



Queen Elizabeth II

**National Trust**

For open space in New Zealand

*Nga Kairauhi Papa*

# Open Space

No 47, March 2000

## Tairoa Wetlands

*Wairarapa covenant forms part of 1467 hectare home to rare and migratory waterfowl and waders*

Lake Wairarapa, and the surrounding wetlands, is considered to be of international importance as habitat for waterfowl and wading birds. There are resident rarities such as the bittern and spotless crane, and summer visitors from the Arctic, including eastern golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, and sharp-tailed sandpiper.

The 216 hectare Tairoa wetlands form part of the extensive Lake Wairarapa wetland, which covers 1467 hectares in the lower Wairarapa.

The Tairoa wetlands are within a property that has been in the Donald family since the

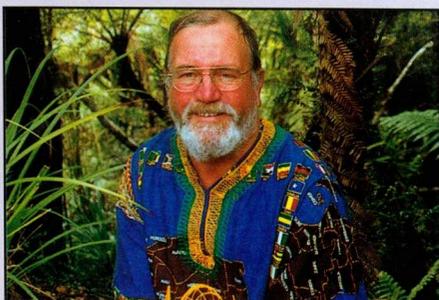


Above: Barry's Puddle, one of the open water areas in the new covenant.

1860's, when James Donald, great grandfather of present owner and covenantor, Jane Gillett, settled in the district. Jane's father is remembered for the 162 hectare J.K. Donald Reserve, on the southern boundary of Tairoa. Family ties to this land will continue when the next generation takes over the farm in the near future.

The Tairoa wetlands are protected by a whole title covenant designed to protect and enhance the wetland ecosystem as a habitat for wildlife, whilst allowing traditional farming activities to continue on the drier parts of the property. Much of the

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property is grazed pasture, but this is often rough and seasonally very wet. The wet pasture grades into fertile swamps and areas of open water, such as Haywards Lagoon and Barry's Puddle.

Lake Wairarapa and its shores have a complex pattern of plant communities.

At Tairoa wetlands, raupo dominates in the swamps, but there are beds of other native plants such as water milfoil, large species of sedge, jointed rush, and exotic plants including water purslane. Extensive areas of flax, toetoe, manuka, cabbage tree and *Coprosma propinqua* grow between the swamps.

One of the reasons for the covenant is the real danger that the Wairarapa wetlands will rapidly disappear unless action is taken in the near future.

*"...real danger that the Wairarapa wetlands will rapidly disappear unless action is taken in the near future. . ."*

Much of the eastern shore has been invaded by willows, and silt and coarse materials carried down by the Tauherenikau River are helping to build up ridges and dry out the lake edge.

At Tairoa, the involvement of the Trust has enabled a start to be made on willow control, and the local Conservation Corps has helped in raupo removal from the open waters of the Haywards Lagoon.

Fortunately, the lagoons on Tairoa are supplied with water by a stream which can be diverted through the wetland complex. Grazing has also been restricted in the areas most promising for restoration, and there is an obvious resurgence of native species such as cabbage trees and kahikatea.

# Congratulations

## New Year's Honours List

The following Trust covenantors were recipients of awards in the New Year honours list.

- Sir Rodney Gallen (of Hawke's Bay) was made a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services as a judge of the High Court from 1983 to 1999.
- Robin McKenzie (of Waikanae) was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to physiotherapy.

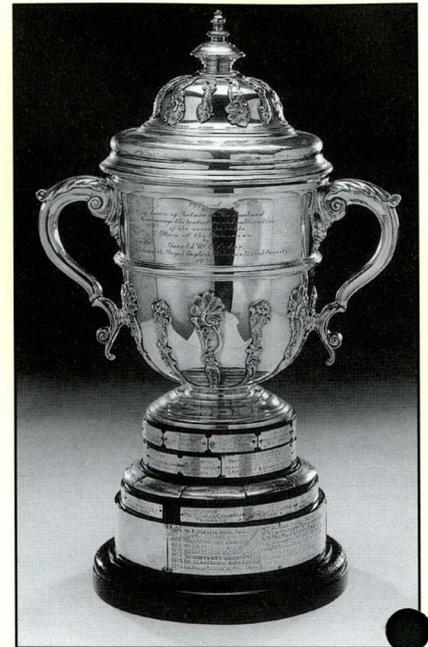
- Val and Arthur Dunn (of Puhoi) both received the Queen's Service Medal for public service, in particular for their contribution to conservation.

## Loder Cup and Old Blue

Chris and Brian Rance, two Southland covenantors who have given so much of their time to conservation issues, have been justly rewarded, both with the Loder Cup, New Zealand's premier award for work with native plants, and an Old Blue, an annual award presented by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

## Southland Regional Council Environmental Awards

Congratulations to covenantor Warwick Day, of South Hillend, who was joint winner in the farm section of the 1999 awards.



Above: The prestigious Loder Cup.

## Northland Conservation Awards

Geoff Wightman (Trust covenantor), of Waimate North, was a recipient of a conservation award from the Department of Conservation.

The National Trust has benefited from support from Geoff and his wife, Pat, over the years, especially through their contribution to the revegetation of Aroha Island.

## Awhitu Environmental Awards

Paul and Stella Christofferson (Trust covenantors) of Waiuku won the overall award at the recent Awhitu environmental awards. Arthur Dunn, who was a judge for the awards, said that the Christoffersons' bush blocks were looking wonderful. Paul and Stella had been undertaking extensive pest control and had eliminated some 300 magpies.

# A touch of Westland out East

## Catlins' Covenants

By Helen Clarke

The Catlins Coast is not well known nationally, but it is the region where, among other features, there are the most significant remaining stands of lowland rain forest on the east coast of the South Island.

As described by Neville Peat in his recently published book *The Catlins and the Southern Scenic Route* "It is a touch of Westland out east - rugged,

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*Below: Mabels Bush on the edge of Tahakopa estuary is one of the two new covenants near the settlement of Papatowai.*

*(Photo: Helen Clarke)*



*Above: Covenant enthusiasts Mary and Fergus Sutherland are among the volunteers who will assist with weed and pest control.*

forested, moist and not big on towns or tarseal".

Two blocks of land owned by the Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust (PFHT) have recently been covenanted in this area. The locally-based PFHT was established in 1986 to "promote and encourage the protection

and preservation of the indigenous flora and fauna of the Catlins area".

The two covenants are on the edge of the Tahakopa Estuary near Papatowai. Shanks Bush is 2 ha of intact podocarp forest, estuarine edge and regenerating

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forest beside SH 92, while Mabels Bush is a 0.2 ha section of broadleaved forest within the settlement of Papatowai.

The acquisition and protection of these areas will ensure that as the settlement of Papatowai develops there will always be some areas of indigenous forest

*"...education about forest care and restoration is to be a focus for the areas. . ."*

close at hand.

Education about forest care and restoration is to be a focus for the areas.

Conservation volunteers, visitors and locals will be encouraged to assist and much work has been done. Weed and pest control will be taught as well.

Spearheading the care of the covenants and their use as an education tool are Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust members Mary and Fergus Sutherland.

This vibrant couple are strong advocates for the protection of wildlife, native habitats and the special qualities of the Catlins region.

