



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

For open space in New Zealand

Nga Kairauhi Papa



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Open Space

No 43, December 1998

Superb Protection

Soper covenant near Takaka
a botanical and aesthetic 'gem'

A unique cross section of Golden Bay has been protected with a covenant that reaches from estuary to ridgeline.

Frank and Berna Soper own Beinn Dobhainn (Gaelic for "Mountain by the Stream"), a 92 hectare property at Waitapu, near Takaka. Recently they registered an open space covenant protecting 40 hectares of it. The covenanted area, (below) which runs from the shores of the Waitapu Estuary to a height of 150 metres above sea level, contains a range of vegetation types.

Geologically the peninsula on

which their farm is situated comprises Onekaka schist with quartzite bluffs descending to sea level, a feature unique on the Golden Bay coastline. Other forest remnants in the Bay are restricted to limestone cliffs further east at Tarakohe, resulting in different vegetation types.

The spurs and ridges of the Soper's covenant are clothed in black, hard and silver beech with some podocarps, with an understorey of mixed hardwoods, tree ferns, ground ferns and lianes. The gullies are of mixed beech, podocarps, pukatea,

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Soper Covenant

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hinau and emergent northern rata. *Libocedrus plumosa* (lowland cedar) reaches its southern limit in the Bay. Tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) extends a little further south. Both are present in the Soper's covenanted area.

The edges of the covenant are regenerating shrublands of mixed hardwoods. The estuary shoreline supports an interesting mix of rushes, shore ribbonwood, kowhai and manuka.

"It is a beautiful piece of bush, the covenant is really lovely. We thought about protecting for a long time," Berna says.

Botanist Graeme Jane from the Nelson Botanical Society says the covenanted bush is a real gem.

"The area is an interesting mix of coastal species with a large diversity of ferns, a few of which we rarely see unless we visit the wetter western areas," said Graeme.

"In particular I noted *Trichomanes elongatum* and *Hymenophyllum ferrugineum*. But the most spectacular part

was the profusion of orchids, especially *Dendrobium cunninghamii* on the rocky bluffs."

The botanical report reinforces the significance of the flora in the covenanted area, with some special species highlighted such as kawaka and tanekaha. The sequence of vegetation from estuary to hill-top adds significantly to the values of the covenant.

The Sopers, who have enhanced their property with extensive plantings over the last 22 years, are delighted by the abundant birdlife. Species present include kereru, tui, fantail, and grey warbler in particular, with fernbird, tomtit and brown creeper seen less often.

The adjacent Waitapu Estuary, recognised for its high ecological values, supports populations of birds including variable oystercatchers and the occasional white heron.

A colony of 300 terns including white-fronted and Caspian terns are now nesting on the seaward side of the covenant at the base



of the hill. Berna notes: "It's the largest colony in the Bay".

Frank has completed a three kilometre benched track through the bush, on a contour not far above the estuary. Access to the covenant is with permission from Frank and Berna.

Above: Sprawling kiekie and ferns in the Soper block indicate the healthy state of this coastal covenant in Golden Bay.

Below: Waipatu Hill from the air: to the west and south is the tidal estuary, to the north Golden Bay and to the east alluvial flats.

(Photo: Brian Reilly)



Chambers win DoC Award

National Trust members Alison and Stuart Chambers were recognised as excellent ambassadors for conservation at the recent Northland Conservation Awards.

The Chambers received their award for work in helping establish the National Trust's Aroha Island Ecological Centre near Kerikeri. DoC education officer Gerry Brackenbury told guests that Aroha was a testament to their commitment to conservation.

Stuart worked for nine years as the National Trust's Hamilton based regional representative before the couple moved to Aroha in early 1996.

Before moving north he was the chairman of the Miranda Naturalist Trust and has been a keen birdwatcher since a young man. He has also been a correspondent for a number of



Above: From left, Stuart and Alison Chambers with Far North Regional Trust representative Fenton Hamlin, and the new Aroha Island managers Greg and Gay Blunden. (Photo: Malcolm Pullman)

publications and is the author of the book *Birds of New Zealand Locality Guide*.

The Chambers have recently

been involved in setting up the Silk Tail Lodge in Fiji, a project established to protect the endangered silk tail.

A modest increase for a major gain

In articles in the past two issues of Open Space I have attempted to briefly outline the year history of the Trust from its tentative beginnings through to its present position as the pre-eminent facilitator of nature conservation on private land.

It is always tempting to attribute all that has been achieved (1,200 covenants protecting 46,000 hectares) solely to the actions of the organisation itself. However, in reality, the Trust is just a vehicle to enable forward thinking and responsible landowners to secure areas of open space for future generations to enjoy. The Trust is always conscious of the level of financial contribution made by landowners both when a covenant is established and in relation to on-going management.

The Government will shortly

"The message" from the Trust Manager

release its draft Biodiversity Strategy outlining the measures it will promote to halt the decline in New Zealand's plant and animal species and the ecosystems that support them.

It is expected that the strategy will place significant emphasis on the role voluntary protection on private land must play. There is always a danger when new policy is developed that new mechanisms are sought for its implementation and time and money is wasted "reinventing the wheel".

Politicians and their advisors need to be reminded that in the National Trust they have available to them a most cost-effective mechanism for achieving

protection of nature conservation resources on private land, a mechanism that creates an on-going partnership between the covenantor and the Trust for the benefit of all new Zealanders.

Decision-makers also need to be reminded that a modest increase in the level of government support for the Trust would result in a significant increase in the number of perpetual covenants secured. The present funding level is a real constraint on the Trust's potential. This is certainly the message the Trust will be emphasising to the Minister of Conservation when next we meet!

Meanwhile may I wish all Trust members and friends well for the festive season.

Tim Porteous,
Trust Manager



Above: Veronica and Bill Simpkin at Waitangi with their award from the Northland Conservancy of the Department of Conservation.
(Photo: Malcolm Pullman)

Farmer Trust members proud of DoC Award

Many fellow farmers are true conservationists who think of their land as much more than something to make a living from, says Trust member and award winning farmer Bill Simpkin of Arapohue, near Dargaville.

He was speaking at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands after he and his wife Veronica received one of the Northland Conservancy's prestigious annual awards earlier this month.

Mr Simpkin said he was proud to receive the award on behalf of the many farmers who did great conservation work.

Bill and Veronica's property features blocks of ecological significance covenanted with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. These include large areas of the Mangonui Swamp with islands of kahikatea. This riverine swamp is now a rare forest type that contains a high density of bitterns, spotless crakes and banded rail plus a variety of other wetland species.

A DoC citation said friends of the Simpkins described them as

true conservationists who farm without ever putting pressure on the land or their stock and who understand what should be developed and what should be protected.

Below: Kauri museum manager Roger Mulvay (right) with the new display at Matakoho.



Trust features in display at Kauri museum

A new permanent display featuring the National Trust was put in place at the Matakoho Kauri Museum in November. The display was made possible by a generous bequest to the Trust from the late James Robertson.

The Kauri Museum is home to an extensive collection of memorabilia relating to man's exploitation of New Zealand's most impressive forest tree.

Sited in a prominent location in the *Pioneers Hall* the new display describes the work of the Trust and illustrates what today's landowners in Northland are doing voluntarily to protect remaining natural sites, including private land with kauri, through covenant agreements.

James Robertson, who lived in the Maungaturoto district most of his 91 years was keenly interested in the protection of wildlife and their habitat.

The Trust is indebted to the late Mr Robertson for his bequest and grateful to The Kauri Museum for allocating space for the new display.

Once ravaged D'urville hillsides now healing

Saga of an island fenced

By National Trust
Director Geoff Walls

This was a fence that got built despite the odds: unforgiving terrain, major transport challenges, fickle weather, bone-jarring ground and the complexities of organising from afar. No ducking into town for fresh bread, more staples or a forgotten tool.

We've had the place since 1970; 90 rugged acres in remote Port Hardy on the north-western flank of D'Urville Island. Dad was offered it at a desperate time for the farmer: meat and wool prices at rock-bottom, transport and fertiliser costs way high, food enough for the children but only recycled flour bags for their clothing.

