



Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

Nga Kairauhi Papa

Open Space

No 48, July 2000

The new Takaka Hill walkway winds its way through high-altitude shrubland, pockets of mountain beech and gazes of fluted marble rocks, some of the oldest in New Zealand.

Nelson Mail reporter Brandon Sparrow joins landowner David Harwood and the National Trust's Martin Conway on a tour of the walkway.



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Takaka stuns walkers

Up on the roof of the world, a third-generation Takaka farmer lobs a rock into the blackness of a concealed tomo (hole) - and waits for the crash.

"I don't suppose DOC would approve of this," says David Harwood as the rock falls a disappointing few metres.

We're up at nearly 1000 metres on the new Takaka Hill walkway, and the 57-year-old is bounding

around like you do when you're sucking in cool mountain air.

Depth-testing tomos is something David has done since he was a child, when he and his brothers and sisters camped among the sheer-sided marble karst rocks that help to make this walkway the stunner it is.

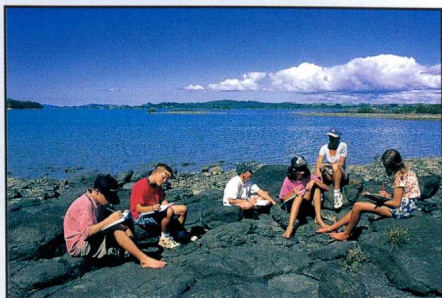
"Dad would never leave the farm (at Upper Takaka) - so when he took us kids camping, this hill was

as far as we ever got."

The 4km walkway winds through land owned by the Harwood family since 1910, and now under three separate National Trust covenants totalling 350ha.

Tagging along behind David on our jaunt is Martin Conway, the Trust's Regional Representative. Martin is a methodical, cricket-loving landscape architect, and the

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Takaka Stuns

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co-ordinator of the walkway project. In some ways he is from a different planet than David, but the two have let a good working relationship grow naturally, and beneath the dry jibes there is a mutual respect that is fun to observe.

David teases Martin when the track heads off in an uncertain direction. "You haven't followed instructions," he says bluntly.

The carpark beside State Highway 60 at the start of the walk is another story told at Martin's expense. The \$25,000 price tag for the carpark was giving him sleepless nights. Arriving on the hill one day, he discovered a carpark where previously there was none. David,

*"...contractors
needed a dumping
site, bingo a car park
appeared at no
cost..."*

who is a push-button sort of guy, had chatted to contractors who were doing road works nearby and needed a dumping site. Bingo! A carpark appeared, at no cost.

Martin, in turn, has his dry sense of humour as his defence. He's the perfect type - with his nice-guy diplomatic skills - to be negotiating with landowners over the covenanting of their property. His role, as he sees it, has been to co-ordinate the vision of the Harwood

91 year old opens walk on family farm

About 150 people turned up on the day, and walked almost to the highest point at 930m on the new Takaka Hill Walkway for the opening ceremony.

Following tea and eats provided by the Harwood family, Martin Conway, the Trust's Regional Representative and very much the driving force behind the design and development of the walkway, introduced the day's proceedings.

Then followed Barney Thomas on behalf of the local Iwi, David Harwood on behalf of the Harwood family, and Mayor John Hurley.

The ribbon was cut by David and Max Harwood's mother, 91-year-

old Mrs Lill Harwood.

Most people then took the opportunity to "walk the walk" and could only be impressed with both the quality of the work done to date and the variety of terrains and vegetation types it goes through.

The all-around views are stunning, from Kahurangi National Park to the west and south, the Takaka Valley and Golden Bay to the northwest, Abel Tasman National Park to the north, Tasman Bay and Waimea Plains to the east. The close-up views of the sculptured karst formations are also unique and quite beautiful.

family, to have the land protected and public access provided at the same time.

Martin was chuffed to find David. "You only have to read the newspapers to realise not all landowners want the public on their land ... that's still a great debate. Where landowners are willing, the best thing to do is endorse it and encourage it."

But it's not just the fact that the Takaka Hill walkway is breaking new ground for the Trust that excites Martin - it's the way the walkway has become a community project.

Most of the muscle work on the track has been done by tattooed former lighthouse keeper Peter Baker, who lives in Upper Takaka. He has been assisted by community wage workers. Peter, who is 63, has been working on the walkway for a year. "I feel like it's been a lot of hard work ... a labour of love ... but I've enjoyed it."

The walk has been likened to "going into a whole lot of different rooms", moving from open shrubland into heavy beech-dominated bush and then back.

According to Graeme Jane from the Nelson Botanical Society, there are nearly 130 native plant species in the area, and 30 to 40 of those are woody species - trees and shrubs.

Martin says the area has a fairly rare narrow-leafed kowhai (*Sophora longicarinata*) found only on Takaka limestone, while Hall's totara, Hector's tree daisy and lancewood are common species. Parakeets are present in the area, while closer to the ground there is the giant carnivorous native snail.

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.

Article reproduced from
The Nelson Mail

Takaka Hill facts for walkers

- The Takaka Hill Walkway starts from a sign-posted carpark at the side of State Highway 60, near the summit of Takaka Hill, between Nelson and Golden Bay.
- The walk is about 4km long, and takes an average walking time of 2½ -3 hours. A link track is also available that will cut the walking time to 2 hours.
- The walking is not difficult, though there are some short, steep climbs. Wear boots or strong shoes. Some of the track is on broken marble rocks, and can be slippery and sharp.
- Keep to the track. Shrubs and snow (in winter) can conceal dangerous tomos. All known tomos are marked.
- The track runs between 800-1000m above sea level, so is very exposed to the weather. Take warm and waterproof clothing.
- Take something to drink, there are no streams.
- Don't disturb the farm animals.

As the walk passes through a working farm, no mountain bikes, fires, motorbikes, horses, dogs or camping are permitted.



Above: 91 year old Lill Harwood opens the walkway. (Photo: The Nelson Mail) Below: Some of the 150 who took part in the ceremony. Bottom: Karst vegetation in New Zealand. (Photo: Stirling Images)



Working with brilliant people

The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act allows directors to stay on the Trust Board for a maximum of nine years.

Maggie Bayfield has served a full term, including four years as chairperson, and leaves us with these thoughts as she steps down.

During my time, I have met and worked with some brilliant people - covenantors, staff and Board members.

While it is difficult to single out individuals, I am particularly indebted to Hamish Ensor for guidance and support, both in my early years and when I was appointed to the Chair.

Also, those directors with whom I have had the privilege to work during my terms have never ceased to amaze me in terms of their enthusiasm and commitment to the Trust and its objectives.

My first meeting of the Trust Board saw the 500th covenant registered, while my last meeting in May 2000 saw number 1350 achieved. That record gives me great pleasure.

One of the highlights of my time on the Trust Board was the celebration of the 1000th covenant at the Stubbs' property in Waitomo, where I had the opportunity to meet a large number of covenantors and supporters of the Trust. The feeling of achievement generated at that gathering was inspiring.

I remain awed by the number of



Maggie Bayfield (right) on her final tour of duty in Northland with National Trust staff, from left, Greg Blunden, Nan Pullman and Fenton Hamlin.

landowners who willingly protect natural areas on their land by means of National Trust open space covenants. As well as giving up the productive potential of that land, the landowner often has to pay a considerable amount towards fencing and pest plant and animal control.