They run popular two to three day eco-tours in the region including bush walks and visits to isolated beach areas.

Much of the forest in the Catlins is now part of the Crown conservation estate and looked after by the Department of Conservation. In addition, the Lenz Reserve, owned by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, protects 550 ha of bush and wetland at Tautuku, and there are the existing Cullen and McGill covenants on the northern boundary of the district.

There remain, however, significant areas of unprotected bush and wetland in private ownership. The National Trust hopes it will be able to assist more landowners to protect further land with natural values in the district.

The official opening of the Papatowai covenants is planned for Friday, 24th March at 2.00pm.

## Thanks from the Chief Executive

Thank you to all those who have welcomed me to the Trust and for the support since my arrival.

It has been a very interesting period learning about the role of the Trust and how we go about our business.

I look forward to working closely with all involved during 2000 and beyond.

I feel strongly that the Trust is entering a new and very positive phase of its growth, especially as the principles of the draft Biodiversity Strategy find their way into mainstream conservation, commerce and society generally.

I wish you well in 2000.

**Tim Cossar**

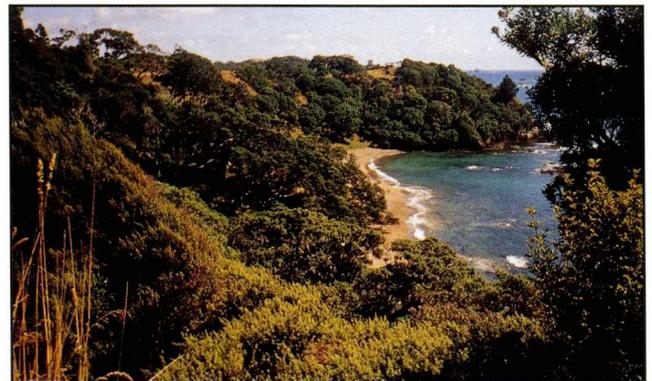
**Support our work.  
Join the  
National Trust**

## Accommodation Available

A most desirable dwelling at Tauwhara Bay, Whananaki North, Northland is available to a mature custodian or custodians.

The dwelling - comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and usual service rooms - is sited with unsurpassed sea views and nestled within magnificent coastal forest.

Persons interested in more information or wishing to discuss occupancy arrangements should contact John Williams, telephone (09) 4027 232 weekends.



# Strategic Planning

## Care needed to maximise National Trust's scarce resources

Most organisations need to plan, reassess direction and position themselves for changing environments in which they operate.

The National Trust is one such organisation. It needs to plan carefully to maximise the use of its limited financial, human and other resources.

A new strategic direction and options plan currently being developed by directors and staff is designed to bring a focus to Trust activities over the next three to five years.

At the time of writing, the early stages of the research and planning process have been completed. This has largely revolved around directors, staff and regional representatives providing their input into what they view as central issues to the plan.

This exercise has been very useful to me, especially given my relatively short time with the Trust.

It will be enhanced further when staff, regional representatives and directors are invited to contribute to the plan's development at a series of workshops between late January and March.

It is already apparent that a group of issues will become the headlines for any plan. In no particular order at this stage,

these are:

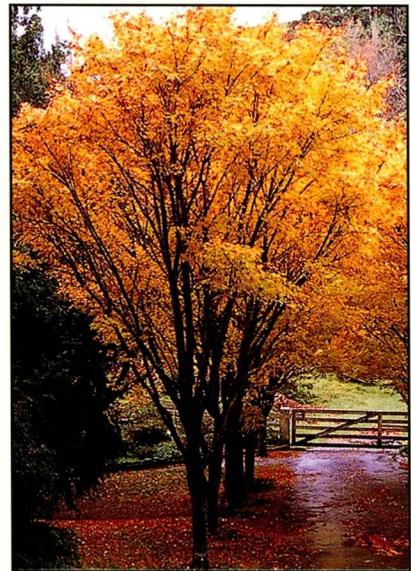
- General philosophical considerations relating to the Trust's core values and statutory mandate, and how we can do things more effectively.
- Funding and financial considerations.
- Marketing, public relations and communications.
- Reviewing the covenant process and covenant management.
- Networking and external relationships.
- The role of the regional representative.

Obviously there is a significant amount to consider under each of the above headings - that's our challenge over the next few months.

Our aim is to have the plan operative by July 2000.

I would welcome input from covenantors and Trust members on any strategic issues you would like embodied in the plan and that you think are critical to the Trust. Don't hesitate to write, phone, fax or email me.

- **Tim Cossar**  
**Chief Executive**



Above: Autumn colour at Tupare.

## Coming Events at Tupare and Hollard Gardens

**March 11th, 7.00 pm at Hollard Gardens** "A Bit of a Celtic Do" - Instrumental music in the Celtic tradition by Celia Briar and Mary Hubble (Celtic harp and flute). Tickets are \$17 single, \$30 double (refreshments included). Phone 06 7646 544 or 06 7646 616 (evenings).

**March 24th, 7.30 pm at Tupare.** Gardens Unlimited presents John Nelson speaking on "From the past to the future".

In the past decade, John Nelson and Tim Smit have restored the "Lost Garden of Heligan". Heligan is in Cornwall, England, and is the finest example of a living museum of 19th Century horticulture. It has been classed as one of the 12 Great Gardens of Europe and attracts 350,000 visitors per year. Tickets \$25, available from Palmers Gardenworld.

**May 14th, 11am-4 pm at Tupare.** Tupare Autumn Fair. A celebration of autumn colour coupled with music, family entertainment and refreshments.

# Caution over possum bait use



Above: Trapping may again become the main method of possum control.

**R**ecent scientific research has highlighted some areas of concern about the use of a poison used by land managers to control possums.

The poison is brodifacoum (bro-dif-a-koom) sold under the names Talon and Pestoff. This

poison is widely used in New Zealand, its popularity relating to ease of use, availability without a licence, and effectiveness.

However, concerns have been raised over residual traces of brodifacoum found in non-target animals including wild pigs, feral

deer, weka, kiwi and morepork. These residuals relate to the long time (up to 9 months) that brodifacoum remains active in killed animals, in animals receiving a sub-lethal dose, and in the ground. The action of the poison and the method of delivery exacerbate the risks of residue.

Brodifacoum is an anti-coagulant agent and causes death to animals over a period of time (typically 20 days in possums and rats, which are most susceptible).

Brodifacoum in cereal bait is usually delivered via stations that are maintained full for one week and removed for two to three weeks. During the time when baits are available, possums can eat more than is needed for a lethal dose. Rats can collect and store quantities too.

The Department of Conservation has recently decided to phase out the use of brodifacoum. Their use is low because the department uses other techniques (1080, cyanide, and trapping) that are more effective over large areas.

But for private land managers, ceasing use of brodifacoum before there is a readily available alternative may not be practical or good management.

In fact, in recent research reporting on the effect of this poison on kiwi, the benefits of continuing control (through increased kiwi chick survival) exceeded the poisoning risks.

Brodifacoum may soon be subject to restrictions on its use. Work is underway to find alternatives and it is likely one will be available within months.

Meanwhile, follow the guidelines opposite, or contact your Regional Council or local Department of Conservation for further information.