There was a lovely curved beach backed by a bush gully, and a tumbling stream, but the rest was hideous, a charred mass of burnt manuka clinging to precipitous hill-slopes.

Twenty-eight years on, and what a difference! The ghastly understorey of ongaonga in the bush has long since been replaced by kawakawa and a lushness of young coastal trees and ferns. The scrub has become forest and we've had to trim trees towering over the hut where no trees were when we built it. The blackened eroding hillsides have healed with a dense mantle of manuka and tauhinu, through which a new forest is beginning to emerge.

Our neighbours Peter and



Simon Walls and Pip Aplin working on the only bit of flat ground on the D'Urville Island fenceline. September 1998. (Photo: Geoff Walls)

Carol Foote have newly covenanted and fenced their adjoining bush. However, the original fence on the western side of our block (covenanted in 1988) has deteriorated over time and is knackered. It needs total replacement.

It is early September. There are three of us on the job: Pip Aplin, my brother Simon and me. Both Pip (an islander and ex-lighthouse keeper) and Si are fencing artists; I am their assistant and camp cook. First the materials arrive at the wrong part of the island and take two days to retrieve. Then it rains hard, turning the access road to porridge, marooning our Landrover, and converting the very steep fenceline into a dangerous luge. More precious days lost!

We have to carry all the gear and "man-haul" the posts the last kilometre or so, like Scott's men at the Pole. Bedrock is at the surface on most of the line, so all the post-holes require great effort on crowbar and shovel. At the end of the day it's all we can do to drag our aching bodies back to the hut. No time for fishing, admiring the sunset or chatting to the wekas.

A week on, with the posts in, we reckon we have it licked. Only the waratahs to ram, the netting to run out, the rock outcrops to demolish for filling the gulches, the straining-up, the gate to hang, the hot-wire to rig up and connect, a stile to build and the sea-cliff tie-off to construct. A breeze! At this point, Si has to return to his DOC job in Golden Bay and I have to get to the Trust Board meeting in Wellington, where I proudly show off my blisters.

I return five days later with my son Finn (off school for the experience) to find the island awash. There's been another rainstorm, confining Pip to the hut much of the time and making his fencing forays tricky and sticky. We have to leave the Landrover three kilometres from the hut and pack the supplies from there.

However, the sun returns and a warm wind soon dries everything. In three days we have the fence complete. We are ridiculously delighted and celebrate with warm beer and fruitcake. It has taken two long years to organise and a boggling amount of human labour, but we've secured the bush and are now dangerously fit.

"Without habitat there is nothing" *Horrie Sinclair*



By Marie Taylor

6
Horrie Sinclair was a remarkable man who leaves a living testimony to his work in the world-class Sinclair Wetlands on the Taieri Plains.

Born at Waitati, north of Dunedin on 7 September 1923, he came to the Taieri in 1927 as a child. Living at Wylies Crossing, Mosgiel, until he moved to his home next to the wetlands in March 1988.

As he recounted his action-packed life to me two years ago, it was clear he had an amazing memory for days, times, facts and figures.

After two years at high school, he worked milking cows on a dairy farm. Then he worked as a teamster with two teams of five horses, ploughing land at a rate of two acres a day.

He went into the army at Burnham when he was 18 for basic training, came home for 14 months and then went back into the army, but was hospitalised

out with double pneumonia. He spent three months at Queen Mary Hospital at Hamner Springs, and said it was two years before he really worked again afterwards.

In 1947 he began working on the wharves, and in 1956 he became a wild life and fisheries ranger for the Otago Acclimatisation Society.

"In that six years, four months and three weeks I had 421 apprehensions for breaches of the Wildlife and Fisheries Act, and 198 were placed before a magistrate and there were 171 convictions." He rattled off these figures with ease!

He later worked for the Saddle Hill Pest Destruction Board, and the Lee Pest Destruction Board.

Horrie bought the 315 hectare wetlands on October 1 1960 for £2000.

"There were only two pad-

docks, and they were covered with gorse. The island was nearly all broom. I lived in Mosgiel in those days and used to come out here daily."

Horrie described the wetlands as one of the top ten privately owned wetlands in the world, but he wanted to see it preserved, and also wanted it for recreational shooting.

In 1973 he suffered a stroke, and a heart attack ten years later. "I've slowed down a bit over the years."

He gifted the wetlands to Ducks Unlimited, and it was later sold to the Crown, then transferred to Ngai Tahu.

Building a visitor centre, which included a flat for Horrie, started at the wetlands in 1987. The complex was opened by then Governor General Sir Paul

"...Horrie bought the 315 hectare wetland on Oct 11, 1960 for two thousand pounds..."

"... the Sinclair Wetlands will be here in 500 years time, it's more or less guaranteed. . ."



Horrie (now a National Trust director) in February 1988, with a crowd of 400 people.

"One of the things about this swamp that makes it so great as an asset is that it has got everything. It is good habitat: a food chain; cover so birds can hide from predators and changing vegetation all season. Without habitat there is nothing," Horrie noted.

There are 81 bird species that either live in or visit the wetlands at some stage of the year.

"We shoot very conservatively on three weekends a year at the start of the season. The rest of the time it is a sanctuary."

There are quite a lot of marshcrake, three sightings of spotless crake in 34 years, and a colony of Australian coot resident since 1959.

Bitterns make the wetlands their home, as well as large numbers of scaup, NZ shovellers, as well as grey teal. Horrie thought about half the grey teal population in the country must have been on the wetlands in July 1984 when 35,000 were recorded.

Predator traps surround the ponds to trap ferrets, cats and hedgehogs. One Christmas Horrie caught 36 ferrets which had been dumped by the road. Almost the same number of cats are caught each year.

In December 1985 Horrie was awarded an MBE and in 1990 Horrie the Commemoration Medal. He also received a citation from the Nature Conservation Council.

"One well-known New Zealand conservationist said it was a wonderful thing I had done protecting the thing with the QEII. He said a lot of people will be remembered for five minutes or five months, but the Sinclair Wetlands will still be here in 500 years time, it's more or less guaranteed.

"It's the size of the place that makes it so valuable. Any piece of water is worth preserving, it is

better than nothing at all.

My philosophy is: You come into the world with nothing and you go out with nothing. It doesn't matter what assets you have, you can't take them with you."

Horrie recalled being asked when had he joined the greens. "I didn't have to join them, I was the original," he replied.

Horrie died aged 74 on 31 August 1998.

Generations of New Zealanders have and will benefit from his foresight and commitment.

Aroha Field Day



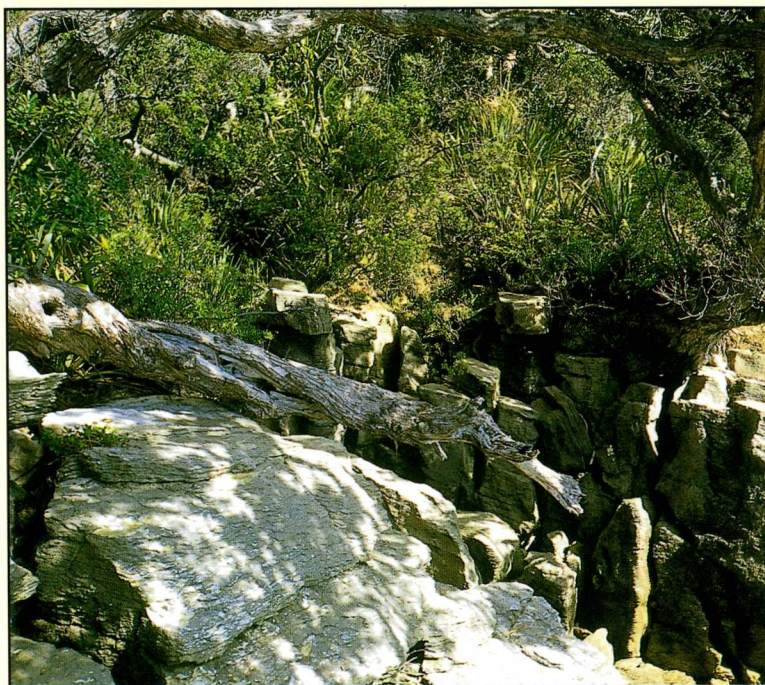
Covenantors, Trust members and supporters of the National Trust are invited to a field day at Aroha Island on Friday, 22 January 1999.