The ongoing demand on covenantors as caretakers and managers of these areas cannot be underestimated.

Yet as long as I have been on the Trust Board, there has always been a backlog of landowners wanting covenants. If there has been a disappointment, it is that the Trust has not had the funds necessary to meet the demands for its services.

The Trust is in a sound managerial and financial position. However, in the face of the growing willingness of landowners to seek protection of natural areas on their properties, the Trust continues to require additional funds.

The Board is acutely aware that, without adequate resources, the Trust will face a growing frustration

from those unsatisfied people wanting covenants on their property.

The recent launch of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy has resulted in an even greater demand for the Trust's services, particularly given the proven record of covenants and the Trust's ability to work with landowners.

The Trust's ability to play an exciting part protecting our biodiversity and thereby assisting central, regional and local government, to achieve the objectives of this strategy is limited only by the financial resources available to it. I am confident the National Trust has an outstanding track record and is well positioned to make an invaluable contribution to biodiversity protection in New Zealand.

To all those people I have worked with during my time with the Trust, thank you all, particularly the covenantors who have made it one of the special periods of my life.

Maggie Bayfield

Trust willing and ready to activate biodiversity strategy

By Tim Cossar, Chief Executive Officer

In March, the Government launched the long awaited New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

The Strategy was prepared in response to the decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. It is designed to provide a framework for action to conserve and sustainably use and manage New Zealand's biodiversity.

Of specific interest to the National Trust is the emphasis on the need to further sustain indigenous biodiversity on private land.

The emphasis has been examined more closely in a preliminary Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) report 'Bio-What?', which looks at ways we can better care for our native plants and animals, and the places they live.

This document was workshopped throughout New Zealand in April and May 2000, prior to the MAC reporting its findings back to the Government later this year.

Discussion emerging from 'Bio-What?' is critical to the work of the National Trust. As a lead agency in the area of voluntary protection on private land, the Trust's ability to continue delivering these services is critical to the many landowners who wish to take up voluntary land protection.

The overall approach proposed by the MAC involves establishing a national goal, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and providing the guidance, support and flexibility for local solutions. To implement the approach, the committee recommends:

- the development of an Accord between key parties at a national level, as a first step to recognising differing perspectives and common concerns;
- a focused National Policy

Statement (NPS) under the Resource Management Act 1991, which defines roles and establishes a methodology for local government to follow.

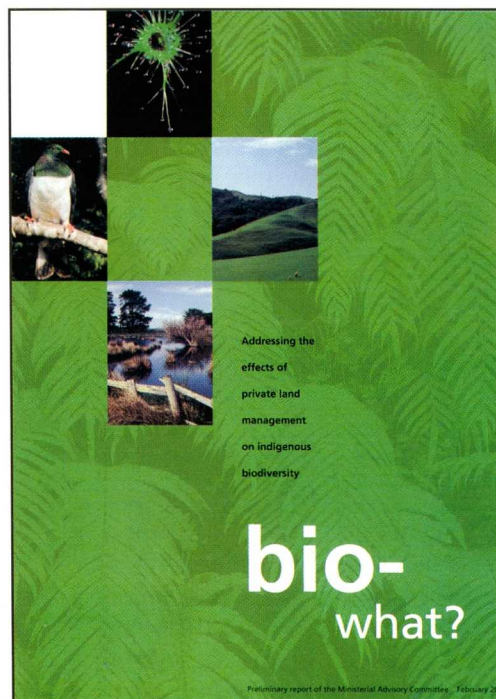
- a suite of non-statutory guidelines to assist councils to apply the NPS.

- additional Crown actions (such as the provision of information, research and incentive schemes) to support local measures.

- assistance to local communities with the development of local accords.

In general terms, the National Trust supports the initiatives the MAC has outlined and has expressed a keen interest in being involved at every level of the Biodiversity Strategy as it relates to private land.

To complement the release of the Biodiversity Strategy and Bio-What?, the Government announced a funding package to support protection of biodiversity on private land. The National Trust was named as one of four recipients of an additional \$37 million in total, to be spent over five years. In the 2000/2001 financial year, \$2.215million (including GST) is to be allocated in terms of this commitment. At the time of writing, the Trust has not been advised of what its specific allocation will be. The Trust is hopeful that it will be given sufficient



The BioWhat? report: the most significant document in years dealing with private land protection.

additional funds to make a useful difference in its work with landowners.

The National Trust is in a unique position to assist government achieve its biodiversity objectives, and is willing and ready to play an active role as the Biodiversity Strategy finds its way further into mainstream conservation. The Trust looks forward to playing its part in the emergence of this exciting initiative in New Zealand conservation.

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Focus on Northland

Stepping stones for big birds of the bush

Wood pigeons, or kereru, are highly visible in New Zealand forests as they sit serenely on tree limbs. Their soft wing beats and their staunch and regal demeanour, are a valued feature of the forest.

They also have a profound influence on plant regeneration in their habitat. As the only common bird that can swallow large fruits, kereru play a vital role in the dispersal and germination of species such as tawa, taraire, karaka, miro, and puriri. For many of these species, weakening of the seed coat by passage through a kereru gut is required for germination.

Not only do forests depend on kereru, but kereru also depend on forests. Fragmentation of forests, hunting, predation and competition by introduced mammals has decimated the once large

The National Trust's Northland team, comprising Regional Representatives Fenton Hamlin and Nan Pullman, and Aroha Island Ecological Centre Managers Gay and Greg Blunden, has been extremely busy over the last year with covenanting, public relations, and education.

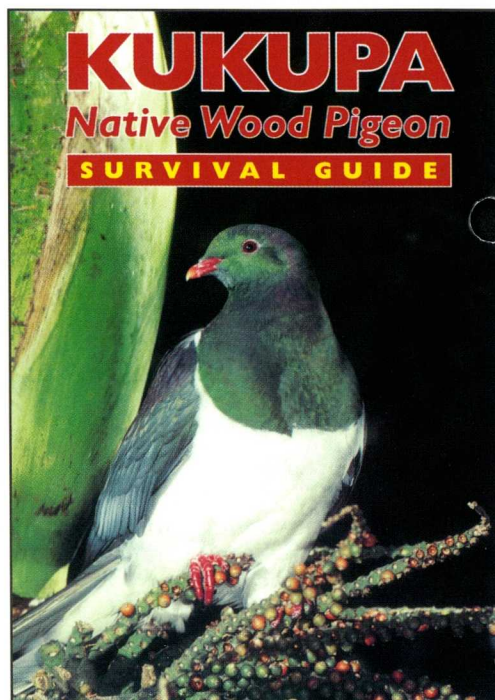
In this edition of Open Space, we focus on recently registered covenants in the Northland region, with special articles on local people, activities and issues.

populations of kereru. In particular, possums and rats compete strongly for food with kereru and are known to predate kereru eggs.

These factors, coupled with a naturally low breeding rate, mean that in most areas of New Zealand, kereru numbers are declining. It is estimated that only one in eight kereru hatchlings results in successful fledging. Areas of Northland in particular have experienced a 50% decline in numbers between 1979 and 1993. Here, poaching of the population is also playing a major role in this decline.