## REDUCE THE RISK

Four sensible principles to follow when using pesticides or visiting an area where they have been used.

- **Follow the manufacturer's or Regional Council instructions over the handling, use, and particularly the quantities.**
- **Use bait stations and follow instructions as to their location. Stations are designed to prevent animals other than rats and possums accessing bait.**
- **Do not take animals (pig, deer) for eating from areas where brodifacoum has been used within 18 months of control operations.**
- **Prevent children, dogs and stock from accessing areas with brodifacoum possum control operations.**

*For further information, contact:*

*Department of Conservation,  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington.  
Phone (04) 471 0726.*

# Recently registered covenants



Above: Looking across Kauri Bay towards the Hapu Kotare covenant near the Wairoa River estuary.

Below: A dense stand of ponga and putaputaweta in the Lett covenant.

## Auckland

### Hapu Kotare Covenant

Kauri Bay, in the Hauraki Gulf, is a muddy, saltmarsh embayment in the outer Wairoa River estuary. A fringe of coastal foreshore forest and associated wetlands adjoining Kauri Bay are part of the farm property of Hapu Kotare. Stan Carwardine, of Hapu Kotare Ltd, has been instrumental in protecting over 24 hectares of this coastal fringe by Trust covenant.

The protected area includes the best and most extensive mangroves in the locality, as well as a stand of high quality pohutukawa forest.

A prime objective of the covenant is to improve the habitat for wildlife. The forest, mangroves and saltmarsh already provide valuable forage and roosting sites for a variety of birds, including NZ dotterel, white-faced heron and banded rail. Stan has undertaken an extensive planting programme

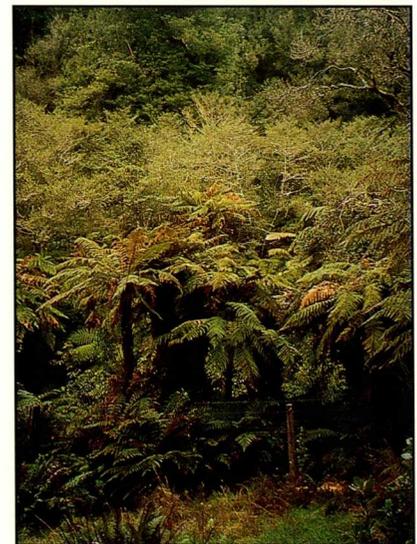
to enhance the habitat, and is to be congratulated for his energy and vision in ensuring that protection has taken place.

## Bay of Plenty

### Lett Covenant

Nearly 7.5 hectares of indigenous podocarp forest on the slopes of the Kaimai Ranges are protected on Adrienne Lett's lifestyle property.

Despite being logged in the past, the forest has regenerated and is in a healthy condition. It includes a high proportion of tall tawa. The understorey comprises a surprising number of species, considering the block



has been open to grazing in the past. Of note are putaputaweta, which is unusually abundant, and ramarama.

The forest is highly visible from State Highway 29.

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



## East Coast

### Dixon and McCallum Covenant

Northwest of Raupunga, on the Putere Road, Alfred Dixon and Rodney McCallum of Monarae Station have protected 146 hectares of podocarp forest.

Lying on the northern flank of Te Ihuorurumaioterangi, in the attractive rolling country of the

*Above: Forest and Bird are enthusiastic supporters of this strongly regenerating 146 hectare covenant on Monarae Station.*

Waiiau River catchment, this forest stand was recommended for protection by DoC in a report on the district.

Strong regeneration indicates the forest is recovering after grazing and logging operations damaged the once podocarp dominated forest.

Seedlings of matai, miro, totara and kahikatea and a high diversity of hardwood trees and shrubs are now thriving.

This all bodes well for the continued growth of the forest and for the food and shelter it provides for many native birds.

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society is an enthusiastic supporter of this covenant: Dick McMurray of Forest & Bird, who assisted the Trust in assessing the natural values of the area, notes the diversity is high in the forest and will improve with further management.

## Hawkes Bay

### Ferguson Covenant

Nearly eight hectares of riparian kanuka forest are protected on Rob and Lee Ferguson's property at the base of the Kaweka Range.

The forest fills a steep gully and includes a mix of shrub species among the dominant kanuka.

The long, narrow, winding shape of the gully meant that some 2.5 kilometres of new fencing was needed to secure it from stock.

A substantial grant from Hawke's Bay Regional Council towards fencing enabled this project to proceed.

To provide more practical boundaries, the new fence has enclosed some areas of pasture. Invading blackberry in these areas is a potential threat, but Rob and Lee are addressing this problem early on with judicious use of herbicides and revegetation plantings.

## Selling?

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, go through the covenant document and discuss ongoing management.

# Long battle to protect significant wetland

*Sewage, landfill and roading plans seen off*

## Wellington

*Smith: Te Harakiki Wetland Covenant*

A major new covenant with the Smith family of Waikanae has protected over 40 hectares of an exceptionally important wetland.

The Smith family, Maurice (Moss) and Patricia and their sons Jonathan, Terry and Mark, entered into a covenant over 43.7 hectares of Te Harakiki wetland on their property.

Registration of the covenant was finalised in July 1999 after negotiations extending over seven years.

Through the years, the Smith family has faced a number of threats to the wetland.

These have included approaches from the local authority wishing to acquire the land to extend an adjacent sewage treatment site and to develop a landfill. Part of the land has also been subject to proposals for roading.

Moss Smith was tenacious in defence of his property rights, being firm in what he wanted to achieve both for the present and the future.

Trust representatives through the negotiation period enjoyed the stimulation of consultation with the Smith family.

The resulting covenant is a testimony to the determination of Moss Smith who regrettably died in September 1999. His wife and family remain firmly



*Above: Covenantors Patricia and the late Maurice (Moss) Smith.  
Below: A healthy sward of wetland vegetation in the heart of the bush at the 43 hectare Te Harakiki covenant.*



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committed to protection of the wetland and are considering possible extension of the covenant area.

The Harakiki Swamp was originally a relatively large (120 hectare) wetland complex between Waikanae and Peka Peka, but changing land use, including subdivision for lifestyle smallholdings, has resulted in the loss of many of the ecological values in the northern portion of the wetland.

The Smith covenant has secured perpetual protection for the portion of the wetland south from the Waikanae sewage treatment plant.

The wetland was identified as a priority Recommended Area for Protection in the 1992 Foxton Ecological District Survey Report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme.

That report noted the importance of the vegetation sequence now protected by the covenant. The report described the sequence as follows:

“Open water (with some Pacific Azolla, a floating water fern) is invaded by raupo. Where it is slightly drier, toetoe becomes plentiful, with some flax.

The flax becomes dominant and its association with toetoe gets replaced by an association with small shrubs, particularly *Coprosma propinqua*.

In the south and east, the flax in turn gets replaced by trees, mostly mahoe but also ngaio and a few small kahikatea and rimu.

Though only a small remnant, the kahikatea-pukatea association in the dune hollow (reaching 14 m) with scattered ngaio, tawa, karaka and pokaka gives an indication of mature forest in this sequence. This sequence is *wet*, from open water to swamp forest.”