This will be an opportunity for discussion on practical issues associated with the management of covenanted land.

Organised proceedings will start at 1.30pm and conclude with a barbecue.

The Aroha Island Ecological Centre is located off Kurapari Road, Rangitane, some 12km north-east of Kerikeri.

Recently registered covenants



Northland

McKenzie Covenant

Classic picturesque New Zealand coastal forest at Langs Beach, Waipu has been protected by Marjorie and Alan McKenzie.

The McKenzies have owned the steep 1.1 hectare section for 24 years, allowing it to regenerate. The covenanted area runs down the cliff to an esplanade reserve along the shoreline. The forest includes mature pohutukawa, manuka, kanuka, flax, cabbage trees, matipo, nikau, silver ferns and kohekohe.

With poisoning and trapping, the McKenzies now have possums under control, and the bush is recovering well.

Parker Covenant

A 12 hectare mosaic of forest and wetland remnants has been protected near Matakoho by Lynne and Keith Parker.

The Parker covenant contains natural mineralised swamps and small remnants of riverine flood forest. These have been identi-

Left: Typical coastal fringe at Langs Beach - pohutukawa clinging to the rocks with flax and other salt hardy shrubs for support. (Photo: Murray Tapp)

Right: Alan and Marjorie McKenzie in the newly registered covenant they have nurtured for 24 years. (Photo: Nan Pullman)

fied as two of the rarest and most fragmented habitat types in Northland.

The remnants form part of the Omaru wetland system, identified in 1977 as a site of special wildlife interest with national importance. Twenty years later, however, the Parker forest and wetlands area are virtually all that survives of the Omaru system. Drainage, stock grazing, conversion of shrublands to pines and pasture, and the removal of timber, particularly totara for posts, have seen the destruction of all but 5% of Northland's wetlands. Less than 2% of these being mineralised swamps.

The ecological value of the Parker's remnants is therefore greater than ever; a precious vestige of a once extensive wildlife habitat.

The commitment to protect the covenanted areas was made at a time when farming returns were not favourable. Despite this, Mr and Mrs Parker ar-

ranged for an extensive new fencing programme to be completed thus securing the ecologically important sites from stock pressure. In recognition of the commitment made and the example given to other landowners, Lynne and Keith Parker won a Conservation Award from the Northland Conservancy of the Department of Conservation.

Gubb Covenant

Waimate North, halfway between Kerikeri and Kaikohe, has a remarkable landscape with many stands of native bush dominated by puriri scattered through lush pastoral country.

Selwyn and Heather Gubb have protected four remnants on their property.

The puriri dominant remnants were representative of the many cattle-browsed stands in the district. Fencing, plus pest control has demonstrated that with careful management these

remnants can be nursed back to good health.

Together with neighbouring bush, the protected areas on the Gubb property are important as food sources for kukupa which are in serious decline in Northland.

Maranui Covenant

Six hectares of extremely valuable Hochstetter frog and red-crowned parakeet habitat near Mangawhai has been protected by this new covenant. The podocarp forest, which extends onto adjacent properties, is recognised as a site of high ecological significance.

Together with bush on adjacent properties, this new six hectare covenant near Mangawhai is recognised as a site of high ecological significance because the area contains Hochstetter's frog and red-crowned parakeet.

Ogle's 1982 survey of Northland wildlife recorded a critical loss and deterioration of frog habitat, with the greatest loss occurring in the Brynderwyns. Further loss of habitat has occurred since that time. According to Ogle, Hochstetter's frogs are particularly vulnerable to changes in their surroundings, and the accumulation of even quite small amounts of silt among the stones of stream beds is sufficient to eliminate them. From his observations in the Brynderwyns, he has determined that riparian strips of native forest are inadequate in steep country to protect this frog's habitat: entire forested catchments are necessary.

The red crowned parakeet is considered to be a species close to extinction on the mainland of the North Island, and is classified as a regionally threatened species.

The vegetation of the new covenant is a mixed cover of kahikatea and tanekaha with totara and rimu, and broadleaf, hinau, rewarewa and rata as well as *Coprosma arborea*, and kauri on the higher slopes and ridges.

This newly covenanted area is only a chain wide and follows a stream for more than 3000 metres. It is however an important addition to 417 hectares already protected by an open space covenant over the whole of an adjacent title, also owned by Maranui Conservation Ltd.

Rutherford-Dunn Family Trust Covenant

Rhonda and John Rutherford-Dunn have doubled the protected area on their lifestyle block at Whareora, north of Whangarei, with their second covenant.

Covering 2.8 hectares of gently sloping land, the covenant protects broadleaf forest made up of puriri, tanekaha, taraire, kahikatea, rimu, totara, kauri, mahoe and tree ferns.

Stock have been excluded for more than 20 years, so there is excellent regeneration of the area.

Below: The Buchanan covenant, relatively untouched West Coast forest in the Far North. (Photo Fenton Hamlin)

Buchanan Covenant

One of the northern most forests in private hands in the country is now covenanted.

Robert Buchanan has a covenant over 89 hectares of magnificent regenerating semi-coastal forest at Whangape near the Warawara Forest.

It extends over a large basin which faces west, and runs from a height of 30 metres up to 300 metres above sea level, up to a high ridge, then falls steeply to the east. The forest has a solid canopy of mainly kohekohe, puriri and taraire.

Regional Representative Fenton Hamlin says the forest is basically untouched. "It is one of the most spectacular forest remnants in the north. The remnant adds significantly to the superb vista of west coast beach and sea." The Whangape locality was once home to ancient Maori settlement.

"The spectacular land forms made fencing a massive undertaking. Nearly five kilometres of fencing was completed with the help of the National Trust before registration," he says.

"Robert's son Craig has been largely responsible for the completion of this large and difficult project."



Northland cont'd

Hemmins Covenant

Not far south of the Waipoua Forest at Katui, Rodger and Clare Hemmins have covenanted two separate stands of bush on their dairy farm.

The protected areas are podocarp/broadleaf forest, with large emergent kahikatea and kauri growing on the ridges. This is important kiwi habitat, and kauri snails are also present, as well as kukupa.

One of the blocks adjoins the Katui Scenic Reserve, is the headwaters of the Muriwai Stream, and is an important addition to the protected areas in the district. The second block, which includes a small area of peaty swamp, is part of the headwaters of the Waima River.

In recognition of the ecological value of the areas being protected by Mr and Mrs Hemmins financial contributions towards the cost of fencing were made by the Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Department of Conservation.

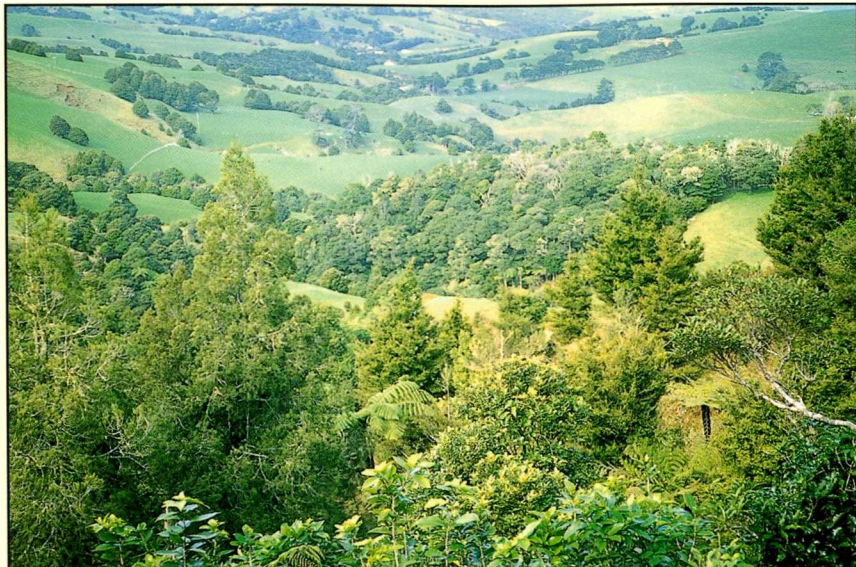
Taylor Covenant

A bush-filled basin at the back of Arthur and Dorothy Taylor's Diggers Valley Road farm, 20 km southeast of Kaitaia, has been protected with a covenant.