Attempts to halt the kereru population decline have centred on involving the community in habitat protection, introduced mammal control, and education and the use of volunteer rangers to help prevent poaching.

The owners of six recently registered forest covenants near Whangarei epitomise these efforts.



In these areas - where the birds are known as kukupa - predator and competitor control operations contribute greatly to the survival of kukupa populations by providing a better feeding, mating and fledging environment.

The protected remnants of broadleaved forest provide a safer environment and a more stable and varied food supply than the majority of the agricultural and residential land that dominates the locality.

For kukupa, these small remnants are like stepping-stones that allow us to cross a pond. They are safer havens in a mostly hostile environment. All remnants, but particularly protected ones, have a high ecological importance in Northland due to their role in conserving kukupa populations.

Did you know?

- Kereru lay one egg per season, usually between September and November.
- Incubation is shared: the female incubates through the night until about midday; the male takes over the nest for the afternoon session.
- Once hatched, the chick is continuously brooded for about a week on "pigeon milk" - a protein rich milky secretion mixed with

fruit pulp before regurgitation.

- The chick remains in the nest for another 3-5 weeks, being fed a diet of regurgitated berries 2-3 times a day. Between feeds, the chick is left unattended.
- Nests fail mainly because of predators. Stoats, weasels, ship rats and possums are all excellent tree climbers which have a taste for both birds' eggs and their nestlings. Harriers and mynas will also eat kereru eggs and chicks.

Stepping stones for big birds of the bush, continued

Jean Hawken Bush

Possums, ferrets, stoats and cats are advised to stay well away from Jean Hawken's Maunu property on the outskirts of Whangarei.

Jean takes the management of her recently covenanted 5.3 hectares of bush very seriously.

She regularly checks, clears and resets a series of Timms and Fenn traps within her bush, as well as rebaiting permanent Philproof bait stations strategically placed through the bush.

One glimpse at several, healthy round-headed kohekohe trees literally dripping with long stems of white blossom tells you she is doing a top job and the areas of her bush that were previously grazed are recovering well.

Magnificent puriri; tall, heavily fruiting taraire, often visited by kukupa; kohekohe; some karaka, rewarewa and, lower down, pigeonwood, feature in the northern area of this bush. Moving

south and out of the volcanic soils there are groves of totara, a hillside of kahikatea, rimu, maire and even a few kauri.

On the southern boundary, a boggy area of pasture that cows regularly got stuck in has also been transformed into two ponds and is included within the covenant.

Jean, with the help of friends and students from the Northland Polytechnic Conservation Corps, planted the edges of the ponds with a variety of native grasses and wetland plants including kahikatea, matai, putaputaweta, tree fuchsia, cabbage trees and flax.

The Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society generously donated \$1000 towards the plants.

Jean also works hard to control and remove invasive weeds from within the covenant and in close proximity to her property. She is currently working on several substantial areas of *Tradescantia* or wandering Jew. Jean has

systematically gridded the infested area and, using the herbicide Grazon, donated by Dow Agrosience (NZ) Ltd is progressively spraying this weed.

Fischer & Maddever

These two new covenants are near Whatatiri Mountain Scientific Reserve, 15 km west of Whangarei.

Both are on the edge of a volcanic plateau that includes Maungatapere Mountain, which has had an extensive and successful possum control operation in recent years managed by the Department of Conservation in an effort to increase the kukupa population.

John and Patricia Fischer have covenanted three discrete, but nearby, areas of forest totalling 4 hectares.

Kukupu are well provided for with taraire, kohekohe, puriri, karaka and pigeonwood trees in the

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Below: Looking across to the Hawken Covenant in the volcanic terrain that still harbours pockets of forest rich with pigeon food. Inset: One of Jean's favourite friends, a gnarled puriri.



Stepping stones for big birds of the bush, continued

canopy. Of these, it is the taraire and puriri that are most important to the kukupa diet. Together, these two species are the source of almost 80% of the diet of Northland kukupa from winter through to summer. Ripe berries of taraire dominate the diet during winter and spring, with puriri increasing in importance in spring and especially summer.

The Fischers wanted to formally protect the remnants to ensure a food source and haven for the kukupa that regularly visit. Covenanting was completed as part of the process of subdividing their farm into lifestyle blocks before they retired to the West Coast.

The new owners of these remnants are Keith and Lynne Parker, who a few years ago completed a covenant to protect 11 hectares on their former farm at Ararua; Derek and Jackie Webb, and Dennis and Sharon Brownie.

Now these remnants are fenced and stock excluded, rapid regeneration of the understorey and groundcover vegetation is expected, especially with the kukupa bringing in plenty of seed from nearby reserves and remnants.

On the other side of the scientific reserve, the Maddever Family Trust has covenanted two remnants totalling one hectare.

These two remnants again have the typical volcanic broadleaved forest dominated by taraire, puriri and kohekohe. One area has a very open understorey as it was grazed before it was fenced, while the other area has a much more advanced understorey as it has been fenced for 15 years.

Des and Pauline Quinn, who live on this property, have controlled possums well - to the extent that kohekohe, a favourite food of possums, flowers heavily. The Quinns regularly see small flocks of kukupa in their forest, a situation that is likely to continue.

Both these covenants illustrate how the rich volcanic soils on these lowlands support different vegetation and thus different food



Taraire are a main source of food for pigeon. This very healthy flowering in the Fischer covenant bodes well for the big birds.

crops to those at higher altitudes. In this case, the taraire and puriri on the lowland complement the miro on Whatatiri Mountain which supply fruit to kukupa in autumn.

Cochrane

At Maungakaramaea, southwest of Whangarei, Keith and Shelley Cochrane have covenanted over three hectares of healthy regenerating forest that forms another important 'stepping stone' food station for kukupa and other native birds.

The forest is dominated by kahikatea, but includes other podocarps as well as broadleaved shrubs, ground ferns and mosses. There are some patches of mature gorse, but now the forest is fenced from stock, indigenous seedlings should soon grow through and take over.

The forest can be seen from Maungakaramaea and Snooks Roads, and provides a restful setting for the adjacent local cemetery, which has gravestones dating back to the 1880s.

Mortimer

Located on the steep side of a volcanic cone near Kamo, one hectare of Jim and late wife Lynne Mortimer's property is now under a National Trust covenant. It adjoins a larger forest area covenanted by neighbours Ian and Jean Irvine. A

strong and dense canopy of totara with occasional taraire plus other species such as karaka, kohekohe, pigeonwood, pate and nikau provide a range of fruits for kukupa throughout the seasons. There are other species in the forest and they will provide a seed source for the regeneration of a diverse understorey that, before fencing, was depleted by grazing animals.

Stoneman Bush

Five kilometres west of Whangarei, Gary and Shirley Samuels have covenanted two and a half hectares of taraire and puriri dominated hardwood forest known as Stoneman Bush.

Like the Fischer and Maddever covenants, Stoneman Bush is close to two heavily vegetated volcanic cones, Maungatapere and Maunu Mountains and the more substantial Pukenui Forest.

It is common to see kukupa flying between the lower altitude bush remnants to these dominant landscape features and larger tracts of bush.

Stoneman Bush is really on the edge of the volcanic plateau with clay soils over the top of limestone. The landscape tends to be wetter and the bush has more of a typical lowland forest mix of vegetation. Taraire, puriri and kohekohe still feature but there is also more totara, karaka, nikau, rewarewa

and, in the wetter areas, kahikatea.