# Part of a wonderful lonely West Coast

By Philip Simpson

## *Kidson Covenant*

**K**orimako (bellbirds) call from the canopy of hard beech, and a tui celebrates with curious clicks from the red rata vine growing up the trunk. A kereru (woodpigeon) explodes from its berry-laden perch in the hinau. Everywhere the piwakawaka follow us, watching for insects from the disturbed bushes and ground. We walk carefully to avoid fungi, like the branched coral fungus and the beech forest bolete. We catch glimpses through the trees of towers of kiekie clothing the trunks of pukatea and northern rata in the swamp beyond.

This is the Kidson covenant, an almost impenetrable remnant of forest at Rakopi, northwest Nelson, where South African-born Jim Kidson has set aside part of his bush as a safe haven where all can live or visit in peace. In his words “it’s a sanctuary from development and disruption, where nature rules supreme”.

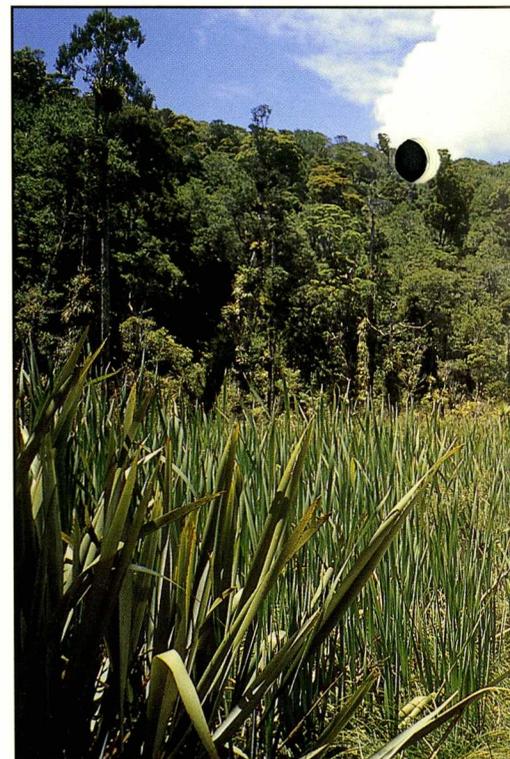
The 2.6 hectare covenant has three distinctive portions. The core is a swamp forest occupying the flat valley floor at the lower end of a stream. Around it flank the south and west-facing slopes of the hills, and above these are the drier ridges. The covenant fits within a much larger zone of original and regenerating bush, and benefits from the buffer this vegetation provides.

Jim says that covenanting his land is one of the most

significant things he has done. He says it is a joy to be able to protect a remnant of forest and wetland in a country where so much has been destroyed in greed or ignorance. He has covenanted all but 1.4 hectares of his bush and is building a low-impact cottage on this remaining land.

Why is Rakopi special? Northwest Nelson is, in general, a centre for biological diversity, especially in the highlands well above Jim’s place. But the lowland bush is distinctive too. While basically a warm temperate rain-forest with podocarps, broadleaved trees

“.. . A feature of the apparently primitive *pahaukakapo*, the ferns and spectacular thickets here



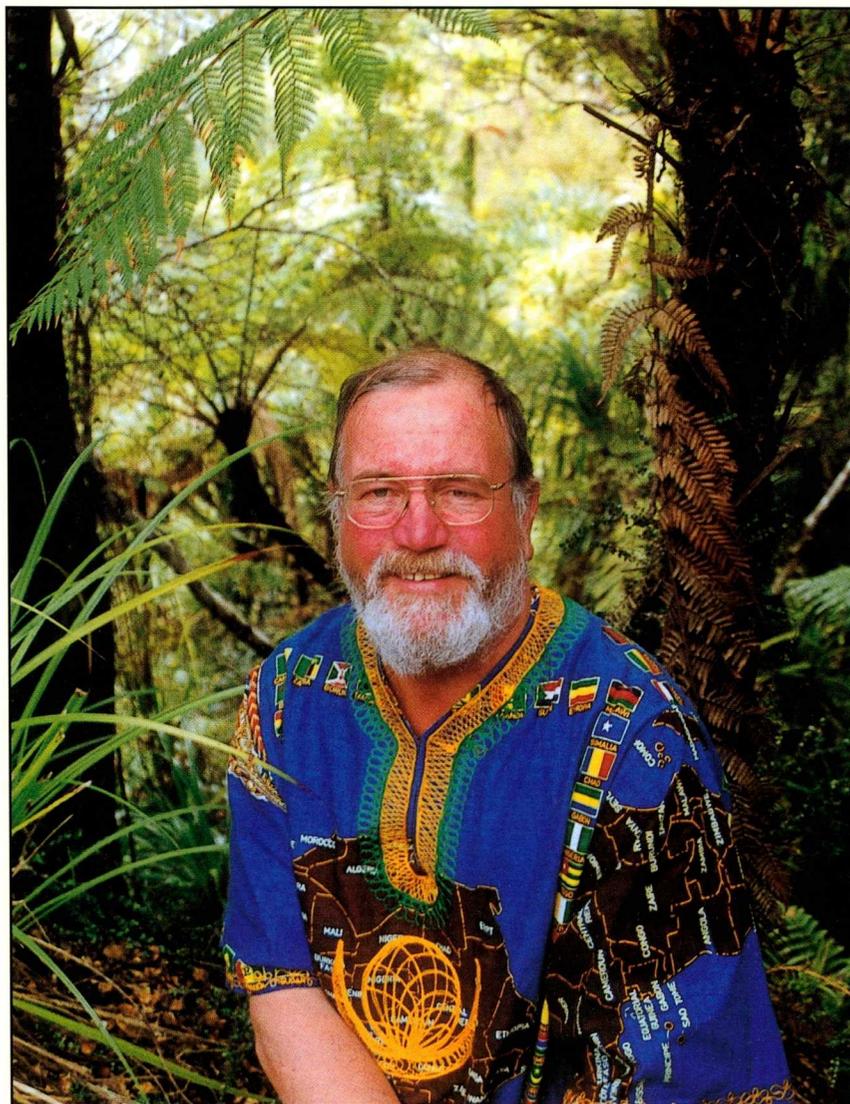
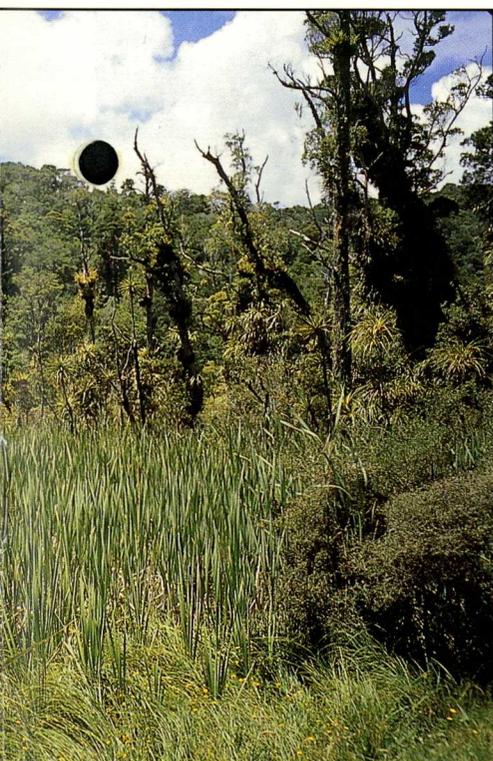
# rful wild landscape

and beech, its location reflects the benign climate that enables northern species to reach their southern limit here: celery pine (tanekaha), the cedar (kawaka) and toro *Myrsine salicina* are distinguished tree examples.