"Much of the line clearing was undertaken by Arthur Taylor himself. This was no mean feat on steep hill country for one not as young as he once was", says Regional Representative Fenton Hamlin.

The bush, adjacent to the Herekino Forest, is made up of three forest types: lowland kahikatea, tall podocarps on the ridges, and dense broadleaf remnants in the gullies.

Large rimu and totara are present in the 32 hectare Taylor



Above: Near Waipoua the Hemmins' two stands of podocarp/broadleaf bush are important kiwi habitat and support kauri snails. (Photo: Murray Tapp)

covenant, as well as ricker kauri, northern rata, and broadleaf species. This is despite the bush having been heavily milled in the 1920s for kauri and rimu, and then cut over again in 1950.

Irvine & Mortimer Covenants

The common green gecko *Naultinus elegans* makes Ian and Jean Irvine's covenant near Kamo, Whangarei its home. The new covenant covers three hectares of broadleaf forest, a rare and localised forest type on the northern slopes of an ancient volcanic cone.

Many similar volcanic cones in the district have been quarried, destroying both the natural vegetation and the geological history of the area.

The covenant vegetation is podocarp and broadleaf species including totara, rewarewa, kahikatea, karaka, matai, taraire, and kohekohe.

The bush understorey is made up of astelia, pigeonwood, pate, white maire, nikau, mamangi, silver tree ferns, kawakawa, rimu, mapou, and asplenium ferns.

Immediately adjoining is the Mortimer covenant of almost a hectare.

Couchman Covenant

Mature podocarp and broadleaf forest dominated by taraire, rimu and miro with an associated wetland with kahikatea, cabbage trees and flax has been protected by Robin Couchman.

The 7.8 hectare remnant is part of a lifestyle block on Paranui Road, only a few kilometres from Taipa. The protected area has high natural values, and is an excellent habitat for wildlife.

"The forest is in very good health, with a deep layer of litter and strong regeneration" says Regional Representative Fenton Hamlin. Occasional emergent kahikatea and rewarewa are coming through the canopy, and there is a well developed sub-canopy which includes nikau and ponga.

Auckland

Dunn Covenant

Puhoi conservationists Valerie and Arthur Dunn have added a six hectare covenant to their impressive tally of protection.

Some years ago the Duns generously gifted blocks of 49 and 39 hectares to the National Trust. Now adjacent new areas

have been protected by them. They also plan to gift these new blocks of lowland and regenerating broadleaf podocarp forest to the Trust.

The gifted areas are now known as Dunn's Bush. They were recommended for protection in the 1980s, and the Auckland Botanical Society recorded 149 species of native plants there in 1988. Some species are rare to the district, including the fern *Asplenium hookerianum*, which is known in only a few localities north of Auckland. Dunn's Bush can be easily seen from the Puhoi to Ahuroa Road.

Clement Covenant

The Hunua Ranges are an important water catchment area for Auckland, and much of them is covered with forest.

Only a few kilometres south-east of Papakura, Walter and Nola Clement have a 93 hectare property, almost half of which is covered in taraire forest.

They have protected 39 hectares of forest running up a deep stream valley with the Trust. Secondary growth in the bush has filled gaps created when kauri were milled 100 years ago.

The new covenant adjoins two smaller National Trust covenants in the locality, and can be easily seen from Ponga Road.

McNamara Covenant

Kohekohe, just north of Waiuku, is the site of Julie and John McNamara's second covenant.

They have protected an additional 2.9 hectares of semi-coastal podocarp broadleaf forest on both sides of a stream.

The new covenant adds to the protected network in the locality, which includes their first covenant a kilometre south. There are several other Trust covenants nearby.

Waikato

Lynch & Oliver Covenants

Protected swamp maire forest is very rare in the Ranginui ecological district east of Te Kuiti, and is absent throughout most of the Waikato.

"This block is a gem which has survived earlier drainage" says Regional Representative Tim Oliver. "It is easily the best swamp maire association I have yet seen," he says. There is much more forest, but less open wetland than in the nearby Randle covenant (*see Open Space No. 42*).

The 3.7 hectares protected by Nelson and Hilary Lynch near Rangitoto Road is extremely valuable, he says. The maire grows on an island within a swampy stream, and other canopy species include pukatea, kahikatea, and northern rata. Their smaller and more open wetland lies just south of this forest, and has been fenced with generous buffer zones.

The upstream portion of the bush is a 2.8 hectare covenant on the farm of neighbours William and Karen Oliver, who initiated the protection because they planned to farm deer and were concerned about damage to the forest.

The steep faces on the north side of the bush have been fenced into the covenant, and together with the Lynch buffers, have been revegetated with more than 3000 native plants by the N.Z. Native Forests Restoration Trust and the Te Kuiti Tramping Club, through those three stalwarts of King Country conservation, Jim Swindells, Bill Potter and Arthur Cowan.

The Olivers have a further 2.9 hectares covenanted in two blocks, one being an almost pure and relatively young kahikatea remnant and the

second is the Waerenga Covenant. This bush backs onto the homestead and is a tawa-mangeao block with a dense understorey and large kamahi and fuchsia on the southern perimeter.

It has been fenced for many years and is notable for a very fine stand of king ferns that have grown from a gift of two plants by local Maori to the original Sutherland family who are also covenantors near Te Kuiti.

The Oliver family's home farm, which is just across the Waipa River from Waerenga, has the 94 hectare bush covenant described in *Open Space No. 39*.

Huntly Karioi Outdoor Trust Covenant

The Huntly College outdoor education facility just west of Raglan, has accommodation for public use, lecture rooms and a sports room.

The land on which the College facility is established is on the northern slopes of the old volcanic cone, Mt Karioi.

Nearly all of the property is covered in forest, and adjoins the Karioi Forest Park.

The Outdoor Trust has a new covenant over 32 hectares of this coastal forest, which contains impressive northern rata, pukatea and podocarp forest.

The bush has been protected through the efforts of Vic Hannam and is managed by local covenantors Dave and Di Whittington, whose own bush block is on the northern shore of Aotea Harbour.

This new covenant is a marvellous addition to the network of protection in the Mt Karioi district as nearby there are three scenic reserves, and three other properties with National Trust covenants.



Hawke's Bay

Liebenow Covenant

"Anyone who has ever driven into Hawke's Bay with an ecological eye will have been struck by how appallingly denuded of forest the landscape is", says National Trust director Geoff Walls.

"The scene is even worse from the air. A flight from Wellington to Napier passes right over Anaroa Valley. Its forests and treelands stand out like an oasis in a desert. I have long wished that they could be safeguarded and enhanced in some way."

Part of this landscape is now protected by Prue and Folker Liebenow on their Raukawa property.

They have protected the whole of their 57 hectare property. The National Trust and Hawke's Bay Regional Council helped them fence the first large paddock of bush which is regenerating strongly.

The land has been in Prue's family since 1933. "My father bought it during the depression, and built the house we live in now from timber milled here."

Prue is delighted to have the bush protected. "It's there for perpetuity, and nobody can come in and take it all out."

Since fencing eight months ago, the first area of 10 hectares has many seedlings coming

Above: The 57 ha Liebenow covenant is considered particularly important in the much modified Hawkes Bay landscape.

through. "It's just incredible, particularly the numbers of whiteywoods, matipo and titoki. They just pop up everywhere."

"Our dream in 10 to 20 years is that the whole hillside will be completely covered with native trees, and we can encourage other people down the valley to restore their bush as well," she says.

Geoff continues: "People relate to treelands in a different way than to forest remnants. They know the trees as individuals, and mourn their passing as a personal loss. The trees have ecological roles that are different too: they are staging posts for birds and epiphytes, often the only link left between forest patches."

"Their management requires a different approach: as trees die or fall, replacements are cultivated and planted. The Anaroa treelands are valuable then simply as treelands; the fact that they are being offered the chance to become forests again is heartening indeed."