A healthy understorey, range of native ferns, grasses and groundcovers plus thick, moist leaf litter are all good signs that this block is recovering well. The removal of stock some years ago and an ongoing pest control programme have contributed greatly to this remnant's restoration.

While each of these covenant areas is significant in its own right, their real importance lies in how they fit into the bigger picture of protected areas in the Whangarei locality.

The six new covenants, totalling 17 hectares, join a complex of open space covenants either registered

(39ha), or progressing toward registration (40ha), plus numerous scenic reserves.

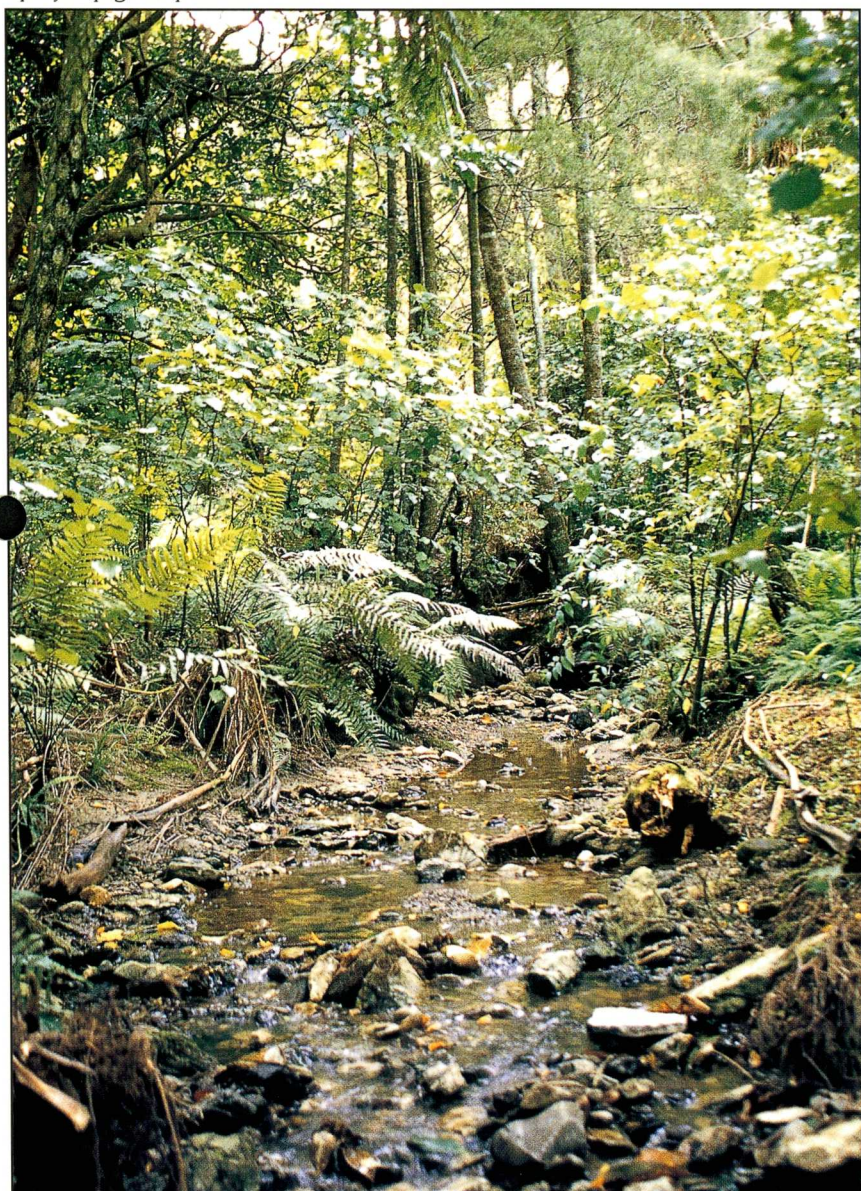
These covenants scattered over the locality all contribute to providing habitat, food and safety for kukupa.

Owners of land with habitat utilised by kukupa in Northland, and throughout New Zealand, are encouraged to protect and enhance forest remnants.

Doing this will assist this special native bird, which in spite of its apparent widespread distribution needs help if it is to remain an icon of the New Zealand forest. - **Charlie Palmer**



Below: The stream that runs through Stoneman Bush in the Samuels' covenant. Right: Lush and bright red, kohekohe seeds ripe for pigeon pickers. Photo: Gordon Roberts.



What you can do to help the wood pigeon

- Fence and protect native forest (stands with taraire, puriri, miro or nikau growing in them particularly merit protection).
- Identify and band individual nest trees. This will only work for isolated trees - possums can and will jump from tree to tree.
- Control predators - especially during the kereru breeding season.
- Report poaching activity to the Department of Conservation.

Drains blocked to re-flood precious swamp forest

Buttressed kahikatea on Keven Morris's covenanted swamp forest (photo right) are a magnificent sight.

The seven-hectare swamp forest lies on river flats to the east of the Kaihu River, just north of Dargaville.

Set amongst cabbage trees, flax and some kauri, the kahikatea are fortunate survivors of logging operations about 100 years ago.

The swamp forest's high value as a bird habitat was identified in 1978. At that time, the land had been drained for use as grazing, and was under threat from further development.

Keven decided to restore the wetland, returning the water table to its natural level by closing off the drains and re-flooding the area. A grant from the Northland Regional Council's Environmental Fund assisted with fencing.

The next stage will be to replant some of the former drain edges with flax and remove the weed *Tradescantia* from an area of the covenant on higher ground.

Otto

Hermann Otto's lifestyle block on the northern side of the Ngunguru Estuary includes nearly four hectares of regenerating indigenous forest. The mature manuka and younger scrub has been fenced and left to regenerate for about 50 years, resulting in a thick understorey of indigenous shrub species and no room for weeds. It is an interesting mix of coastal species, such as *Olearia*, *Pittosporum umbellatum*, kowhai, five finger and rangiora with more typical lowland forest vegetation. Taller podocarps feature on the ridgeline and a large



puriri sits at the head of the valley.

The protected forest is within 800 m of Ngunguru School and can be seen from Te Maika Road and a walking track to Wellington's Bay that follows the estuary. Hermann and his wife Penny were keen to place an open space covenant over the forest, especially with the increasing pressure for coastal subdivision.

Cherry

Open Space #44 contained a report on registration of Guy and Jill Cherry's first covenant on their property at Kamo. That protected 0.9 hectares of totara-dominant forest on the eastern side of the North Auckland railway line. Now,

Guy and Jill have protected over 5 hectares on the other side of the railway, further up the flank of Parakiore Mountain.

The vegetation on this block has a more seral nature due to repeated burns from the days when steam locomotives "stoked up" ready for the hill climb before heading into Whangarei. This has resulted in large areas of bracken and gorse, which are now giving way to indigenous broadleaved and secondary species.

The covenanted forest forms part of the Parakiore Mountain forest remnant that has been identified as being of high value, due mainly to the presence of kiwi.

Takou Bay's significant remnants

The Takou Bay catchment area includes significant remnants of various ecosystems that provide valuable habitat for several threatened species, particularly kiwi and kukupa. Kauri snails are also present, as are Australasian bittern and North Island fernbird.

