge is like a plant refuge, and plants which cannot necessarily be found elsewhere in Nelson are found there. The Rowell covenant is the first forest area to be protected in the lower valley.



## Manawatu

### Charles Covenant

Malcolm and Sue Charles have been lovers of nature all their lives. Both were raised by the sea, but the pull of mountain and stream and native flora and fauna found them spending much of their leisure time tramping in many places.

It was not surprising therefore, that in retirement, they found themselves drawn to the idea of settling in an area where they could enjoy a smattering of some of those features they loved so much.

The Charles' have been able to realise their goal in the form of a 30 hectare lifestyle block off Wallace Road, Ihakara, on the lower foothills of the Tararua Range, a few miles northeast of Levin.

Twenty six hectares of the block was in high quality regenerating native bush. The block has been the focus of much of their energy since its purchase: firstly in the form of building a dwelling in 1992 to blend in with the environment, and then in the development of a quite expansive garden surrounding the house and blending into the adjoining bush.

Originally inspected by the late Eddie Suckling at the end of 1991, this property as a whole, not least the covenant area, have developed apace in the intervening years, and is a joy to visit.

Although regenerating, very good examples of tawa, lancewoods, nikau, rimu, one kahikatea, silver ferns, ponga, miro, rewarewa, rata tree and vines, kamahi, pukatea, hinau, mahoe, puka, pseudopanax species, clematis and parsonsia vines are just a few of

the quite representative specimens to be found.

The northern edge of much of the covenant is bordered by a farm and forestry road, so viewing of the bush is both spectacular from above on many vantage points, as well as being a very pleasant scene from the home site below.

With the help of some selective exotic planting in the homestead garden of banksias and bottlebrush trees, tui and bellbird populations seem to be expanding rapidly, much to Malcolm and Sue's delight. "When we first moved here six years ago the tui and bellbird were never heard. Our firewood trees, a mixture of eucalyptus and acacias are proving very popular with the tuis and many others too," Sue says. "For this reason the trees will probably never be used for the purpose they were intended."

The total site gives the impression of being very sheltered, tucked as it is in the western Tararua foothills, but like most sites along the western side of this divide, it does suffer from the odd easterly gale.

Nevertheless growth in the covenant is well above average for the region, and I am

confident given more time the area will be a native oasis, and a pleasant and aesthetic relief from the prevailing neighbouring forestry patterns currently in practice.

Bruce Kirk

Manawatu Regional Rep.

### Highleigh Farm Covenant: Puketawa

Landowners within the Manawatu District Council's jurisdiction face an interesting challenge if they wish to subdivide their land.

The land must first be assessed as to whether it has any noteworthy landscape features on it. If there are, then before a subdivision plan is approved, the owner must agree to covenant those said pieces with landscape value.

Full marks Manawatu District Council - other local bodies please take note!!

So with retirement in mind, Nelson and Phyllis Whitelock had ideas of building their retirement dream home beside a portion of their farm they had long admired - about 6 hectares of native bush, one of the few very good pieces for many miles around.

However as they wished the retirement home to be on a

*Below: Sue and Malcolm Charles at their covenanted Ihakara property in the Tararuas. (Photo: Bruce Kirk)*





separate title from the farm for estate purposes, subdivision involved covenanting the bush. This is where the National Trust came in.

The Whitelocks took over their present Colyton-Ashhurst Road property in 1971 and right from the start had thoughts as to the future of this fine stand of relatively untouched tawa dominant remnant forest.

At that stage stock had grazed amongst the stand, but the Whitelocks attempted early in their tenure to ensure stock were kept out, and ring fenced it immediately.

However like many native areas that have been previously invaded by stock and then shut up, the pattern of new regrowth was anything but balanced. Horopito (pepper tree) took over along with muehlenbeckia, and the interim result was very disappointing.

Both keen gardeners, the Whitelocks had high hopes for a far more representative show of seedling material to thrive and create an understorey. The pattern developing was going to need human interference.

In the busy farming cycle, this was not going to be easy in a 6 hectare block. Against all conventional patterns, a solution came up in a controversial form. A mob of cattle got in 10 years after the block had been shut up. The resulting regrowth after this invasion was, to use Nelson's words "a most fortunate incident". The resulting regrowth this time came away beautifully and the previously dominant horopito and muehlenbeckia were checked by the strong growth of a wide range of other species, just as the Whitelocks had wished. Not only was the regrowth impressive, but the canopy flourished.

Both Phyllis and Nelson are lovers of native bush and trees and shrubs generally. They have deliberately transplanted

seedlings and saplings and relocated some to gaps that were not filling up as quickly.

Most prominent amongst these have been akeake, kowhai, cabbage trees, kohuhu, flaxes and lacebarks. Nelson comments that the speed of growth in the regenerating and



Above: Phyllis and Nelson Whitelock at The Dell entrance in their new covenant. (Photo: Bruce Kirk)

revegetated areas has surprised him.

This is probably due in no small part of the naturally sheltered aspects of much of the covenant, plus the owner's very considerable attention to the area. Besides the dominant tawa, the natural canopy of the block has a good representation of titoki, mahoe, kahikatea, totara, rewarewa, matai, black maire and lancewood.

In the last two years Nelson and Phyllis have been extremely energetic developing their new house grounds, even before building started. The conditions of this covenant allow selected exotic shrubs be planted on the edges and within certain sections of the covenant.

To the visitor, this has been

most tastefully done, and one edge of this planted area between the house and the bush can be lit up by floodlight in the early evenings.

Another feature which catches the imagination of all who visit is the Dell which had been an empty area, but now features an eye-catching array of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias as its main feature shrubs.

The Whitelocks are opening their grounds to the public, and it is my belief that at the pace the garden is developing, and the rate of growth within the bush itself, this will become something of a "must visit" for both Manawatu residents as well as visitors to the district.

Bruce Kirk

### Lilburn Covenant

Huntermville farmers Diane and David Lilburn have a small area of regenerating tawa and titoki forest protected with a new National Trust covenant. Cut over in the 1930s, the forest also includes lacebark, karaka, cabbage trees, pseudopanax and pittosporums. It's on a steep south face on papa clay country above the junction of Pukeroa Stream.

The local primary school, Otairi, along with regional rep Bruce Kirk recently spent some time weeding Old Man's Beard out of the covenant, removing seedlings which have seeded in there since it was fenced. David Lilburn is on the school's board of trustees, and they hope to have an on-going relationship with the covenant.