"The owner's willingness to protect and nurture these priceless relics in a terrifyingly bleak landscape is an opportunity to be seized with both hands," he says.

Central North Is.

Johnson Covenant

The high point of land behind Acacia Bay, a peri-urban area at Taupo township, is a rocky outcrop on Vivien Johnson's property.

Below the outcrop, Mrs Johnson has undertaken an extensive revegetation project in the past three years over almost two hectares of land.

The Zuvuya Charitable Trust was established by Mrs Johnson to assist in management and enhancement of part of the land.

Arthur Cowan and the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust has also helped with revegetation plantings. As the plantings grow the covenant area will become more significant as a block of indigenous species in an otherwise closely settled residential locality.

Spencer Covenant

This 24 hectare forest at Mapiu, south of Te Kuiti, provides a link between the massive 800 hectare Okiwiriki complex three kilometres west and the large Mapara forest, which is protected kokako habitat, four kilometres east.

Peter Spencer's tall and mature podocarp broadleaf forest has a tawa dominant canopy, with rimu, miro and totara emerging through it. Hinau, kamahi, pukatea and rewarewa are also important canopy trees.

The land is medium to steep ridge and gully system on a south-facing slope. When the bush was fenced there was a degraded and grazed-out understorey, thanks to feral goats. Since it was fenced 18 months ago and goats removed, the forest is starting to come away very nicely says regional rep Ross Bishop.

The covenanted block is good

bird habitat, especially as it provides a good link between already protected areas nearby including the Kurukuru, Omaru Falls, Otamati and Aratoro Scenic Reserves

Cleaver Covenant

An enormous totara on top of an exposed ridge at 800 metres above sea level is the focus of one of two areas newly covenanted by Barry and Patricia Cleaver at Mataroa, 6km southwest of Taihape.

The totara is surrounded by a canopy of horopito, putaputaweta and kaikomako, with a shrub layer of *Coprosma grandifolia* and mahoe wao. raukawa, *Pseudopanax edgerleyi*, is also present.

Regional Representative Ross Bishop found large numbers of bellbirds in the covenant. "It is unusual to find such a large totara tree in an exposed and elevated position", he says.

The second area, a remnant of podocarp broadleaf forest on a steep slope falling away from Ridge Road South, has an uneven canopy of rimu, matai, miro, maire and hinau, with regenerating manuka forest surrounding it.

"It is well fenced and regenerating strongly with many podocarps starting to emerge through the manuka canopy", Ross says.

Taranaki

Goodlin & Sons Covenant

Just 1.5km down Leith Road from Okato, Mick Goodlin has protected the Puketi pa site and its surrounding kohekohe dominant forest.

Part of a dairy farm, the surrounding countryside is flat to slightly rolling. Puketi pa is on a spur on the edge of a rising terrace, which slopes sharply 25 metres to the south and west, and more gently to the north



Above: This giant totara on a high ridge line is part of a covenant that harbours a strong population of bellbirds. (Photo: Ross Bishop)

and east. Kohekohe is now relatively rare on the Taranaki ringplain.

A swampy area on the southwest edge of the covenant area contains raupo, flax, and kiekie, as well as coprosma and carex species.

Auckland Museum staff have described the pa, as having a single strong ditch and bank around its north and west sides. Outer defences are also present, and the entire edge of the main platform is three to five metres high with a well-preserved bank up to a metre high around it.

The defended platform is divided into several areas by low scarps, with 15 rua in four discrete areas. There are a total of 22 visible rua. The four-sided

occupation platform gives an area of 1100 square metres of defended area, as well as extra storage areas.

The Taranaki Tree Trust assisted funding for the protection of this valuable pa site. And thanks to Roy Komene and his Conservation Corps for their efforts in planting out the top of the pa and other open areas in *Coprosma robusta*.

Pentelow Covenant

The first covenant area in the Oaonui area is on the property of Len and Jenny Pentelow.

Their dairy farm, eight kilometres from the coast at

Continued on page 14

Kina Road, north of Opunake, has two newly protected areas of bush. One block is 3 hectares of semi-coastal forest, the second is 2.8 hectares of kahikatea and pukatea forest.

The semi-coastal forest is dominated by a 22 metre high canopy of tawa and kohekohe, and is surrounded by pines and macrocarpa planted by Len's grandfather and father Charles in the 1920s to protect the forest.

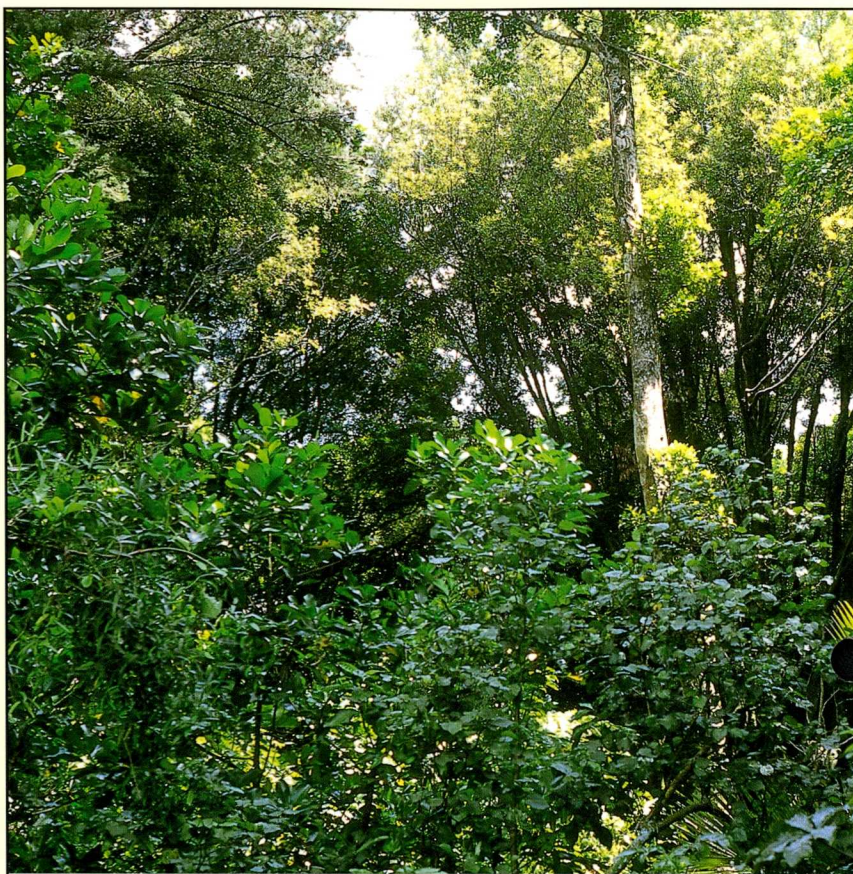
There is a remarkable diversity of ground cover species, as well as a dense subcanopy, with many climbers and epiphytes, as it has never been grazed.

"Dad was keen on seeing the bush protected, and that was why they fenced it and planted it. It was protected quite a bit from the salt winds," Len says.

"Since we have had a very intensive programme of possum eradication right throughout the whole district it has improved it still further."

It's only 200 metres away from Len and Jenny's front door, and it is looking very well, particularly as there haven't been any southerly gales bringing salt-laden winds for some time. "It's been years since we have had a really big blow."

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



Above: Healthy, dense sub canopy in the Pentelow covenant that has been deliberately planted around with pines and macrocarpa to protect it from salt winds. Two interesting species *Cassinia leptophylla* and the epiphytic *Pittosporum cornifolium* have been identified here. (Photo: Bill Messenger)

The bush is home to quite a few pigeons, particularly in summer when the tawa berries are ripe, tui and the odd bellbird on occasion.

The kahikatea/pukatea forest has a high water table, and two interesting species *Cassinia leptophylla* and the epiphytic *Pittosporum cornifolium*, have been identified here. The small leaved *Coprosma tenuicaulis* is very common throughout the shrub layer of the covenant, particularly in open areas.

The Trust helped Len and Jenny fence this area, and now it is recovering quite well.