Two forest stands within the catchment have recently been covenanted with the National Trust. These are on the Waiaua Bay Farm and Bollen properties. Other valuable Trust covenants in the catchment include two of Northland's earliest covenants - on the Drivers' properties at Whitehills, adjacent to State Highway 10. The Department of Conservation is also active in the district, managing some 200 ha of land.

Waiaua Bay Farm Ltd

By Fenton Hamlin

The stretch of coastline north of the Bay of Islands to Whangaroa Harbour includes some of New Zealand's most fabulous coastal scenery. A rich tapestry of towering cliffs, rocky foreshores, sandy beaches and scattered islands frames well-developed farmlands and significant stands of indigenous forest. Artifacts of a substantial pre-European Maori population also abound.

Kauri forests once clothed much of this land. High on the tablelands between Matauri Bay and Takou Bay, nearly 12 hectares of the historical vegetation of the district, including possibly the largest kauri on private land in New Zealand, is now protected with a National Trust open space covenant.

The writer first visited the property in 1991 at the request of David Williams, whose family had farmed the property since the early 1950s. The Williams family initiated



Possibly the largest kauri on private land, this healthy monster is now protected by an open space covenant.

a covenant over the forest remnant in 1994.

The following year, the property was sold to Waiaua Bay Farm Ltd, headed by New York businessman, Mr Julian Robertson. Understandably, Mr Robertson was also impressed with the "big tree" and continued with the covenanting process. In fact, Mr Robertson has become something of an enthusiast for native trees, kauri in particular, and has chosen to follow an all-indigenous species planting scheme for the landscaping on the "Kauri Cliffs Golf Course" which has been developed on this spectacular

property. To date, 30,000 native trees, including some 500 kauri, have been planted, with a similar number planned to follow. All the planting and follow-up maintenance has been undertaken to a very high standard.

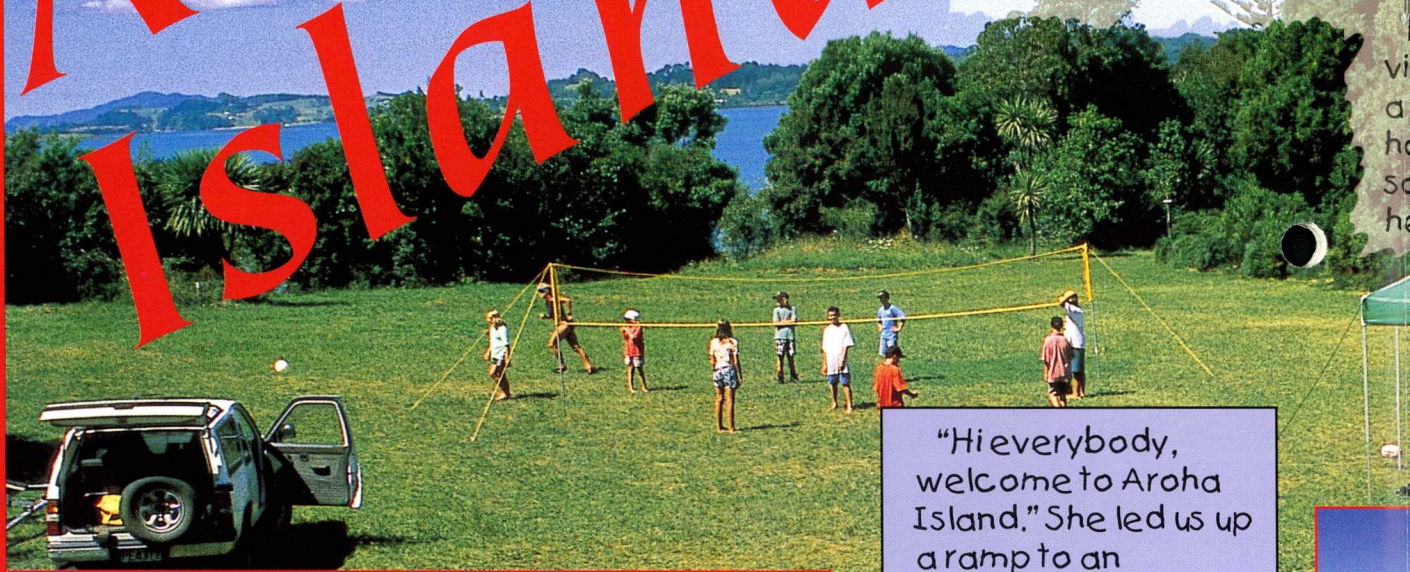
Visitors to the property are proudly shown the protected kauri, via a sensitively formed access track leading the way to a planned raised viewing platform. Every effort is being made to ensure that the sensitive roots of the tree are not damaged.

Continued on page 14

Aroha Island

A peaceful place to stay
these pictures and extra
reveal! Thank you to
Intermediate School
School for your wonder

NB punctuation and spelling in the
In some cases, it was too difficult to
intended, so it was decided to leave
Photography: Gordon Roberts



"Hi everybody,
welcome to Aroha
Island." She led us up
a ramp to an
ecological centre.
There were bits and
bobs all about kiwis.
This is a gold mine" I
heard someone
mutter. Sure is I
thought to myself..."



It was fun, we saw a
pukeko. It had a hard
beak, so hard, but he
was not hungry."



"When we got there
Greg and Gay taught us
lots about birds and I
learnt lots I didn't know
I loved the bush, and
looking for kiwi tracks,
we found a kiwi hole."

y? Well, not always, as
acts of children's stories
the pupils of Kamo
and Onerahi Primary
ful letters.

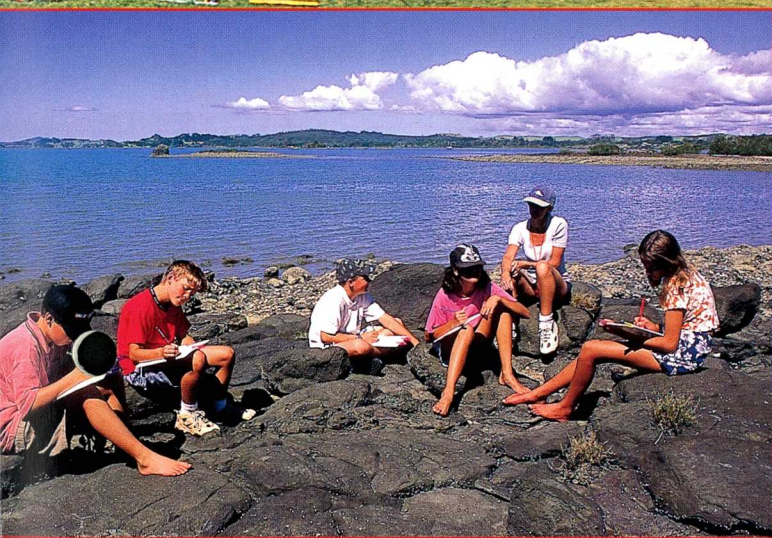
se extracts is exactly as per originals!
make a decision as to what the writer
them all unedited.

Frist we watched a kiwi
deo then Gay took us for
walk we sore some kiwi
ples. We lernt how a kiwi
ounds we saw a white
eaddy heron."