The lovely fern, *Blechnum fraseri*, forms miniature tree fern thickets across the forest floor, along with the rarely seen, soft, green shrub, toropapa *Alseuosmia pusilla*.

The bush has a mix of more southern, cool temperate species too: Westland quintinia (tawherowhero), kamahi, and neinei *Dracophyllum traversii*. There are coastal, lowland and

covenant is the many species. The giant moss and their allies which form beneath the hard beech. . ."



Above: Jim Kidson says covenanting is one of the most significant things he has done. Left: An almost impenetrable remnant of forest.

more montane species, shown dramatically by the hybrid swarms of both lowland and Hall's totara, and northern and southern rata.

A feature of the covenant is the many apparently 'primitive' species. The giant moss pahaukakapo *Dawsonia superba*; the ferns and their allies, *Tmesipteris*, *Lindsaya trichomanoides*, and the umbrella fern *Gleichenia cunninghamii* which forms spectacular thickets beneath the hard beech forest.

Understorey plants of horopito *Pseudowintera axillaris*, swamp margin thickets of hutu *Ascarina lucida*, and the wide range of podocarps (miro, rimu, totara, kahikatea and

yellow silver pine) all contribute to the feeling that one is walking in a genuine remnant of ancient Gondwana.

Jim's place is part of a wonderful, wild, lonely West Coast landscape. Visitors will be able to experience the quiet environment and see the unique combination of habitats and species that the area presents. But there's no hurry.

The forest survived logging and farming because of its terrain and climate, the very features that enhance its natural diversity.

It will all be here tomorrow now that its owner, who came here not to wrest a living, but to have a good life with the birds and trees, has protected it.

## Otago

### *Cullen Covenant*

On Neil and Pamela Cullen's property in the Glenomaru Valley, on the northern edge of the Catlins, 90 hectares of regenerating indigenous podocarp/broadleaved forest, in two blocks, are protected by a Trust covenant.

The larger block, on the northern side of the valley, is adjacent to Glenomaru Valley Road and Glenomaru Valley Scenic Reserve. The podocarp forest, with rata, kamahi and broadleaf, includes *Pseudopanax edgerleyi* and excellent populations of tree fern.

The second block is on the drier, south side of the valley and has been subject to grazing in the past. This forest includes a variety of podocarp and broadleaved species.

Both blocks have an excellent long-term future. They are vigorous and there are no exotic pest plants. Good management has kept possum damage to a minimum and bird life in the forest is prolific.

# Covenantors in the News

Husband and wife spider specialists **Ray and Lyn Forster** formally launched their new book on spiders at the Otago Museum on 1st December 1999. The book, "Spiders of New Zealand and their Worldwide Kin" published by the University of Otago Press, describes 1300 New Zealand species and reveals a mass of unusual and fascinating spider behaviour.

Dr and Mrs Forster's property at Saddle Hill includes indigenous coastal forest protected by open space covenant since 1990.

Dunedin's Yellow-eyed Penguin Reserve is the New Zealand winner of an international tourism award. The New Zealand manager of British Airways, Don Clark, visited the reserve, run by **Scott Clarke** and **Howard McGrouther**, to present a

*Below: The two blocks just to the north of the Catlins that have been covenanted by the Cullens.*



*Above: A beneficiary of the National Trust - a yellow-eyed penguin on a nest in an area protected by covenant.*

Tourism for Tomorrow award and "several thousand dollars" towards a new penguin hospital there.

The reserve, founded 14 years ago, is visited by about 40,000 people a year and combines conservation efforts with ecotourism.

Over 29 hectares of Mr McGrouther's property, including indigenous forest, wetland and sand dunes, has been protected by open space covenant since 1992. The yellow-eyed penguins nest in the protected area.



# Forestry fan collects many rare pines

## Canterbury

*Anderson Arboretum  
Covenants*

John Anderson is one of the many great characters who the Trust has had the pleasure of working with over the years.

A retired farmer, he developed an interest in trees and alpine flora during the deerstalking days of his youth and he has always been a keen advocate for the protection of alpine plants and for expansion of afforestation in the high country.

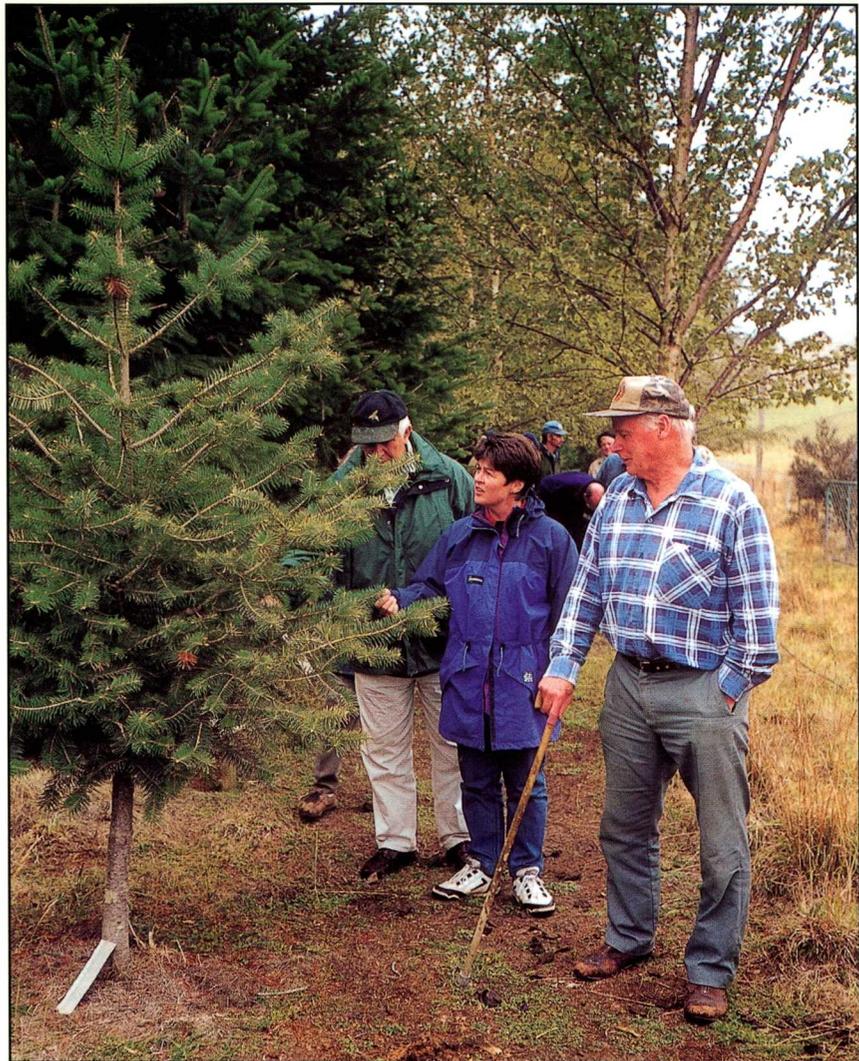
In Albury, South Canterbury, John has spent the last 20 years quietly collecting rare and exotic conifer species.