An adjacent 200 metres of riparian area has been planted with help from the Taranaki Tree Trust, with koromiko, coprosmas and flax going into the very wet area.

The Taranaki Tree Trust assisted with funding for the protection of this remnant.

Cassie Covenant

Small, but ecologically significant, the 1 hectare Cassie Covenant at Otako contains swamp maire with other podocarps and broadleaved species.

Protected by Tom and Patricia Cassie, the covenant was identified as a recommended area for protection.

Approximately 35% of the area is swamp maire, some of which are very large.

There is a very wide range of species in the remainder, including kamahi, kahikatea, tawa, pigeonwood, mahoe, rimu and miro.

The canopy of the bush is intact, and the area is wet throughout the year. Nearby are the Took covenant and Blue Rata Scenic Reserve.

The Taranaki Tree Trust assisted with funding for the protection of this remnant.

Lepper Covenant

Taranaki Tree Trust funding made this forest covenant possible on land owned by Rose and Steven Lepper.

The Leppers, who live at Wortley Road, eight kilometres north of Inglewood, have a new covenant over two areas totalling almost 4 hectares.

One block is tawa and kohekohe forest, while the second includes titoki as well. The two remnants are healthy, and being well managed by the Leppers who have kept stock out of them for at least seven years.

"The forests are great, and a lot of the undergrowth is coming back," Rose says. They've planted suitable tree species around the periphery of the blocks too.

Gisborne

Milligan Covenant

Five hectares of mature kahikatea on an alluvial terrace beside the Waihora River near Te Karaka have been protected by Brian Milligan and his family.

Extraordinarily rare in the Gisborne district, the forest is identified as a recommended area for protection. Besides the fine stand of kahikatea, there are dense areas of tawa and titoki in the canopy. Other species include totara, mahoe, pate, lacebark and kowhai along the river margin. It is superb bird habitat too.

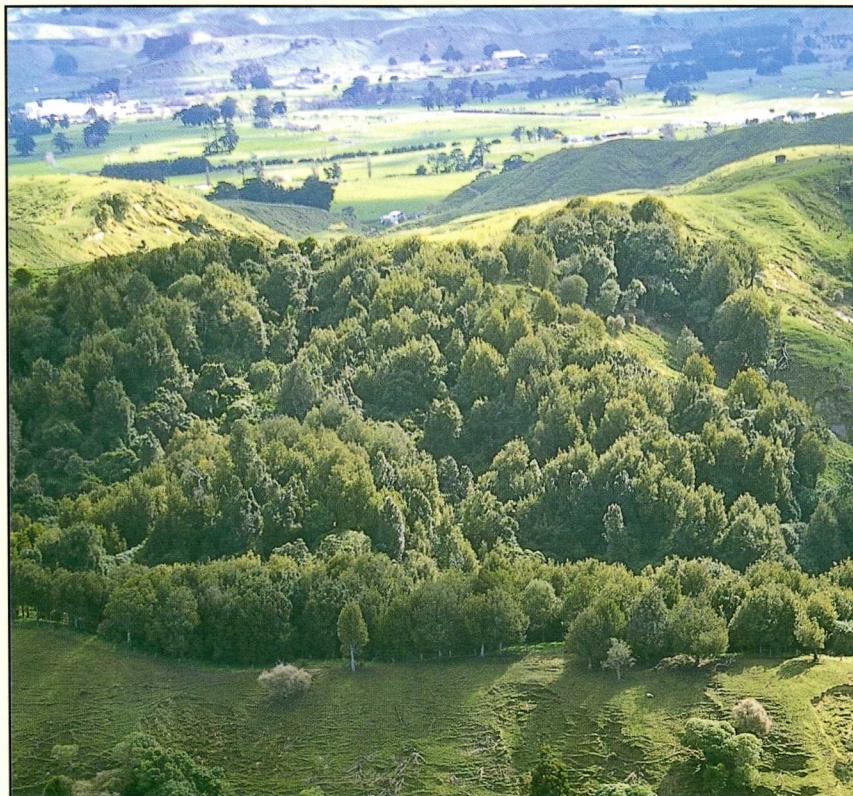
Flooding destroyed the fencing in the past, allowing stock to wander in and deplete the understorey. Today, with the Trust's help to finance replacement fencing, the regeneration is slowly taking place as it remains undisturbed.

In one corner of the bush there is a tree planted with a name plate on it for each man from the district who lost his life in World War II. Unfortunately,

their names are becoming hard to read, but it is a wonderful idea from a caring community.

Regional Representative Malcolm Piper says there is a

sequence of other smaller covenants nearby, including the Charteris, Manuel and Kirkpatrick and McLean covenants.



Above: Patches of bush as large as this covenant on the Percy property are rare in the hard hill country of the Wairarapa. Groenendijk Bush is dominated by tawa, with areas of pukatea in the gully floors and some rewarewa appearing above the lower tier hardwoods. (Photo: John Kirby)

Wairarapa

Percy Covenant

Dale and Wynne Percy have named the larger of their two new covenants Groenendijk Bush after their local soil conservator, who encouraged them to fence the six hectares of regenerating forest.

They farm hard hill country on Dews Road, Pahiatua, and, like many of the eastern hills in the Wairarapa, the hills of their farm are notoriously bare of tree life - except for these marvellous blocks.

"To find an area of this size in the hills is so rare that by my calculation it represents one in a hundred square kilometres," Regional Representative John Kirby says.

Groenendijk Bush is mixed

hardwood forest dominated by tawa, with areas of pukatea in the gully floors and some rewarewa appearing above the lower tier hardwoods. The margins of this block are quite open, with juvenile manuka, rewarewa and matipo regenerating strongly.

The second area of two hectares is a forest remnant containing rata, rimu, pigeonwood, hinau and kahikatea. In an area where old man's beard is a constant problem the family are dedicated to its eradication in their bush areas. They also fenced the bush areas within a year of purchasing the two blocks."

Covenantor Arthur Waugh encouraged the Percys to approach the National Trust to help with protection of these remnants.

Wairarapa cont'd

Le Grove & Ravenwood Covenants

Only a few kilometres southwest of Riversdale Beach, John and Dianne Le Grove and Jeff and Shirley Ravenwood have protected two areas of bush at Fernglen totalling 57.4 hectares.

The largest area is a mix of manuka, putaputaweta, five-finger and rangiora on a steep, south-facing slope.

There are dense stands of black beech, and many beech seedlings amongst the shrub

layers. In the wetter gullies there is strong regeneration of a hardwood and rimu complex says Regional Representative John Kirby.

The second area, a very steep south-west slope with skeletal soils is almost pure black beech surrounded by a dense, impenetrable layer of mingimingi, manuka, kanuka and five-finger.

The Wellington Regional Council assisted with fencing funding for the new covenant.

Below: From left: John and Dianne Le Grove, with Jeff & Shirley Ravenwood and junior helper. (Photo: John Kirby)



Nga Puka Trust Covenant

Six forest remnants, adding up to 69 hectares, have been protected on Nga Puka, the easy to rolling hill country property of the Mead family at Alfredton on the Castlehill Road.

Regional Representative John Kirby says these are relatively large bush areas in an area where such habitat is scarce. "Much of the bush is regenerating after decades of stock pressure, but some areas are still large enough to form a representative complex in the Eastern Wairarapa."

The farm is part of the head-

waters of the Tauweru River, which often floods, causing major problems downstream.

"The protected bush areas represent a considerable benefit for erosion control and wildlife habitat, and they have the potential to regenerate into a complex ecosystem.

"Some of the blocks are remnants of larger areas cleared under the Land Development Encouragement Loans of the late 1970s."

"The 7 hectare Shed bush area was the first to be closed up in 1982, and is well on the way to becoming a rich and complex system", John says. It is on a

sheltered slope with rimu, tawa, kahikatea, and rewarewa growing rampantly.

Other areas are Koromiko Corner, a large area of regenerating bush, and Anzac, a two hectare ribbon of mature kahikatea along a creek edge. Tiswell's includes dense stands of horopito, and two other small blocks are a mix of podocarps and hardwoods."

The Nga Puka covenant areas are close to the Nga Rata Station covenants which total 78 hectares.