### Blackley Covenant

Drainage contractors Graham and Janice Blackley have a small property at Waituna West.

A steep-sided, erosion-prone stream running through it is a tributary of the Waituna



Stream, which flows into the Rangitikei River.

It's this stream, and its cover of kanuka, manuka, hangehange and mixed broadleaf forest, which has a new six hectare covenant registered over it.

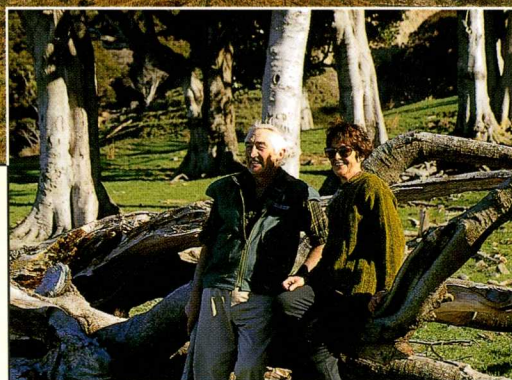
Tawa, kahikatea and miro are at the shallow, southeastern end of the gorge, while strong regeneration fills the gully further up.

One end of the gorge is close to Williamson Road, the other right beside Nitschke Road, and the nearby Nitschke and Gorton recommended areas for protection.



Above: The Foreman's covenant rises from the sea and encompasses river flats, steep coastal hills, and Mt Percy.

(Right: Alic and Margaret Foreman. Photos: DoC)



## Wairarapa

### Foreman Covenant

The Foremans of Mataikona Station, on the coast north of Castlepoint, have recently protected 203 hectares of forest on the coastal escarpment, east and north of Mount Percy.

It is one of the largest covenants in the Wairarapa, but in addition contains a flora which is varied and unusual. The species which is endemic to this one locality is the Mount Percy daisy, *Brachyglottis perdicioides* var. *pentacopa*. In December, it fills the understorey of the kanuka forests with bright yellow flowers, and plants reach almost to the summit of the mountain at 473 metres.

The area was studied intensively by A.P. Druce in the 1980s, and there are regular visits by members of the Wellington Botanical Society, who usually manage to locate an uncommon species - in 1997 it was *Mazus novaezeelandiae*, a small foxglove herb.

During his studies of the Wairarapa taipos, the sandstone "islands" which tower above the

hills of the eastern Wairarapa, Druce discovered on Mount Percy alone 22 species of orchid.

This covenant is a living guide to much of the flora of the eastern Wairarapa, and we are fortunate in having such a comprehensive area set aside. We acknowledge the contribution of the Wellington Regional Council in providing a third of the cost of the fencing.

John Kirby

Wairarapa Regional Rep.

### Briggs Covenant

Robin and Marilyn Briggs own Totara Flats, on the road to Te Wharau. The farm is well-named, with many scattered totara and kahikatea along the river flats which border the Wainuioru River. There are also remnant patches of bush, containing podocarps, maire and lowland ribbonwood, the classic components of lowland forest in the Wairarapa.

One of these, a block of 1.2 hectares, has been covenanted, and is significant in the area for its location on the fertile terrace soils of the valley.

## Wellington

### Coe Covenant

Coastal swamps have often been drained for housing developments or farming in the past, especially in areas like the Kapiti coastline.

Just 5 kilometres north of Waikanae Ngaria and Brendan Coe have two new covenants over 11 hectares of coastal wetlands. These swamps in between sand-dunes are really important areas both for wildlife and as examples of the previous 600 hectare swamp complex in the area.

Flax, up to three metres tall, is the dominant plant in the wetland area, along with toe toe and varying amounts of *Coprosma propinqua*, *Carex secta*, *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, *Cyperus ustulatus*, *Baumea rubiginosa* and *Juncus* species are found in the wetlands, and the occasional cabbage tree grows up to seven metres in height.

Charred totara stumps found in the eastern part of the swamp indicate at least some of this



area was once forest.

There's been a rapid regeneration of kahikatea, totara and pukatea in the wetlands, which were an area recommended for protection in the Foxton ecological district.

The Coes bought the property for its potential as habitat for waterfowl.

## **Taranaki**

### *Took Covenant*

Before Des and Beryl Took sold their farm on Saunders Road, Okato, they had protected the 3 hectares of bush on the property with National Trust covenants, says Regional Representative Bill Messenger.

In 1992 7.2 hectares of forest along the Stony River was protected. This covenant, long and narrow, extended approximately 1.5km from Wiremu Road to Blue Rata Scenic Reserve.

The other two areas, much smaller in size, 0.83 and 0.61 hectares, were registered in 1997.

They are both valuable swamp forest remnants containing significant amounts of maire tawake *Syzygium maire* which is not present in the larger covenant or the 32 hectare Blue Rata Scenic Reserve.

The 0.83 ha is alongside Saunders Road. It is very attractive and in pristine condition as stock have never grazed the interior.

The 0.61 ha is also alongside Saunders Road opposite Blue Rata Scenic Reserve. It adjoins a further hectare of swamp forest that was owned by neighbour Tom Cassie, which with encouragement by Des was protected at the same time.

Des' father Rolly Took who purchased the farm in 1915 had a great love and knowledge of native bush, being able to name all the species that grew in the Okato area.

It was home to Des, who has

imparted his father's love of native bush to make sure all three areas were protected before the farm was sold.

Craig and Megan Agnew of Auckland are the new owners of the farm. Okato members of the Agnew family, who have leased the farm for many years, will continue to farm it.

A small area with a separate title containing the 0.61 hectare covenant has been resold as a lifestyle block to Mike and Angela Gordon who moved a house onto it. They intend to enhance the area further by planting more native trees. Des and Beryl Took, now officially retired, live in Govett Avenue, New Plymouth.

## **Hawke's Bay**

### *Landcorp Farming Ltd - Paeroa Station Covenant*

Begun by previous owners John and Barbara Bibby, covenants over two areas on Paeroa Station near Elsthorpe in Central Hawke's Bay were completed by new owner Landcorp Farming.

Paeroa Station manager James Greer now looks after the two areas of Bibby's Bush, one a steep east facing gully of 8 hectares, the other a block of 18 hectares on easier country.

The larger area is tawa podocarp forest, bounded on both ends by a further recommended area for protection. The smaller area is made up of mixed broadleaf species and kahikatea. Conservation plantings of willows are fenced into both areas.