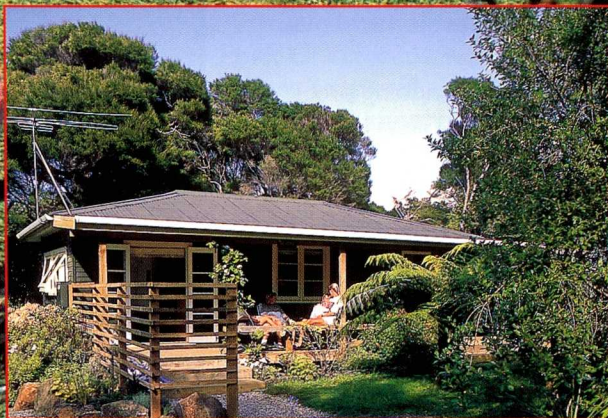


"I'm going as fast as I can" Yeah
we made it. Now we have to go
back. But my arms hurt.

Well put on your flippers and use
your legs. We hooned back to
Home beach. We hoped out of
the kayak. Yikes it was freezing ...
At least the life jacket was good
for something, it kept me warm.
"oh might as well go under"
"Splash" under I go.
Arghh ccccold.



It was a little but
iting Island. First we
hed a video about Kiwi
s, they were very loud.
re are not many Kiwis in
v Zealand... It was fun
and my cousen were
ashing our feet in The
er. I wish we stayed
re longer."



Takou Bay *continued from page 11*

Bollen

A 5.3-hectare block of lowland broadleaved/podocarp forest has been covenanted on the property of Petrus (Peter) and Neeltje Bollen at Hikarua.

The forest is on the northern side of Te Mahimahi Stream. Close to the stream, the forest is dominated by tall kahikatea: other podocarp species are conspicuous in the canopy further up the hill.

The remainder of the Bollen property, known as "White Bull's Valley Estate" has been developed to provide accommodation and retreat facilities.

Peter and Neeltje's new covenant makes a significant contribution to wildlife habitat and corridors in the catchment.

Barr

More good news for kiwi and kukupa in Northland is the covenanting of David Barr's lifestyle property south of Kaitiaki.

The protection of David's land adds a further 41 hectares to the expanse of protected forest in the vicinity, which includes the adjoining Taylor and Matthews covenants and Herekino Forest.

Rimu, kauri and rata dominate the tall forest, with kahikatea, puriri, kowhai and taraire on the lower slopes.

With high rainfall, ample litter and numerous seedlings, the forest is ecologically stable and very sustainable.

Possums are an ongoing problem in the locality, and David is keen to initiate a control programme.

David has special permission to develop horse trekking tracks through his covenanted land, as he has plans to take people riding from his home base, passing through the native forest, and ending at Kiwanis Bush Camp on the opposite side of Herekino Forest.



Geoff Wightman says puriri, such as this grand old specimen, are a lot healthier after possum control.

Kiwi and morepork calling in wake of possum shooters

Geoff and Pat Wightman covenanted a fine remnant of the wonderful Waimate North puriri-dominant forest with the National Trust in 1994.

In recent years, Geoff has been instrumental in forming the Waimate North Landcare Group to help look after this very significant landscape.

As part of its activities, the Landcare Group has undertaken a major possum control programme. This has involved Geoff in extensive night shooting throughout the district on a total of 25 properties.

The core group of four people has shot 4000 possums in the last year, with Geoff's personal tally standing at 2553 (14th March, 2000) from 149 forays!

Geoff has noted that the puriri trees are now significantly healthier, with fresh growth forming from the stem outwards.

Morepork and kiwi have also become much more common, with morepork in particular bringing out regular broods of chicks. Intensive predator control such as this has been very satisfying for Geoff and of huge benefit to the local community.

**The National Trust
& covenantors:
*Protecting biodiversity
on private land***

Lake adding to covenant values

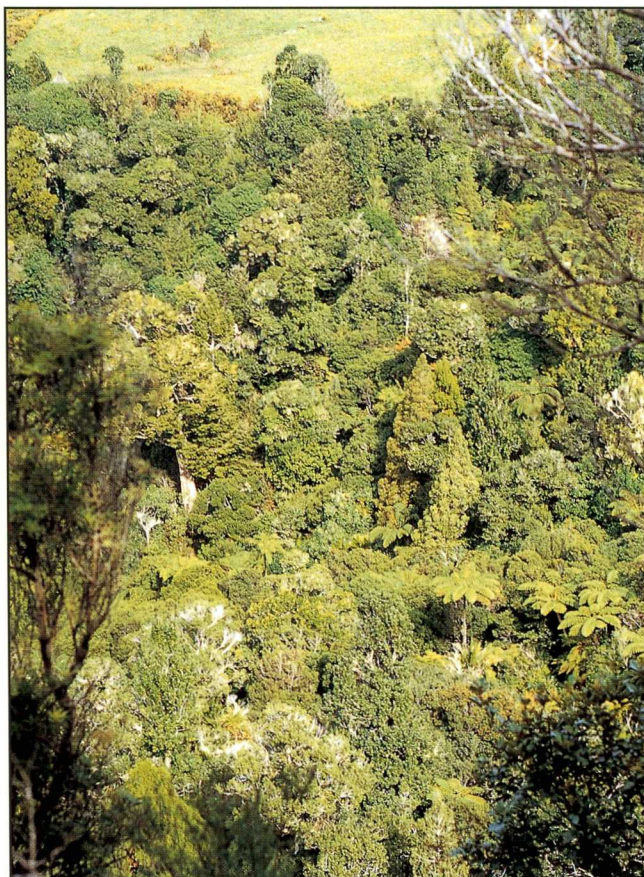
On their farm property, slightly north of Waiotira, Lawrence Newman and Joanne Searle have created a haven for waterfowl and other wildlife.

The driveway to their house winds through attractive secondary podocarp-broadleaved forest dominated by totara, taraire, kahikatea and rimu. On the southern side of the forest, what was a wide, poorly drained basin of swampy pasture has been transformed into a lake. The forest and wetland provide an excellent habitat for many birds, including kukupa, tui, fantails, yellowheads, morepork, pukeko, grey herons, black swans and a pair of paradise shelducks. Almost 15 hectares of this forest and wetland has been protected by open space covenant.

The sub-canopy and shrub layer have a good variety of ferns, mamangi and heketara. Of particular interest is the presence of kaikomako, which is locally distributed in Northland.

Weed, animal pest control and appropriate plantings have contributed to the acceleration of natural regeneration in the covenant areas, although there are still clear areas on the southern side of the lake awaiting intensive replanting. A rigorous possum control programme using 1080 was carried out by the Northland Regional Council in 1996. The landowners have followed this up with a maintenance regime of shooting, trapping and Feratox (cyanide) bait stations, which has seen a substantial increase in kukupa numbers in the forest.

Laurie Newman at his covenant where the lake was once a boggy paddock but is now a haven for waterfowl and other wildlife. (Photo: Nan Pullman)



A cross section of the vigorously regenerating Robinson covenant.