His collection is now recognised as being of national importance because some of the species are not found elsewhere in the Southern Hemisphere, and a significant number are from Asia.

As well as being of general botanical interest, the arboretum should assist with future species selection for forestry use.

The arboretum came to the attention of the Trust in late 1996, and the two separate blocks - Glendonald and Deepdale - that make up the arboretum are now protected by open space covenant.

The collection includes over 140 species, as well as a number of subspecies.



Above: Covenantor John Anderson shows National Trust chairperson Maggie Bayfield and board member Sir Paul Reeves (partly obscured) around his conifer collection.

Max Visch, of the International Dendrological Society, remarked when he visited the arboretum:

“The most outstanding feature is the huge number of species present belonging to the largest economically important conifer family - the Pinaceae.

The importance of the Pinaceae is borne out by the fact that they provide the bulk of softwood timber and paper pulp in the world today.”

Many of the Northern Hemisphere conifers are rarely seen in this country, and some are rare even in their country of origin. *Picea koyamae* is only known from a single stand of about 100 trees on Mt Yatsugadake in Honshu, Japan, and Brewer’s spruce *Picea*

*breweriana* is known only from the Siskiyou Mountains in Northern California.

The arboretum is on land now owned by John’s sons and daughters-in-law. Peter and Marie Anderson run Deepdale, and Bill and Dianne Anderson run Glendonald.

Management of the arboretum is the responsibility of a charitable trust - The John Anderson Arboretum Trust.

An objective of the Trust is to encourage visits by the public for recreation and education. Well-marked walking tracks wind through the arboretum and allow a good view of the various trees.

It is intended to create picnic areas to attract family and school groups.

## Canterbury cont'd

# Special deal to protect vegetation on private land and road verge

### *Bradshaw and Banks Peninsula District Council Covenant*

On the western flank of Akaroa Harbour, adjacent to Island Bay Road, a rocky ridge with a unique mix of vegetation has been protected by John and Jenny Bradshaw and the Banks Peninsula District Council.

The protected area is a long narrow strip running along one kilometre of the road, with a cattle stop at each end. The Banks Peninsula District Council have entered into a landscape protection agreement with the National Trust to protect the road verge next to the Bradshaws' land. The agreement covers the land between the carriageway and the legal road boundaries, and its objectives are to protect the landscape values of the land and, as far as possible, protect the shrubland and tussock grassland community and maintain the natural ecosystem.

Jenny and John's newly covenanted block covers over a hectare beside the road, but if you go and visit, be sure to take along your magnifying glass, because some of the most interesting features to see there are very, very small.

On the moist, southeastern side of the ridge, the wealth of lichens, mosses and liverworts deserves a closer look. Of particular interest is the bright orange-red pigmented alga *Trentepohlia iolithus* that coats the shaded rock faces, and one

of the mosses, *Grimmia laevigata*, is relatively uncommon in New Zealand.

On a larger scale, the wind-swept cabbage trees that brave the ridge crest make a dramatic scene against the beautiful backdrop of Akaroa Harbour.

## Nelson

### *Foote Covenant*

In Open Space #43, Trust Director Geoff Walls described his exploits in fencing and covenanting his property on D'Urville Island in the Marlborough Sounds.

Now, Peter and Carol Foote have similarly finalised a covenant to protect the forest on their farm property next door.

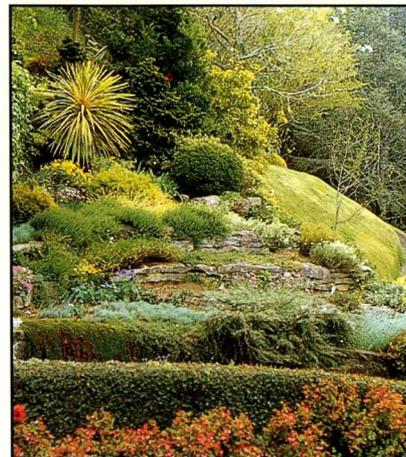
The covenant has been quite an exercise, taking more than a decade to complete and involving three consecutive sets of landowners and three consecutive Regional Representatives.

Peter and Carol have sold the farm, but not before finishing the fence and completing the covenant.

The farm has a magnificent setting, with a coastline that includes part of sheltered Port Hardy and part of Tasman Bay. The forest is mainly mature coastal/lowland broadleaved species in the wetter areas and kamahi and hard beech on the drier spurs.

Being possum-free, like the rest of D'Urville, and under little pressure from deer and pigs, the forest on the Foote and Walls properties can flourish. In the streams, the native freshwater dwellers are free from competition from introduced trout and salmon. Rats are a problem in the area, and their impact on the special island fauna of endemic slugs, snails and weevils is being monitored.

## Obituaries



Above: Tupare Gardens, once owned by the late Sir Russell and Lady Matthews.

The National Trust notes with sadness the recent deaths of:

### **Lady Elizabeth Matthews**

wife of well-known New Plymouth businessman, horticulturist and philanthropist, the late Sir Russell Matthews.

After their marriage in 1932, the Matthews developed their Tupare property into a home and garden of spectacular beauty. In 1985, Tupare was purchased by the National Trust.

**Priscilla Neill**, wife of the late Major Dermot Neill, of Waironga Springs in North Taieri.

The Neills covenanted 20 hectares of native and exotic woodland on their property in 1988. Mineral springs within the woodland are a special feature of the protected area.

**Mrs Averil Lau**, of Paraparaumu on the Kapiti Coast.

Mrs Lau's 0.55 hectare property contains a diverse mix of both indigenous and exotic plants and trees and was covenanted in 1993.

A feature of the property is the extensive collection of ferns. Mrs Lau had a particular interest in the growing of succulents. Both the fern and succulent collections on the property are unique in the Wellington region.

# What does *THAT* mean?

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Trust Covenant Document

### Part 1: The First Schedule

The first in an occasional series of articles, by John Bishop, Trust Estate Manager, explaining issues of interest.

#### **What goes into the First Schedule?**

The First Schedule in the covenant document sets out the objectives of the covenant.

They establish the key parameters for the covenant and are the basis for other provisions in the Second and (possibly) Third Schedule of the covenant document.

#### **Who decides what the objectives are?**

The initiating landholder (the owner or lessee who approaches the Trust to establish a covenant) and the Trust agree on the objectives. The objectives define the main aims and purposes for entering into the covenant.

#### **Why is the First Schedule needed?**

It is vital as a written record of what was agreed by the two parties at the time the covenant was entered into.

#### **What if I, or a future landowner, want to change the terms and conditions of the covenant on the protected land?**

In some cases, the terms and conditions of a covenant may be changed at a later date.

However, the National Trust Act specifies that any variation will only be agreed if it is "not contrary to the purposes and

objectives of the covenant". So the objectives that the initiating landowner and the Trust agree upon cannot be weakened or undermined.