Paeroa Station is a 918 hectare property facing south and east off the edge of the southern end of the Maraetotara plateau. The farm catchment drains rolling mudstone country into the Makara stream, and was the focus of a great deal of soil

conservation work, including conservation plantings, many debris dams and a large earth dam to slow down run-off.

The Makara stream, which flows through Elsthorpe used to flood very badly, and this work was designed to control its flow. The then Catchment Board fenced these two areas as part of the project.

These areas of bush are the best example of this forest type on rolling mudstone country, and they provide good linkages to nearby bush on top of the Maraetotara Plateau. Both blocks are visible from the road from Elsthorpe to Kairakau.

Thanks to the Wellington Botanical Society's Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne and other members who botanised through Paeroa Station at Easter this year, making extensive plant lists. "The Paeroa sites are very significant, particularly in view of the lack of indigenous vegetation in the region generally," Barbara and Chris say. "The numbers of massive kahikatea, matai and cabbage trees were especially impressive."

## **Gisborne**

### *Puketoro Partnership Covenant*

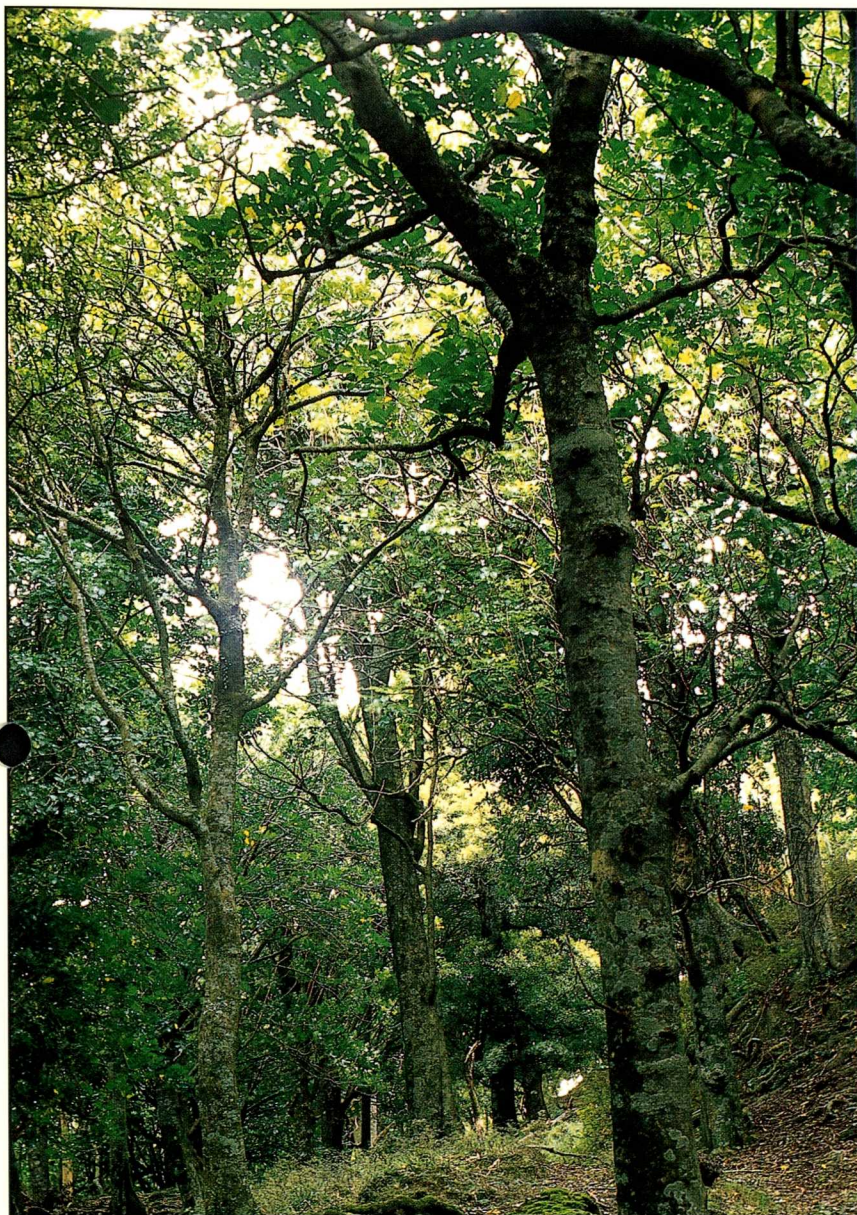
Eight hectares of majestic mature matai trees on fertile river flats have been fenced off at Puketoro Station.

The station is 21km west of Te Puia on the Inhungia Road, and the river flats are alongside the Mata River. The virgin podocarp forest has trees well over 200 years old says regional representative Malcolm Piper.

Other species in the fenced bush include kahikatea, rimu, totara, as well as a small area with a canopy of karaka trees. There is abundant bird life including tui, pigeon, kaka, fantail and quail.

"The trees have shown considerable survival skills as the bush is in the toe of a valley,





and over the years has been badly flooded, with fences rejected over built-up silt. It has considerable value in holding erosion on the river bank," he says.

"Puketoro was lucky to have had a great protector of native bush in Mr Des Williams who died last year and was instrumental in gaining the open space covenant. Ihungia next door has been lost to pine plantations, and this covenant is a link to preserve the last remnants of our once vast East Coast forest."

"Puketiti, which is adjacent is another historical link. Various members of the Williams family own Puketoro, which is farmed with a resident manager."

### *Arakihi Station Covenant*

Kohekohe, tawa, rewarewa and pukatea forest on three converging ridgelines has been fenced and protected inland from Tolaga Bay by Bob and Annie Jackman.

Arakihi Station is 20 kilometres inland from Tolaga Bay, and is on medium to steep hill country. The Jackman's new covenant covers almost 9 hectares and is in an area where little other natural vegetation is protected.

The forest remnant also includes tarata, coprosma species, nikau, kawakawa, putaputaweta, rata vines, mahoe, ferns and grasses.

Because of the inroads of forestry into their district the

Jackmans felt an urgent need to protect this remaining forest remnant by way of a National Trust covenant, and back in June 1993 initiated the proposal, which was registered this January.

The regeneration potential of this remnant is huge due to the natural fertility of the land says regional rep Malcolm Piper. It also contains two *Mahoe micranthus*, which is rare in the ecological district.