Corridor & seed source

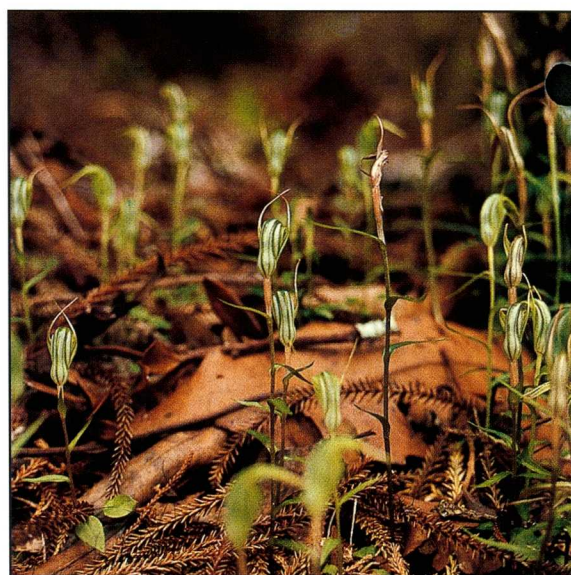
The property that Alan and Yvonne Robinson bought three years ago among the ravines and razorback ridges south of Kaeo includes a marvellous array of indigenous forests and wetlands. Yvonne and Alan are keen to protect a number of these valuable ecosystems, and as a first step have placed a National Trust covenant over 13 hectares of forest on the northern boundary. The forest is contiguous with 53 hectares of already covenanted forest on Doug and Sally Lane's neighbouring property and is close to Burlaces Reserve.

The Robinsons' forest is dominated by taraire, with occasional mature kahikatea and rimu. Abundant nikau are a conspicuous feature of the block. Vigorous regeneration is a characteristic of the district, and the forest is an important seed source and wildlife corridor. Kiwi and kauri snails are known to be living in the forest, as well as numerous kukupa.

As the Robinson property is generally of challenging terrain, the fencing of protected remnants is a major exercise. Rob Hays, a member and supporter of the National Trust, made a first-class job of the difficult fence line for this covenant.



Rata, kiwi, & mature matai: clues to a diverse forest remnant



Fungi growing on the living (above) and the dead (below) - part of a healthy rainforest. Photos: Malcolm Pullman.
Right: A little army of orchids 'marching' across the bush floor of the Olde covenant. Photo: Nan Pullman



Olde Covenant: high diversity remains despite loggers and stock

A handful of majestic old northern rata trees, an extremely large kohekohe, mature matai, a rich diversity of plant species and the presence of North Island brown kiwi all hint at the importance of Pru and Denver Olde's recently covenanted 52ha of mature and secondary forest at Sandy Bay.

The forest was originally placed under Whangarei District Council Conservation covenant when the land was subdivided in 1994, but it remained unfenced and subject to grazing.

Once Denver and Pru purchased the property they realised they wanted greater security for the forest, and approached the National Trust seeking to transfer to an open space covenant and asking for assistance to fence the eastern edge of the forest.

With funding assistance from the Trust and the Northland Regional Council's Environmental Fund the forest is now secure from stock, and a possum control programme is underway.

Lisa Forester, a DoC botanist, surveyed the forest in 1998. She reported that in spite of stock access and logging in the past, the forest retained a high diversity of plant species, including the more palatable ones such as the large-leaved shrubs and herbs.

In addition, there was a diversity of ferns, especially species such as the filmy ferns which prefer damp, shady conditions and do not tolerate disturbance.

Of particular interest was the presence of some extremely large kohekohe (the largest Lisa has seen in Northland) and mature rata and matai. She also recorded a small filmy fern *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme*, which is uncommon from the Bay of Islands to South Canterbury.



Above: Looking into the main face of the Olde Covenant. Below: Regional Representative Nan Pullman (left) exploring the covenant with members of the Whangarei branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Society.
Photo: Malcolm Pullman





Neil and Barbara Caldwell with one of the larger kauri trees in their covenant.

Proud of their protected retreat

In February this year, Neal and Barbara Caldwell jetted down to New Zealand from their home in Ohio, USA, to enjoy a sojourn on their covenanted, 260-hectare property at Whakaangi, on Berghan Point.

Neal and Barbara are justifiably proud of their protected land, which includes some of the most important forest and shrubland habitat in Northland.

A wide range of native species live there, including the

northernmost population of North Island brown kiwi.

The Berghan Point forest contains several botanical features of significance, including the northernmost hard beech (*Nothofagus truncata*), *Pittosporum pimeleoides* subsp. *pimeleoides* (noted as rare in Whangaroa Ecological District Reconnaissance PNA Survey Report), *Loxosoma cunninghamii* (a fern of limited distribution in Northland), and *Todea barbara*

(vulnerable). Two Northland endemics, *Ackama rosifolia* and *Coprosma parviflora*, are present in good numbers.

The historic and spiritual values of Whakaangi make it a truly special place for local maori. Whakaangi the mountain was a stronghold of the Ngatikahu during the times of tribal warfare as it allowed them to keep watch on the activities of all the neighbouring tribes. A very large Kainga (village) site developed over the coastal mountain slopes, and many food storage pits, terraces and a deep defensive ditch are still visible.

Whilst in New Zealand, Neal popped into the National Trust's Wellington office and was treated to a cup of tea and some erudite conversation with the staff.

Despite that ordeal, after their return to the US, Barbara and Neal were kind enough to send us a holiday snap of them in front of one of their large kauri trees.

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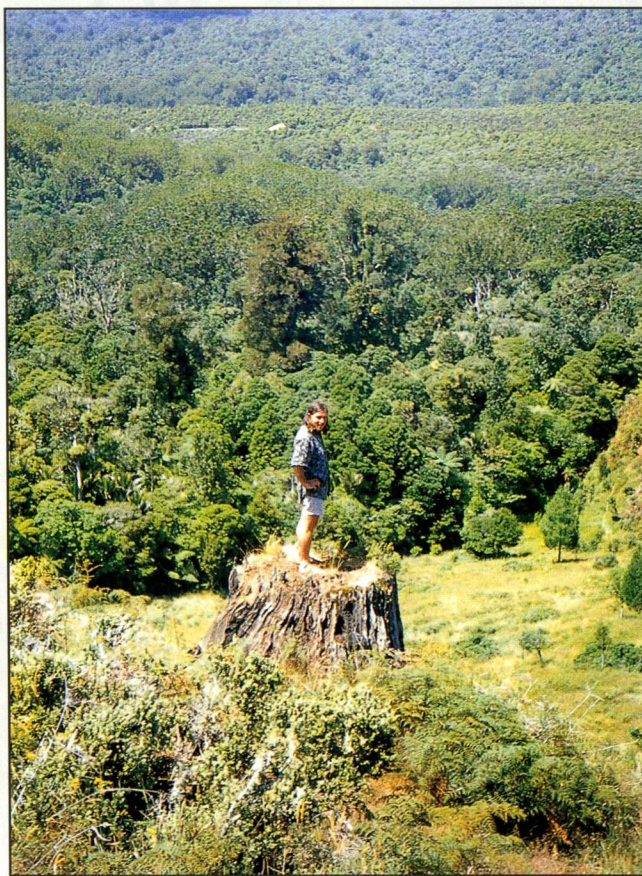
King Covenant acts as a buffer for Waipoua

At the intersection of SH 12 and Waipoua Settlement Road, north of Dargaville, Stephen King has protected over eight hectares of land adjacent to the Waipoua Forest.