#### **What does the phrase "open space values" mean?**

Protection of Open Space Values is typically the first objective of a covenant.

It relates back to the National Trust Act, which empowers the Trust and landholders to enter into covenants to "preserve or facilitate the preservation of any landscape of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, scenic, scientific, or social interest or value".

The open space values of any given covenant may be just one or a combination of several of these different types of values.

#### **What else can be included in the objectives?**

Other objectives focus on the particular open space values protected - be they indigenous flora and fauna, wetlands, a scenic vista from a particular public place or whatever.

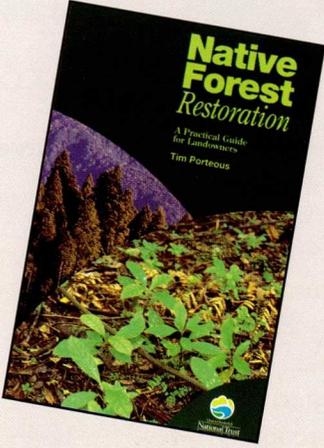
#### **Is it possible to prevent subdivision of the protected land?**

Yes. In recent times, there has been an increasing trend towards landholders wanting to restrict the ability of themselves or future owners of the protected land from subdividing it.

In these cases, the objective "To prevent subdivision of the land" can be included.

## Native Forest Restoration

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## Endangered plants find home on Hawera's High St.

In partnership with the South Taranaki District Council, the National Trust has adopted an area of Hawera's Naumai Park and a shrub border in High Street to plant rare and endangered natives.

The High Street/Waihi Road border was planted in September 1999 with *Corokia paratutu* donated by the Trust. Gardens Manager, Greg Rine, said that the Naumai Park area will be planted this autumn, as propagated plants become available.

Greg is keen to demonstrate that natives do have a place in the urban landscape, and that using endangered plants will not only promote the use of natives but also make sure that some species native to Taranaki are sustained in the province.

## BEATING *around the bush*

tips and techniques for native ecosystem management

### Can natives be weeds?

This article is not so much a 'tips and techniques' treatise but a comment on an issue that managers of natural ecosystems are increasingly asked to deal with. It is a vexing issue with a philosophical basis that is not easy for many people to find a definitive answer to.

I have always been intrigued by the anomalous value judgements that are placed on plants in natural ecosystems. The term 'weed' is of course subjective. A plant that one person finds abhorrent and thus regards as a weed will be valued by someone else.

The situation is not made any easier by simply regarding introduced or exotic plants as

weeds and natives as non-weed or desired plants.

Divergence of opinion over the value of manuka and kanuka illustrates the issue well. Many regard these native species as being highly valuable for their role in forest dynamics.

They are good colonisers of open or disturbed areas and prepare the environment for other, more long lasting, forest species by providing shelter. However, to a farmer in dry hill country the invasive growth of manuka and kanuka robs them of valuable pasture. Thus these scrub species are undesirable.

Clearly the native/exotic division is not a suitable means by which to classify plants in natural ecosystems as weeds. The scientific community has an answer to this problem. However, as is usually the case it is not a particularly practical one - it is more a matter of definition.

Scientists regard plants as weeds not through value judgements of their desirability but by their characteristics. Generally plants with high reproductive ability (seed or fruit output), ability to germinate and establish in a variety of environments, fast growth and often, short lives are called weeds.

This definition clearly includes many native species - a situation many people will find unsatisfactory. Not only do manuka and kanuka fit into this definition as weeds, but so do other plants that are desirable in natural ecosystems; tauhinu (or cottonwood), tutu, wineberry and fuchsia to name a few of the woody native species that could be regarded as having 'weedy'

### Open Space Covenants

In February 2000 there were 1,313 registered covenants totalling 48,977 hectares, with a further 252 areas assessed, approved and proceeding towards registration.

The breakdown by Land District (which differs from our Regional Representatives' boundaries) is as follows:

REGISTERED OPEN SPACE COVENANTS AS AT 8/2/00:

Land district	No. Covenanted	Area protected (Hectares)
North Auckland	280	5,147
South Auckland	293	8,324
Gisborne	64	8,725
Hawkes Bay	57	1,738
Taranaki	84	2,428
Wellington	226	19,792
Marlborough	12	632
Nelson	67	2,061
Westland	6	180
Canterbury	97	3,133
Otago	49	4,037
Southland	78	1,777
	<b>1,313</b>	<b>48,977</b>



Above: In flower and dominant, *Muehlenbeckia* rages around a cluster of cabbage trees. Above right: An isolated tree fern being engulfed by *Muehlenbeckia*. (Photos: Charlie Palmer)

native climbing vine, *Muehlenbeckia*, which is encouraged by conditions to its liking in some forest remnants and wetlands and is smothering huge areas.

Quite how to deal with this species is not only a philosophical problem, but also a practical one. The factors that have encouraged this growth are unknown, and may in fact be different in different areas. Thus the problem of preventing such infestations is a dilemma.

The practical task of controlling infestations is as mammoth as any exotic climbing vine can create - destruction of trees under the vine, extensive areas and revegetation.

This of course all leaves aside the philosophical issue of whether or not it is desirable to actively control a species that is native to the area and simply responding to conditions that suit it very well.

### Characteristics.

Unfortunately the scientific definition does nothing to solve the problem of what to do about native species in natural environments that are showing weedy tendencies. Does the fact that karaka, a species planted extensively as a food crop by Maori and now invasive in many forest areas, fits the 'weedy' definition mean that it should be controlled in the same way as exotic species such as elderberry?

Maybe the answer lies in examining the causes of the infestation - and reconciling ourselves to accept that not every forest will look diverse and have random distribution of tree species.

In the case of karaka the ability of the seeds of this species to germinate and grow in the deep shade of the parent means that it often forms dense groves that exclude other species. What might from the outset look like an infestation is in fact a natural part of the life history of this tree.

In a similar way nikau palms often form dense groves that can look like they are taking over the forest. This situation is nothing

new for those who are familiar with some beech forests, where the diversity of species is very low, and beech forms a canopy unbroken by the intrusion of any other species - similar in many ways to an exotic pine plantation!

Confounding the issue is a

**Charlie Palmer**

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## Benefits of National Trust Membership

Along with receiving the Trust's newsletter four times a year, there are other benefits of being a National Trust member. These include:-

- Entitlement to nominate and vote for two Board directors representing the members' interests. The directors are elected for three years.
- Presenting your membership card for free entrance to the Trust's two garden properties in Taranaki - Tupare and Hollard Gardens. These gardens are open to the public: 9am - 5pm daily from 1st Sept. - 31st March, or by arrangement.
- Entitlement to a 10% discount on accommodation during the peak season (20 Dec - 31 Jan) or 20% discount

at any other time at the Trust's Aroha Island Ecological Centre near Kerikeri.

- Free entrance to properties owned or administered by the following organisations: The National Trust (UK), National Trust for Scotland, National Trust of Australia (all states), Barbados National Trust, Bermuda National Trust, National Trust for Fiji, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Gibraltar Heritage Trust, Japan National Trust, National Trust for Zimbabwe.

- Receiving a copy of the Trust's annual report to Parliament.

If you have friends who would be interested in becoming members of the National Trust, or if you would like to send a gift membership, please refer to our application form below.