*Left: Kohekohe forest protected by Bob and Annie Jackman on Arakihi Station, 20km inland from Tolaga Bay.*

*(Photo: Malcolm Piper)*

### *Spence Covenant*

Ruakaka Road is an interesting loop road to take off the Tiniroto Road, 50km from Gisborne.

For much of its short length it follows the Hangaroa River, a dramatic and picturesque river which winds its way through Gisborne hill country.

Rick Spence of St Ledger Station has a new covenant over 3 hectares of mature podocarp forest on a very stable south-facing slope running along the river margins.

The main canopy - 30 metres high - is made up of matai and kahikatea, with lesser numbers of rimu, totara and tawa. Miro, titoki and rewarewa are also present.

Regional rep Malcolm Piper says: "Rick, a past winner of the East coast farmer of the year, is a specialist sheep breeder, who shows huge commitment to everything he does. His protection by way of a National Trust open space covenant reflects that."

This covenant bounds a Queen's Chain along the river. "You would have to travel right into the Ruakituri Valley to see another such mature forest remnant," he says.



# Neighbours add two new covenants to Okiwiriki project

## King Country

### Carter Covenant

Mike and Jackie Carter won the 1996 King Country Farmer of the Year award for their efforts farming the 1130 hectare (900 effective) sheep and beef property near Piopio.

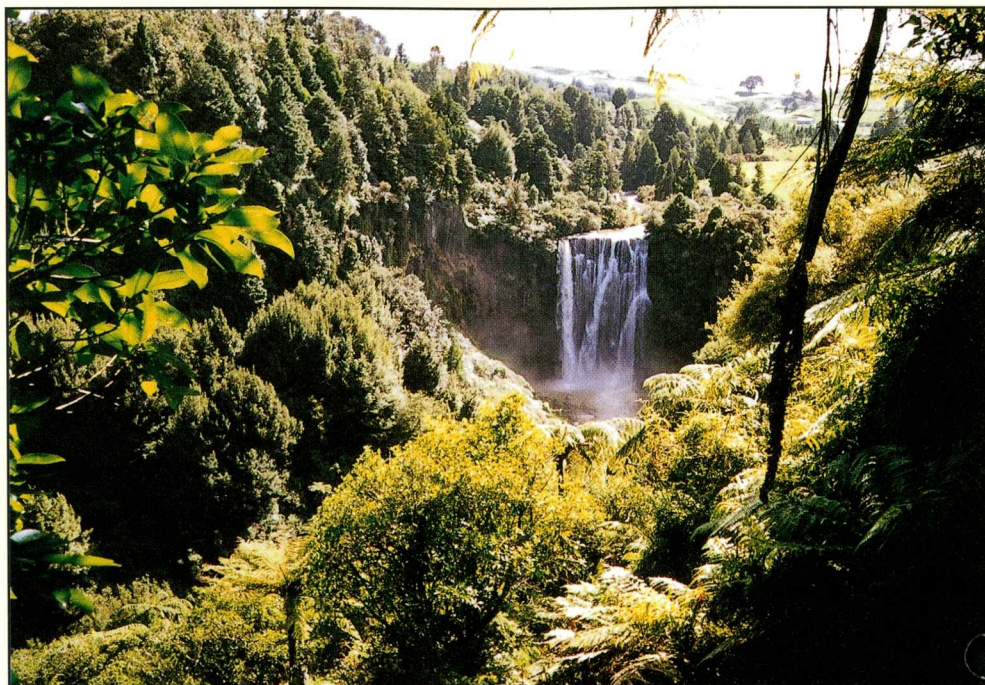
Mike explains why they have protected their bush and wetlands with covenants: "I have been farming since 1971. I have been right through SMPs and LDEs. When I came here there was probably 150 acres of the farm just cut under government schemes, and I did a further 300 acres."

"I have done my share of developing farmland out of the bush. The majority of it has turned into very good farm land. But I got to the stage where the areas that were left were substantial. My feeling was that the monetary gain I would have got out of it would have had to be very substantial to be even worth looking at."

"Most of the areas are marginal farming, but aesthetically important. What I have got left today is there for the future. At least if the farm does go outside the family it does mean the bush will stay there."

"I think a lot of us have all cut too much in marginal country. This is just one of my ways of putting a bit back."

The Carters fenced and retired their largest bush area of 87 hectares 17 years ago, leading the way for their neighbours to protect their adjacent bush. Now more than 800 hectares of Okiwiriki are fenced and protected with National Trust covenants, the largest of which



is the 433 hectare Andrew covenant.

The Carter's portion is at the southern end of their farm, with large bluffs, easier country above them, and ridges running up towards the Okiwiriki trig. All bush-clad in podocarp hardwood forest, tawa is the predominant canopy species.

"There are some beautiful rimu up on the top, and a tractor for logging came within 200 metres of those particular trees," Mike says.

The bush has been modified by logging in places, and by stock and possums, but this is the first winter with all the different areas fenced.

Mike originally fenced his area with help from the Waikato Valley Authority, coming later to the National Trust to finalise the protection. The next step in the process is to shoot the remaining goats out this winter.

"The regrowth in there is quite phenomenal." A 1080 drop in early June was the third time in 12 years the area has been poisoned for possums, as it is part of an Animal Health

*Above: These waterfalls in the Richardsons covenant on the Mapiu Stream are part of the latest addition to the Okiwiriki project. The covenanted land now includes more than 800 hectares of fenced bush and reaches from surrounding farmland to the Okiwiriki trig.*

*(Photo: Ross Bishop)*

Board buffer area against TB.

Mike says he has never seen bush recover like that before. "It just looks healthy. Bush with possum damage looks dull from stress with dead branches."

The Carter's three other bush blocks include 5 hectares of tawa opposite their house, 15 hectares of forested bluffs, and 28 hectares of steep faces alongside Tikitiki Road.

The second part of the new covenant is a rare and unusual 19 hectare wetland, in a shallow basin among a rolling plateau at the northern end of the farm. "If we had enough of this land pushed together we would be dairy farming."

Fed by a spring, the wetland is an unusual forest of kahikatea, pukatea and swamp maire. A smaller, drier area is dominated by tawa. An area of



willow is to be removed from the wetland next summer.

Regional rep Ross Bishop says the wetland contains a viable colony of *Myriophyllum robustum*, the stout water-milfoil, which is "rare" on the national threatened species list.