Ashby Covenant

Protecting an 8 hectare woodland was part of a soil and water conservation plan drawn up for Ponatahi farm "The Downs" owned by the Ashby family.

The woodland lies in a north-facing gully and contains mixed hardwoods, with rewarewa emerging through the 15 metre high canopy. It also contains mahoe, ngaio and titoki, with a border of kanuka.

It is easy to see the new covenant from Millers Road. The Fountaine and Reid covenants are nearby.

McKenzie Covenant

This small block is a portion of the larger Tiraumea River riparian forest at Forest Flat near Eketahuna. Bruce and Ian McKenzie's new covenant over 1 hectare of forest protects the flora and fauna in perpetuity.

Predominantly mature totara, kahikatea and matai, with a single rimu tree, it has a subcanopy of kowhai, mahoe, juvenile lancewood and lacebarks.

The larger forest forms part of the four kilometre long strip from Burling Bush to below the Forest Flat Scenic Reserve. It is hoped that adjoining owners will in time agree to protect forest areas on their properties.

Manawatu and Wanganui

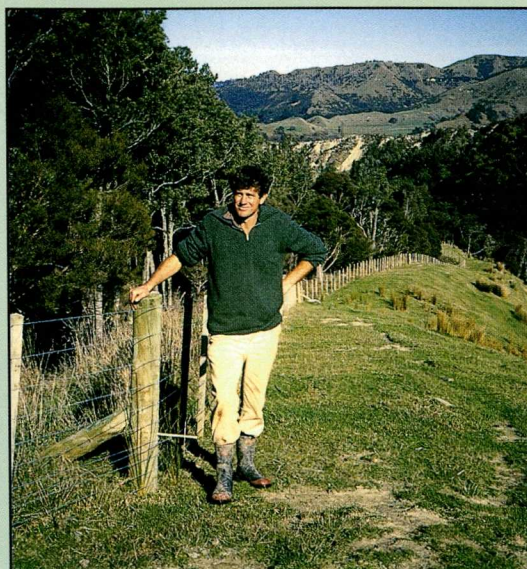
Collins Covenant

Andrew Collins, who already has a fine open space covenant with the National Trust, has protected a second area of 15 hectares on his remote Creek Road property, 13km from Mangamahu.

On heavily dissected hill country, the bush is on a face so steep only a small part could be accessed by

stock. It is immediately below the 699 metre high Mangamahu trig. It appears that part of it was burnt 50 years ago. Goats have also been a problem in the past.

Despite its steepness and erosion-prone nature, the covenanted land has a cover of kahikatea, rata, miro, rewarewa, black maire, rimu, tawa and a strong subcanopy.



Above: Andrew Collins at Creek Road.

Rolston Covenant

This six hectare covenant was initiated in 1992 by former Regional Representative Eddie Suckling with owners John and Beverley Powell.

It has taken a while, and Brent and Sarah Rolston are the third owners since the Powells to own Rangitawa Farm, but now it is complete.

Their farm is 20km north of Feilding, on Pryces Line in the Kakariki district. Their bush on flat land at the entrance to their historic homestead, is mainly totara, along with ngaio, kanuka, manuka, miro, tawa, titoki, hinau, matai, kahikatea, tarata and kawakawa.

This covenant is slightly different as the drive from the road to the homestead passes through the middle of the covenant, and is lined in part with mature rhododendrons.

That the soils are of high natural fertility is indicated by the presence of species like matai, titoki, kowhai, Melicytus micranthus, kaikomako, Rubus schmidelioides and Parsonsia capsularis.

Easily seen from Pryces Line, the bush had a quite serious tradescantia problem, which has been addressed by a weed

control programme. Other weeds of issue include cathedral bells, wisteria and banana passionfruit. This invasion is currently the subject of a trial eradication programme being conducted by a research graduate from Massey University and an agricultural weed control company.

Because it has been fenced from livestock for many years, the forest is in much better condition than most other forest remnants in the district.

Otago

Koons Covenant

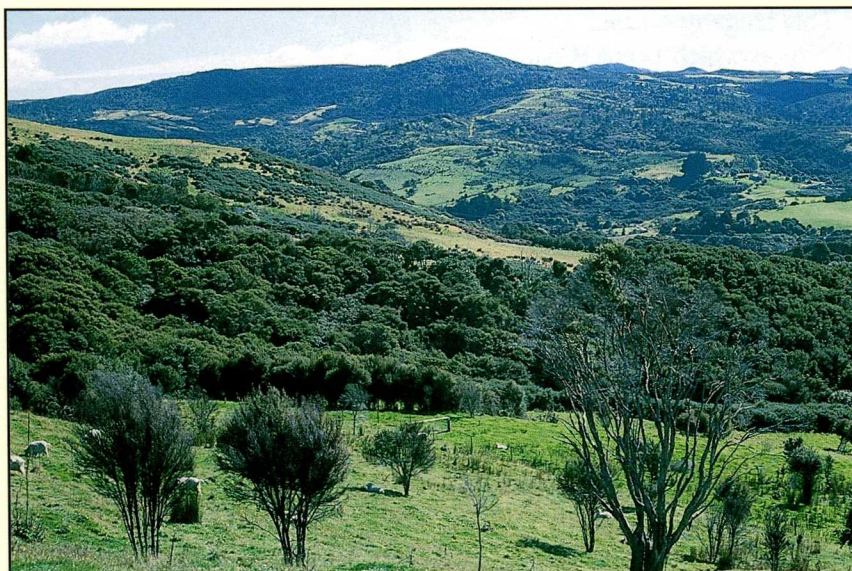
Two areas of broadleaf forest totalling 5.6 hectares have been

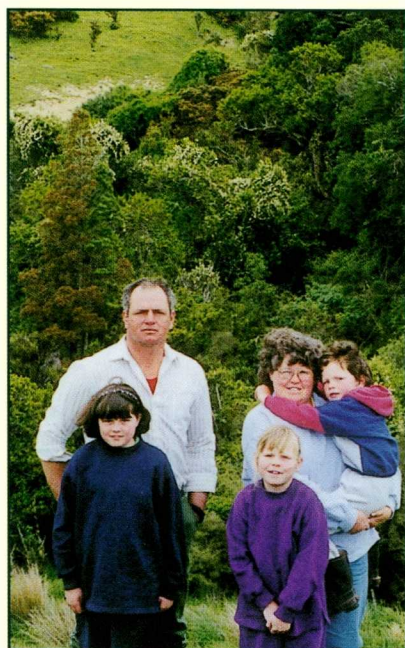
covenanted by Jean and Peter Koons at Pigeon Flat, Waitati, just north of Dunedin.

The bush is quite close to State Highway One, on the left hand side of the road heading north. Glimpses of Blueskin Bay, Waitati can be seen from the land.

The covenant has been under action for some years. The bush contains rimu, kanuka, totara, lacebark, horopito, and the occasional silver beech. Logged at the turn of the century, it had a history of grazing before the Koons bought the property.

Below: The Koons covenant is close to State Highway One on the inland side just north of Dunedin.





Above: The MacPherson family with their new covenant in the background. (Photo: Gay Munro)

MacPherson Covenant

Three small podocarp silver beech remnants in the southeast corner of the Taringatura Hills near Winton have been protected by Russell and Carol MacPherson.

They farm sheep on a large Oreti River flood-plain property at South Hillend, which runs up to the low hills at the end of the Taringaturas. These covenant areas, adding up to 3.3 hectares, have been cut over in the past, but good numbers of kahikatea, matai, totara and pokaka remain.

This block was purchased in 1996, at which point Russell immediately approached the National Trust seeking protection for the remaining bush. He looks upon these areas as the family's inheritance. Both the Day and McDonald covenants are nearby. Although the once forested Taringatura Hills are now predominantly in pine plantation, the covenanting of these three additional remnants means that most of the native bush remaining in the district is now protected in perpetuity.

Covenant Clippings

Welcome to new Trust staff

Cathie Bolam is the National Trust's secretary/receptionist in head office. She and her partner Jason have two children: Daniel, five, and Benjamin two. Cathie started work in April, replacing Lenore Duffy.