*Marilyn Wilson - Trust Secretary*

## Travelling? Try a cyber visit first

Check out these internet sites. See why it is a good idea to pack your QE II National Trust membership card.

*The following internet sites all have http:// before their addresses.*

The National Trust (UK)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Barbados National Trust  
[trust.funbarbados.com/](http://trust.funbarbados.com/)

National Trust of Australia (NSW)  
[www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au)

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

[home.vicnet.net.au/~nattrust](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~nattrust)

National Trust for Scotland  
[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

National Trust of Queensland  
[www.powerup.com.au/~nattrust.html](http://www.powerup.com.au/~nattrust.html)

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation  
[georgiatrust.org/index.htm](http://georgiatrust.org/index.htm)

### HELP US PROTECT THE LANDSCAPE JOIN THE NATIONAL TRUST

#### • **Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

- |  |          |  |         |
|--|----------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual        | \$30.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - business on application |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (under 18) | \$15.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - special                 |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family            | \$45.00  | (societies, voluntary organisations, schools)                | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life              | \$550.00 |  |         |

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Queen Elizabeth II  
**National Trust**  
For open space in New Zealand  
*Nga Kairauhi Papa*

## Nominations for the Trust Chair & a Board Director

*The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust is an independent statutory organisation established in 1977 to assist landowners to protect natural areas and landscape features on their land.*

*The Minister of Conservation may appoint or reappoint the Chair and some of the directors to the Trust Board.*

*Nominations are invited for the chair and a board director.*

*In considering the required appointments, the Minister shall have regard to environmental and conservation values, the interests of rural landowners, and the interests of the Maori community.*

*Nominations for appointment, together with relevant biographical details of the nominee, should be forwarded to:*

**Chief Executive  
QEII National Trust  
PO Box 3341  
WELLINGTON**  
Tel: 04 472 6626  
Fax: 04 472 5578

**Nominations close  
Friday 31 March, 2000**

# Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

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**Sir Paul Reeves** GCMG, GCVO, QSO of Auckland.  
**Bill Garland** of Cambridge and **Geoff Walls** of Christchurch

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Freephone: 0508 QE2TRUST E-mail: [qe2@qe2natrust.org.nz](mailto:qe2@qe2natrust.org.nz)

# Tom's work of art replaces a number eight wire original

By Charlie Palmer

**H**e likes a beer according to Kath Hunt so I'll take him a dozen Waikato Draught to say thanks" said Gerry Kessels, the National Trust's Western Waikato representative.

Gerry was talking about 60-plus year-old Tom Ngatai (he's coy about revealing his exact age) who lives, with his wife Paddy, in a cottage on Kath Hunt's farm.

Tom loves the remaining forest on the farm and helps Kath look after the area, which she formally protected with a National Trust covenant in 1987.

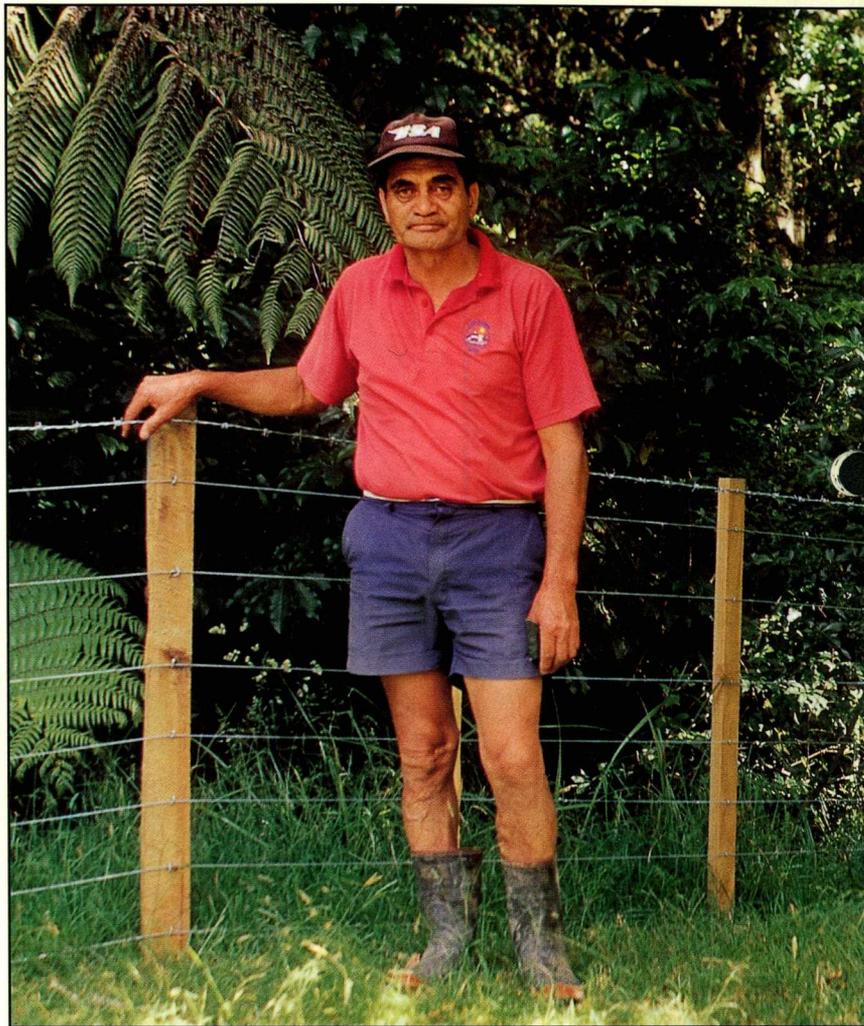
The two and a half hectare unlogged lowland podocarp forest is named Frank Hunt Memorial Bush in memory of Kath's late husband who first fenced the area over 50 years ago.

During one of Gerry's routine visits to Kath Hunt's forest he noted the fencing on the west boundary needed replacing. This part of the fence was the only remnant of the original totara post and number eight wire one that Frank had built.

Kath is selling the farm and both she and Tom thought it needed a good fence for the incoming owners. Tom constructed the replacement late last year and reckoned it was the hardest fence he has ever built.

"It's easy to see why it was difficult," says Gerry of the fence, "Tom dug all the post holes by hand to get around the roots of the big kahikatea and rimu trees."

Everyone knows fencing is



*Above: Tom Ngatai, sixty plus and still willing when it comes to looking after the bush he loves.*

hard work, but when you are Tom's age a fencing job like this is especially tough. Kath declared the fence "a work of art".

Kath and Frank Hunt moved to the property in 1951. Since then she has learned to speak fluent Maori, because she "wanted to know the spirit of the people".

Living in a largely Maori community, she is now held in high esteem by the local hapu and has spoken on the marae many times. She considers there are a tremendous amount of

rewards in being part of the community in the way of friendships and special privileges given to her.

In 1987, when Kath organised a ceremony to dedicate a carved sign commemorating Frank Hunt, local Reverend Rua Anderson, performed a karanga (welcome) and blessing with many of the local Maori community and members of the National Trust present.

Now, thanks to Kath, Tom and Paddy's efforts, the forest is well protected and ready for the guardianship of a new owner.