As well, swamp maire and alseuosmia species, which are under-represented in the ecological district, are well represented in the Carter covenant. The wetland flora is rich - altogether 94 species have been recorded, Ross says: "I just feel over the moon about these covenants. They are well fenced, and well managed."

### **Richardson Covenant**

Mike and Jackie Carter's next-door-neighbours Sam Richardson and his son David have a new 39 hectare covenant as their part of the Okiwiriki project.

The Richardson's farm to the east of the Carters at Mapiu, and their new covenant is quite remarkable. It boundaries the existing Andrew covenant to the south, and the 4 hectare Omaru Falls Scenic Reserve to the north, and is the eastern side of a ridge running north to south on the south bank of the Mapiu Stream.

Vertical and overhanging 40 metre high Ongatiti ignimbrite bluffs are a significant part of the area, and the bush is tawa dominant, with many tree ferns. The ignimbrite bluffs were formed from pyroclastic blasts from volcanic eruptions in the Central Plateau.

The Richardsons have lowered goat numbers significantly, and the bush is regenerating well.

Regional rep Ross Bishop says the bluffs are very spectacular around the Mapui Stream. In one place the stream completely disappears beneath fallen rocks, and can be heard, but not seen, far below.

## **Coromandel**

### **Carter Covenant**

Kahikatea on river flats beside the Whenuakite Stream 12km north of Tairua are now covenanted.

Dairy farmer Andrew Carter fenced his 1.2 hectare block several years ago, and it is in good health. As well as kahikatea, the bush supports kohekohe, tawa, kowhai, rewarewa, mahoe, totara, miro and rimu.

Many bush areas nearby are covenanted with the National Trust: Te Moata, Wallace, Weidmann and Russell.



*Although only 1.8 ha this stand of kahikatea dominated bush is one of several protected in the district.*

## **Waikato**

### **Randle Covenant**

Banded rails and spotless crakes make the Randle covenant their home. The 2.5 hectare wetland has almost half a hectare of open water surrounded by a swamp forest.

Marie and Martin Randle, who have a dairy farm on easy country at Pururu East Road, 15km east of Te Kuiti, have a gem of a wetland created by a natural greywacke dam, which is possibly 2000 - 4000 years old.

Following a scientific visit by Bev Clarkson of Landcare Research, the Randles generously increased the buffer zone to the top of the steeper slopes along the north and west. This line was then promptly fenced and the area in-filled with appropriate native species by Arthur Cowan, Bill Potter and Jim Swindells. The Wilderness Trust later assisted with the removal of invasive willows.

Most of the area is made up of raupo, shrub species, and manuka over sphagnum mounds on peat, with remnant rimu, pukatea, and kahikatea together with kamahi on the eastern margin and a healthy grove of swamp maire. Other plants of interest are colonies of sundew, *Drosera* species, and

native ground orchids.

Regional rep Tim Oliver says this wetland is unique within the Ranginui ecological district. "It's an attractive and very valuable natural wetland of considerable age in a district with a decreasing number of swamps."

### **Douglas Covenant**

Totara trees on the edge of Morrinsville are now fenced and protected with the National Trust. Some very large and ugly pines on its boundary have been ring-barked and are now collapsing without damage to the covenant.

The 1.4 hectare covenant west of Morrinsville on the Hamilton Road and owned by Ross and Ellen Douglas and Ross's father Roy, is a sidling of almost pure totara, with some kanuka and titoki present. Shrubs and flax are being planted on the margins to in-fill spaces and to reduce wind under the canopy.

The covenant has important landscape values, as it is right beside the road, and easily viewed from Morrinsville, especially when it catches the morning sun.



## Bentley Covenant

Regenerating manuka, kanuka and cabbage trees are the result of fencing out stock from Joan Bentley's Te Kowhai wetland covenant located just downstream from the important Lake Rotokauri on the northwest outskirts of Hamilton.

Home to good numbers of mallard ducks, pukeko, the occasional grey teal and bittern, the wetland is in a gully at the back of her small farm.

The 2.3 hectare gully, on Hawksgrip Road at Te Kowhai, is being revegetated with assistance from the Horticulture Department of Waikato Polytechnic where Joan works.

## Mason Covenant

When Jane and John Mason farmed in Northland they were looking at protecting remnant kauri forests on their farm with National Trust covenants.

So when they moved next to Pureora Forest near Waimiha in 1982, they decided to continue their philosophy of farming and having a pleasing environment.

"Part of a pleasing environment for us is the protection of attractive stands of native forest. We have completed two covenants, adding up to 20.9 hectares," Jane says.

Now they are adding three more protected areas of podocarp forest with a wide range of other species making up a further 13 hectares.

"It is an attractive farm, and I am very fond of it," Jane says. "We enjoy our open pasture and the pockets of native forest too. I am reliant on my husband who does the fencing and is happy to go to great lengths to protect these forest remnants."

"We have the satisfaction of knowing it is surrounded by fencing and knowing it is not

being browsed," she says.

Two other covenants on their farm are also underway.

Waikato Forest and Bird ensured the completion of this covenant through generous financial assistance to the owners for the purchase of fencing materials, which John Mason then erected to a very high standard.

The birdlife in the area is marvellous, Jane says. Inside the new covenant she has seen the tiny rifleman, which she first thought was a moth. "We just turned around to look at it and it disappeared down a little hole - no bigger than a five cent piece - in the end of a huge log. It was not what we were expecting."

"We are in the TB endemic area, and there has been a concerted effort to get rid of possums. We certainly think there has been a big response in the numbers and varieties of the birds over the past 20 years. We have a thriving population of native birds."

## Ingham Covenant

Up a valley near the southern end of Kawhia Harbour, young farmer Nigel Ingham has protected a regenerating remnant of podocarp hardwood forest and the stream which drains it.

Logged only in the past 15 years by previous owners, the forest is on very steep south-facing slopes rising from 20 metres above sea level at its base up to 220 metres.

Some large podocarps stand out above the canopy of the 33 hectare forest, and karaka is also present. Goats have been a major problem but are being progressively shot.

This covenant is a valuable addition to the network of



Above: Jane Mason, grubber at the ready beside one of their covenants. (Photo: Tim Oliver)

protected land in the district: within 5 kilometres there are several covenants: Moratti, Emmett, Wills/Scott and a larger DOC forest is nearby. Rohi Takiari's Project Crimson pohutukawa plantings lie along the foreshore to the northwest.