Ecologist **Gerry Kessels** is the Trust's newest Regional Representative. The Waikato region, previously taken care of by Tim Oliver, has been split in two. Gerry is now looking after the west from Port Waikato to Awakino and across to just east of Hamilton. Tim retains the eastern Waikato region.

From a Waotu farming family, Gerry has been working as a natural resource consultant throughout New Zealand.

He started with the Trust on October 7. "I feel very fortunate to work for the National Trust, and I'm in awe of Tim Oliver's work and the obvious respect he has from the landowners."

While working part-time for the Trust, Gerry will be completing his masters thesis on "the



Above: Gerry Kessels

co-operative management versus regulation of protected areas in rural communities". He's using the Whangamarino wetland as a case-study.

Gerry and his wife Helen Percy and 13 month old son Taio, live near Mt Pirongia, where Gerry says they are above the fog-line for most of the year.

Dr Brian Molloy has been engaged by the Trust as part-time Regional Representative with responsibility for the South Island high country. Brian, who in March completed a full nine years on the Trust Board, is well respected for his extensive knowledge of high country conservation matters.

OPEN SPACE COVENANTS

As at 5 November 1998, there were 1,194 registered covenants totalling 45,839 hectares with a further 286 areas approved and proceeding towards registration. The breakdown by Land District (which differs from our Regional Representatives' boundaries) is as follows:

LAND DISTRICT	NUMBER	TOTAL AREA (HA)
North Auckland	250	4,667
South Auckland	277	7,552
Gisborne	59	8,520
Hawkes Bay	53	1,522
Taranaki	78	2,424
Wellington	200	10,028
Marlborough	8	550
Nelson	56	1,730
Westland	6	180
Canterbury	95	3,086
Otago	43	3,910
Southland	73	1,667
	1,194	45,839

High Country covenants

The enactment of the Crown Pastoral Lands Act 1998 will have little effect on the National Trust's involvement in the South Island high country.

The new Act enables Crown pastoral lessees to seek a tenure review. Following a review freeholding of all or part of a leaseholding may be allowed subject to land with significant inherent values being retained by the Crown or other natural areas on land to be freeholded

protected by way of covenant.

There are currently 10 registered high country open space covenants on both freehold and pastoral leasehold land. There are a number of other approved covenants being processed towards registration.

With the advent of the opportunity for tenure review, the Trust has decided, in agreement with the landholders, not to progress whole property covenant proposals over Crown pastoral leaseholdings. Covenant proposals for discrete sites on leasehold properties will continue to be considered by the Trust.

There has been some misunderstanding by parties critical of Trust involvement in the high country that covenants are not a secure form of protection. This is not the case, as with all open space covenants, once in place the land concerned is protected in perpetuity, notwithstanding changes in tenure or ownership.

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Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

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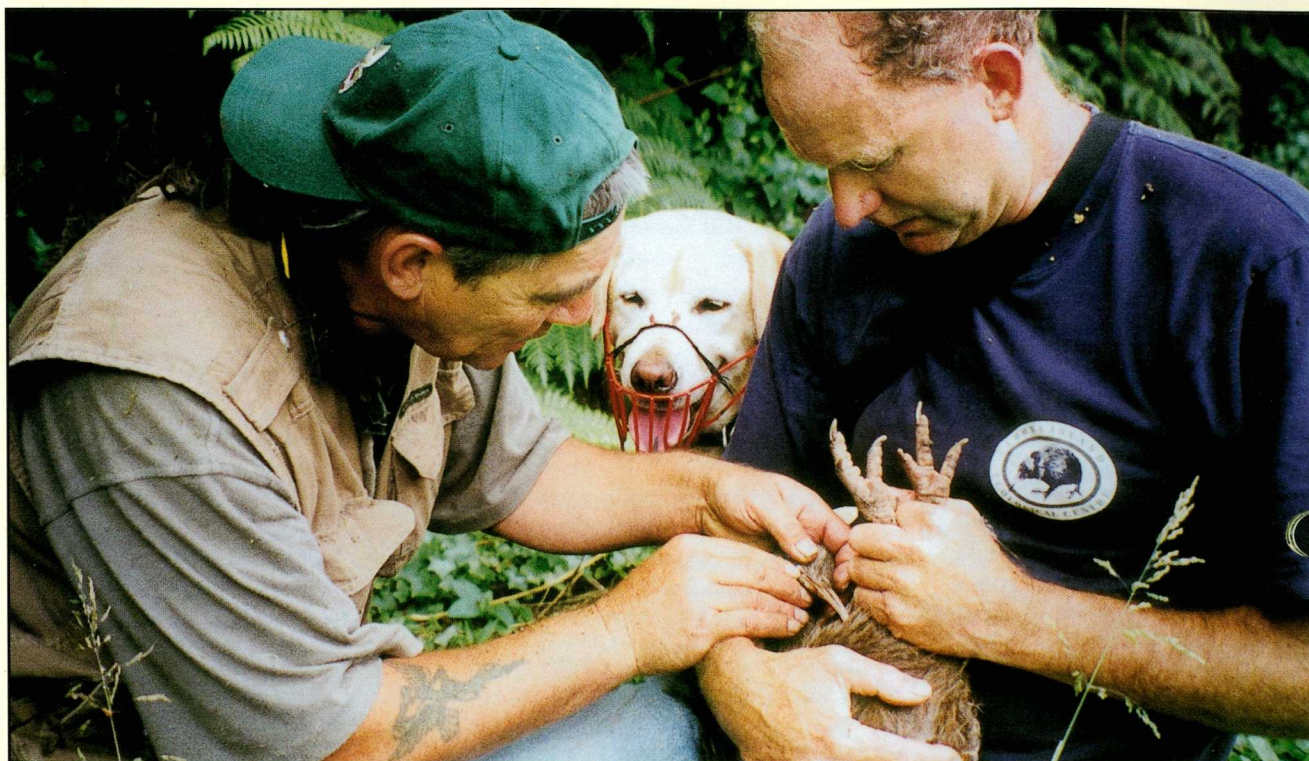
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Kiwi Protection at Aroha Island



Above: DoC's Waipoua kiwi specialist Tom Herbert (left), kiwi dog Emma and Aroha Island manager Greg Blunden checking on the health of a North Island Brown kiwi. (Photo: Gay Blunden)

Meet the new managers

Greg and Gay Blunden are the new managers of Aroha Island, the National Trust property located near Kerikeri in the Bay of Islands.

The island joined to the mainland by causeway is part of a significant remnant area of North Island brown kiwi habitat.

The Aroha Island Ecological Centre serves as a "shop-front" for the National Trust where the public can learn about Trust activities, the plight of Kiwi and other endangered birds, the need for habitat protection and pest management, and revegetation.

Aroha also offers holiday accommodation so visitors may enjoy Kiwi calls and other night sounds, or just have a peaceful vacation. It is a delightful place, practically surrounded by the tidal waters of the Kerikeri Inlet and only minutes from blue water downstream and historic Kerikeri upstream.

Both Greg and Gay wanted to

move north for some time but employment options are limited in Northland.

But as Greg put it, "we knew as soon as we drove across the causeway and on to Aroha that we would take the job if it was offered".

Unusual career paths lead Greg and Gay to be well-qualified to manage Aroha. Greg worked 15 years in construction in New Zealand and United Kingdom before taking on a degree course at Auckland University. Little did he realise that he would still be at the university ten years and three degrees later.

After completing a Masters thesis on Labour Relations and a PhD comparing corporate and family farming in dairying and pipfruit and several teaching contracts in the Geography Department, Greg joined a four year Foundation for Science, Research & Technology-funded project on "The sustainability of land-based production and rural

communities in Northland".

The project focused on land use change and resource management issues within the context of sustainability and the considerable change in the make-up of rural communities. The irrigation of dairy pastures, the increase in forestry, sustainable land management, the Resource Management Act, cannabis production, and habitat protection on private land were some of the key issues that Greg has researched and written about during this project.

Greg continued to co-direct this research project during 1998 while based at Aroha - one reason why he and Gay share the management of Aroha. Greg and Gay feel strongly that managing Aroha is a two-person job.