## Bay of Plenty Tingcombe Covenant

Lake Rotoehu is the setting of a 13 hectare covenant area including lake foreshore and dense regenerating kamahi and rewarewa forest initiated by Erica Tingcombe.

Almost all of the northern face of Otautu Bay of Lake Rotoehu, near Rotorua, is protected with the covenant. The new covenanted area bounds a larger DOC reserve to the west.

The bay has been declared a wildlife sanctuary, and is well populated with wildfowl during the shooting season. It has a resident population of bittern and dabchick. Kiwi are present in the covenant area.



## Mountfort Covenant

Farmers Chris and Antoinette Mountfort live on Herepuru Road near Matata, 6 kilometres inland from the coast.

Puriri Farm is fingered with gullies of bush, giving it a very attractive appearance.

Their new covenant is over 1.7 hectares of tall tawa and mangeao forest, which has rewarewa and pigeonwood through it. This bush, on flat land next to the road, has never been logged, which is unusual for the area. It has been fenced for 10 years.

The bush has a good understorey including an impressive area of *Blechnum filiforme* ferns, as well as other ferns.

Since fencing, many nikau, now head-high, have come up, despite no mature nikau being present. Puriri are also being seeded into the bush by pigeons. Orchids, clematis and rata are also features of the forest remnant.

Antoinette says the bush is looking very well, especially as possums have been virtually wiped out after she put bait stations around the bush. A pair of brown kiwi are often heard in there, as well as visiting kaka, and plenty of pigeons. "When the tawa are fruiting, the bush is prolific with pigeons."

Antoinette says the bush is very convenient for visitors, especially older visitors, to walk around as it is very accessible from the road and the Mountforts' house.

The new covenant area does have a small problem with ivy, and with the help of Environment Bay of Plenty, tests to work out the best methods of controlling it have been carried out.

So far, the most effective method is to use Amitrol at a rate of 100ml/10 litres of water, applied at the end of summer.

".....The bush on flat land next to the road, has never been logged....."



Above: Although only 1.7 hectares the Mountfort covenant is a valuable remnant with many species and strong bird populations.

(Photo: Stephen Parr)

## Auckland Carter Covenant

Regenerating secondary coastal forest in the Waitakere Ranges has been protected by Dianne Carter of Karekare.

The 4 hectare block, next to part of Auckland Centennial Memorial Park, is a steep south face dropping away to a stream in a gully.

Manuka is the main canopy species at present, but there are increasing numbers of rewarewa, puriri, kohekohe, nikau and a few rimu. Fierce storms burn off the tops of the puriri and other trees in exposed places.

Flax is also abundant. A significant outcrop of andesite is a main feature of the Carter covenant.

## Lawrence & Thomas Covenant

Anthony and Joan Lawrence and Donald Thomas have a new covenant over their Titirangi property.

The covenant is over a hectare of forest on gently sloping land, and it includes many sizeable kauri, as well as a wide mix of other species. It's

easily seen from Park Road, and only 500 metres away from Titirangi village.

This area is subject to a great deal of subdivision pressure, and the covenant costs were paid by the Lawrences.

## Northland McIntyre Covenant

Bob and Ann McIntyre have protected an excellent stand of 34 hectares of mature bush filling a valley on their hill country sheep and beef farm near Kaitaia, which appears only to have been cut over once.

It includes mature kauri, puriri, kahikatea and rimu, with a good subcanopy. The McIntyre's property is on Duncan Road, 20km southeast of Kaitaia.

Their daughter and son-in-law have also protected bush on their property next door, through Nga Whenua Rahui.

Most of the fencing on the



McIntyre covenant has been done by Bob and Ann's son Donald, and it's of a very high standard. Bob is a skilled fencer in his own right, and insisted on quality work.

Regional rep Fenton Hamlin says the remnant is notable for its diversity of species.

The canopy is dominated by an association of totara, tanekaha and kanuka with the occasional emergent rimu and kauri. Kahikatea grows on the lower slopes.

Several large kauri are up to 1.5 metres in diameter and terrestrial and epiphytic orchids are present. The most important botanical feature is the presence of *Pittosporum pimeleoides*.

Goats have been shot out, and there's a noticeable presence of birds including tui, pigeons, grey warblers and morepork.

Fenton says this is a beautiful bush that the owners have expended considerable effort in protecting. "It is one of the best examples of this ecosystem in the district, with excellent diversity and botanical values."

The Forest Heritage Fund contributed to fencing costs, and the owners feel considerable satisfaction at having protected a significant forest remnant, he says.

### Gefael Covenant

Regenerating forest, predominantly kanuka on Pakia Hill close to Omapere has been protected by Bill Gefael.

The six metre tall kanuka has cabbage trees emerging through the canopy, and a vigorous sub-canopy of kohekohe, hangehange, wheki, pigeonwood, lacebark, coprosma species and other tree ferns.

This covenant, over the whole title of almost a hectare, can be easily seen from the Pakia Hill lookout.



### Fife Covenant

Kiwi habitat has been protected with a new 10 hectare covenant by the Fife family near Rawene.

Robert and Valmai Fife, their son Greg and his partner Helen Parore have the first covenant in the Rawene area of the Hokianga. Greg and Helen started the covenant, as they wanted to provide protected habitat for kiwi on their farm and in the district.

Robert and Valmai own the farm and have been highly supportive, and Greg has made an excellent job of the fencing says regional rep Fenton Hamlin.

Helen is fully involved in the property, as well as looking after their latest family addition - triplet girls, now aged three!

The secondary forest is made up of tanekaha and manuka on the rolling hills, with gullies filled with taraire, puriri and kohekohe. Rimu and rewarewa live along the ridges, and closer to sea level are kahikatea, lancewood, nikau, and cabbage trees.

"This is an attractive and substantial bush remnant tucked away out of sight of the general public," Fenton says. "This was the first covenant to

Above: Protecting kiwi habitat was the aim of Greg (left) and Robert Fife with their 10 ha covenant in the Rawene area.

(Photo: Fenton Hamlin)

be registered in the Hokianga, although two others have since been processed."

"The Hokianga is a large area of land with enormous potential for the protection of significant natural features on private land. It is hoped the Fife covenant will be a catalyst for further Trust involvement in the district."

### Isdale Covenant

A 15 metre high waterfall and its unique surrounding ecosystem have been protected by Alexander and Lynda Isdale 10 kilometres west of Kerikeri at Valencia Lane.

The 1.5 hectare covenant was required as part of consent for subdivision, when the Isdales divided a 20 hectare property into four smaller lots.

The bush surrounding the waterfall and its 4.5 metre deep swimming hole at the base is made up of mature kauri, miro, kahikatea and rewarewa. A dense sub-canopy is dominated by kiekie, and there's a strong understorey of regenerating species.



## Goodwin Covenant

Botanical survey work in Northland gave Anthea Goodwin's property near Mangonui a high rating, identifying it as a Special Natural Area.

The remnant of broadleaf and podocarp is on a steep, north-west facing catchment, dissected by small streams which are tributaries of Kohumaru Stream.

A canopy of totara, kohekohe and puriri have kahikatea, the occasional rimu and rewarewa emerging through over three-quarters of the 4.8 hectare property. The rest of the land is under manuka cover, which has established through gorse and bracken.

Five-finger and cabbage trees are also present, and nikau are plentiful throughout the property says regional representative Fenton Hamlin.

The whole of the property has been covenanted.

## Schluter Covenant

Kaitaia dairy farmers Tony and Dallas Schluter live on Pekerau Road, 15km east of Kaitaia.

Almost 17 hectares of kauri, podocarp and broadleaf forest - one of the most northern kauri forests in the country - is now covenanted.

Regional rep Fenton Hamlin says this is probably the best bush of its type left in the district. It was milled some 90 years ago, but it's now in excellent condition and proving good kiwi habitat.

It has a tall closed canopy up to 12 metres, with many kauri and rimu emerging through it. A wide species range includes totara, rimu, tanekaha, puriri, kohekohe, taraire, rewarewa, miro, matai, kahikatea, karaka, tawa, white maire, kanuka, manuka. A small swampy area contains parataniwha, sedge, raupo, nikau, blechnum ferns and pasture grasses, and is surrounded by kahikatea,

cabbage trees, wheki and putaputaweta.

The area contains three concentrated sites of the rare *Pittosporum pimeleoides*. There are also a few fan ferns *Schizaea dichotoma*, which tend to grow only in sites where kauri has long been dominant.

New Zealand pigeon, kukupa, live in the bush and North Island brown kiwi may also be present.

This new covenant is only 3km away from the McIntyre and Subritsky covenants

## Bone and Giblin Covenant

Steep podocarp-covered hills inland from Hikurangi have a new National Trust covenant.

Christopher Bone and Alison Giblin have a new 32 hectare covenant over the cut-over forest on their property on Kaiikanui Road at Opuawhanga.

The bush has been cut over for kauri many years ago, and recut for rimu 40 years ago. Smaller kauri, rimu and totara remain. Predominant species in the rugged covenant are taraire, tanekaha and puriri, with tree ferns, rewarewa and lancewood common too.

## Jay and Smedley Covenant

The previous owner of this Northland farm, in a desperate measure for income, felled many kauri and rimu on this property, leaving lots of bulldozer damage.

Now Colin Jay and Daryl Smedley run sheep and cattle and have fenced off 10 hectares of regenerating kauri and kahikatea in a north-facing gully.

The farm, close to Kohumaru State Forest, is 15km south of Mangonui on Hobbs Road.

Regional representative Fenton Hamlin says the bush is recovering well from the ravages of milling and bulldozing, with good regeneration.

Kiwi probe marks have been seen, and kauri snails are also present in the forest.

# Hands on field day popular

More than 40 people came to a 'hands on' field day for covenantors at Maunu, near Whangarei, in mid-August.

A new landowner's plea for help with information on how to deal with pests and weeds was the catalyst for the day.

"I couldn't think of any reason why we couldn't have a field day and I knew how useful they could be," said QEII mid-northern rep Nan Pullman. "It was also an excellent opportunity to meet many covenantors who were still only names on my files."

With the help of Gerry Brackenbury from the Department of Conservation's Whangarei area office and Jack Craw from the Northland Regional Council a practical meeting was planned which included a visit to Jean Hawken's nearby property.

On the day DoC field workers Keith Doar and Peter Graham held sessions on pest control for possums, cats and mustelids, noting the cost and effectiveness of different systems.

This was followed by a practical demonstration at Jean's showing where to locate and how to fill Philproof bait stations, set Timms and Fenn traps, with plenty of useful tips thrown in.

Jack Craw talked about problem weeds for bush covenants in Northland and the group saw how Jean is dealing with a wandering jew problem.

"It was encouraging to have people come armed with questions and obviously keen to learn as much as possible," said Nan.



# Covenant Clippings

## Man of many parts

- Congratulations to Les Cleveland for receiving the 1998 Dunedin Citizen of the Year award. He is a National Trust covenantor with 13.73 hectares of native bush on Saddle Hill on the outskirts of Dunedin's urban area. Les is also a former Otago regional councillor, a National Trust supporter, a philanthropist, opera singer and gardener. The Otago Daily Times reported: "He's done such marvellous things. The world is a better place because of him, and the world would be an even better place if there were more people like him in it."

## Forest innovators

- Congratulations to Southland covenantors Heather and Graham Milligan who have a 10.6 hectare covenant over podocarp forest northeast of Dipton. They were recently awarded the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Award for Innovation in Farm Forestry. The Milligans won a trophy and \$2000 from five other nominees.



Above: Dr Cullen addresses the 60 strong Styles Creek gathering.

## Dr Cullen helps celebrate 10 years of Otago re-vege

Dr Michael Cullen was guest speaker at the tenth birthday celebration of the opening ceremony of the revegetation and regeneration project at Styles Creek Bush above Broad Bay on the Otago Peninsula.

The bush remnant became the first National Trust covenant on the Otago Peninsula when it was registered in April 1988 by David and Marie Jensen.

Sixty people attended the birthday, including members of the Styles family who have taken an interest in the project. Dr Cullen planted a Hall's totara tree to commemorate the event.

The 10 years of revegetation work on the bush has been organised and coordinated by

the Save the Otago Peninsula Inc. Soc (STOP).

The next 10 years of work will centre less on planting and propagation, and more on weed and pest control.

Helen Clarke, the Coastal Otago regional rep spoke on the history of the revegetation work and thanked all those who had helped in so many ways.

Michael Cullen commented on how quickly the early settlers seemed to clear the bush compared to the time and effort it will take to restore it. He described the National Trust as quiet but very important contributors to the protection of bush and noted that Otago Peninsula's very important values are now recognised internationally.

## Selling Covenanted Land?

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.

## Our Covenants Officer - Betty Place - Retires

Betty Place recently retired from her position of Covenants Officer in head office after fourteen years of service. When Betty joined the Trust in 1984 to assist in the processing of open space covenants, there were only 45 registered covenants. Today there are almost 1,160. Throughout this period of considerable growth, Betty played an important part in ensuring that the Trust's procedures and processes were rigorous, ensuring the integrity of registered covenants.

The Trust is fortunate in having secured the services of Betty on a part-time basis to continue assisting with aspects of covenant processing.

We wish Betty well in her semi-retirement.



# 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.

*Elected by National Trust Members*

**Bill Garland** of Cambridge; **Geoff Walls** of Christchurch.

Trust Manager - **Tim Porteous**

## Regional Representatives

### Far North

Fenton Hamlin  
Waipapa Road, PO Box 68,  
Kerikeri  
Tel: 09 407 7562  
Fax: 09 407 5579  
Mobile: 025 776 810

### Central Northland

Nan Pullman  
Sandy Bay, R D 3, Whangarei  
Tel/Fax: 09 4343 457

### Auckland

Rex Smith  
PO Box 17-286  
Greenlane, Auckland  
Tel: 09 622 2303  
Fax: 09 622 2505  
Mobile: 021 904 380

### Eastern Waikato

Tim Oliver  
Maungatautari, R D 2,  
Cambridge  
Tel: 07 827 4424  
Fax: 07 827 4448  
Mobile: 021 674 064

### Western Waikato

Gerry Kessels  
769 Te Pahu Road  
R D 5 Hamilton  
Tel: 07 825 9025  
Fax: 07 825 9021  
Mobile: 025 286 8449

### Bay of Plenty

Stephen Parr  
Harmer Parr & Assoc,  
PO Box 444,  
777 Cameron Road, Tauranga  
Tel: 07 544 4733 Office: 07 577 0330  
Fax: 07 578 2670

### Gisborne

Malcolm Piper  
Bushmere Road, R D 1, Gisborne  
Tel/Fax: 06 867 0255

### Taumarunui

Ross Bishop  
Community Mail Box 50  
Owhango  
Tel: 07 895 4747

### Hawkes Bay

Marie Taylor  
PO Box 137  
Bay View, Napier  
Tel: 06 836 7018 Fax: 06 836 7048  
Mobile: 025 424 536

### Taranaki

Bill Messenger  
Upland Road, R D 2  
New Plymouth  
Tel: 06 756 7496

### Manawatu/Wanganui

Bruce Kirk  
Glendevon, R D 4  
Palmerston North  
Tel/Fax: 06 325 8723

### Wairarapa

John Kirby  
"Pounui"  
Tauweru, R D 9  
Masterton  
Tel: 06 378 7458 Fax: 06 377 2958

### Wellington

Contact Wellington office  
**Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast**

Martin Conway  
Palmer Road, R D 1  
Brightwater, Nelson  
Tel/Fax: 03 542 3712

### Canterbury

David Webster  
17 Kiteroa Place  
Cashmere  
Christchurch  
Tel: 03 337 6047

### Coastal Otago

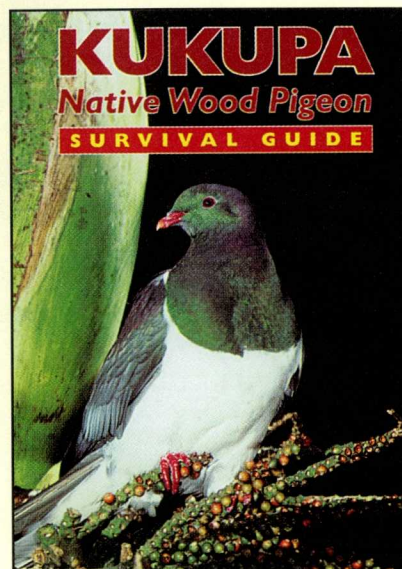
Helen Clarke  
165 Belford Street  
Waverley, Dunedin  
Tel: 03 454 3320 Fax: 03 454 3321

### South Island High Country

Dr Brian Molloy  
20 Darvel Street, Riccarton  
Christchurch  
Tel: 03 384 1077 Fax 03 348 1062

### Southland

Gay Munro  
Mokotua  
R D 5, Invercargill  
Tel: 03 239 5827



## Practical Pigeon Guide

Called kukupa in the north and kereru elsewhere, a useful guide to helping this bird which spreads the big seeds in our bush is now available from the Department of Conservation in Northland.

Write to DOC, P.O. Box 842  
Whangarei or fax 09 438 9886  
for a copy.

## Southland Field Day

Sixteen covenators and friends turned out to a mid winter field day at Graeme and Heather Milligan's Dipton-Balfour Road property.

Joined by Southland Regional Council biosecurity manager Richard Bowman and District Council reserves planner Fiona Shaw, the group spent several hours wandering in the bush, discussing plant identification, weed and pest management and noting some healthy mistele toes while checking predator bait stations.

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Queen Elizabeth II National Trust,  
P O Box 3341, Wellington.  
St. Laurence House  
138 The Terrace, Wellington, N.Z.,  
Telephone 04 472 6626,  
Fax: 04 472 5578*



## Generation Gap

### Old time bush cutter backs school planting

**E**ncouraging the next generations to appreciate and look after our native bush was a strong motive behind Neville Holwell's Conservation Week planting project.

In the last few years Neville has fenced off and covenanted with the National Trust remnants of volcanic broadleaf forest near Maungatapere, near Whangarei.

One bush remnant is in close proximity to the Maungatapere Primary School and Neville bought native trees this year so all the new entrant pupils, with the help of the older Form 1 and 2 children, could plant and name their own tree.

Northland Polytechnic Conservation Corps students also planted trees and cleared privet from along the road.

Neville says he is making up for all the trees he cut down when he was breaking in pasture.

He reckons he's felled more trees than he's had hot dinners. Now he aims to inspire others to preserve what is left for the next generations.



Conservation Corps student Sharayne Moir plants a young rewarewa at Maungatapere. (Photo: Nan Pullman)

## 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 organisations,          |                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life              | \$550.00 | schools)                                      | \$33.00        |

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- **Gift Membership**

Please send a gift membership to my friends - details above. Gift from (name and address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_