It is intended to revegetate the steeper slopes of the property with native species, particularly manuka, that will improve the landscape and habitat values of the land. Elsewhere, the cover of grass and bracken will be maintained so visitors can continue to enjoy the vista across the surrounding forest.

The Waipoua Forest is home to New Zealand's largest population of North Island brown kiwi. Although the original vegetation of Stephen's covenanted land was cleared about 100 years ago for farming, the land contributes to a buffer between the Waipoua Forest and land to the east that is being subdivided for lifestyle blocks and farms.

Ardent ecologist Stephen King stands on a giant kauri stump to emphasise the importance of permanently protecting his own patch.



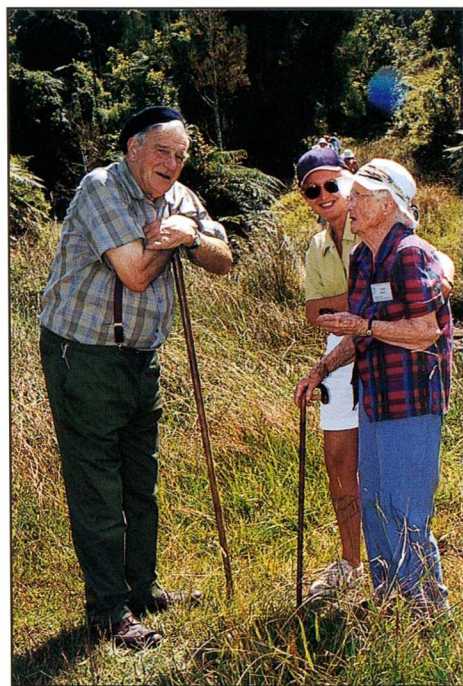
Minister goes bush at Cynthia Hewett Reserve

The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust recently celebrated the acquisition of 152 hectares of hardwood/podocarp forest at Waimatenui, some 30km southwest of Kaikohe, with the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Sandra Lee, in attendance.

Purchase of the block followed a fundraising campaign and the receipt of a significant donation

from the Hewett family. The forest block adjoins the Mataraua Forest and is now known as the Cynthia Hewett Reserve. It has outstanding value as wildlife habitat, with endangered North Island brown kiwi and kokako present.

Once land transfer formalities are finalised, a covenant will be registered over the land.



Above: Former National Trust director Arthur Cowan chatting to benefactor Cynthia Hewett at the opening.

Left: Stalwart Northland conservationist and Whangarei Native Forest and Bird President, Marge Maddren, had waited a long time for an audience with the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Sandra Lee, and made sure her message was heard, before taking a helicopter ride over the new reserve.

(Photos: Malcolm Pullman)



Trust helps in Waipoua Millennium Forest



Left: Ecologist Stephen King shows volunteer kauri planters how to do it, with National Trust board deputy chairman, Sir Paul Reeves, looking on.

Above: Tree planters move on to the new covenant.
(Photos: Malcolm Pullman)

Tane Mahuta seedlings planted at opening

The National Trust is proud to be associated with the Waipoua Forest Trust in providing covenant protection for land that has been acquired to establish the Waipoua Millennium Kauri Forest.

The Forest Trust has received funding support from the NZ Lottery Grants Board for its exciting project, aimed at providing a link between existing indigenous forest blocks and restoration sites immediately to the south of the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary. Seeds from one of the world's mightiest trees, Tane Mahuta, will be used to grow seedlings for use in restoration plantings on the Waipoua Forest Trust lands. About 145 hectares in total will eventually be planted.

At a ceremony to initiate the project, the Minister of Internal Affairs Hon Mark Burton, who is also the Chairperson of the Lottery Grants Board, described the project as New Zealand's "most significant and enduring Millennium commemoration".

"It is an inspirational concept which comes at a time when the world's rainforests are increasingly at risk", he said. "What more tangible, enduring statement of caring, of giving back to the earth, than the creation of a forest in which the dominant trees – kauri – live for a thousand years".

The first of what will ultimately be six covenants to protect the Waipoua Millennium Kauri Forest Lands was recently registered.

Covenants Update

In June 2000 there were 1,357 registered covenants totalling 50,014 hectares, with a further 250 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 June 2000

Land district	No.Covenanted	Area protected (Hectares))
North Auckland	292	5,403
South Auckland	299	8,805
Gisborne	67	8,745
Hawkes Bay	63	1,857
Taranaki	85	2,448
Wellington	228	10,795
Marlborough	12	632
Nelson	70	2,093
Westland	6	180
Canterbury	103	3,214
Otago	51	4,038
Southland	81	1,801
	<u>1,357</u>	<u>50,014</u>

BEATING *around the bush*

tips and techniques for native ecosystem management

Feracol - a new weapon hits possums and rats

The recent release of a new possum control poison provides land managers with another method to control these furry little critters.

The poison is called FeraCol and is effective against possums and rats. There appear to be some advantages (see box) that this poison offers when compared with Talon and Pestoff (*brodifacoum*), the most popular non-restricted (no licence required) possum control poisons currently used in New Zealand.

The active ingredient of FeraCol is cholecalciferol D3 (kol-e-kal-sifer-ol) which increases calcium levels in the blood and results in heart failure.

Possums and rodents are particularly susceptible to cholecalciferol because they have a low tolerance to concentrated calcium.

FeraCol is produced by Feral Control - makers of the effective encapsulated cyanide pellets FeraTox.

Their new product FeraCol is an oily, peanut butter flavoured paste dyed green to deter bird feeding. It can be dispensed directly from the 300g container but is more commonly offered in a biodegradable, wax paper bag stapled to trees.

Each bag is typically filled with enough FeraCol to kill a possum (18g) and a rat (4g). This amounts to about a dessertspoon of FeraCol per bag, but application rates are clearly outlined on the lid of the container.

A concentrated citrus solution, which can be poured over the bait

bags to act as an additional lure, is available from Feral Control.

Cats and dogs are susceptible to FeraCol and care should be taken to ensure that they do not have access to bait.

Recent trials by National Trust staff and Regional Councils have confirmed the promise of this new product.

It is easy to transport and staple the previously loaded bait bags to trees at about 100m intervals.

Finding the bags again to check the results can be difficult, but, once relocated, it is easy to identify the type of animal that has eaten the bait. Rats will nibble a corner of the bag, while a possum will rip the entire bag from the tree, perhaps leaving only the staple and a corner of paper in their urgency to get to the contents.

The effectiveness of the product appears to be good, with around 5% post-control residual trap catch (95% of possums killed) in Hawkes Bay Regional Council trials.

Wellington Regional Council trials have achieved results ranging from 71-95% of possums killed.

In one trial, 95% of the possums in a 150ha semi-urban reserve were killed over a two week period. This council commented that the labour needed to achieve this level of control was quite low.

Because FeraCol only has to be fed once it appears to be more cost-effective than brodifacoum which is fed out many times in an operation.

Figures supplied by Feral Control indicate FeraCol costs between \$0.75 - \$1.60 per possum death. Brodifacoum will typically cost



between \$2.00 - \$3.50.

With recent reports of residual activity associated with brodifacoum and the warnings surrounding its use (*see Open Space 47*), the appearance of FeraCol on the market is timely. It promises to provide a residual free, cost effective, easy to use method to control possums and rats.

Charlie Palmer

Advantages of FeraCol

- poses little threat of leaving persistent residues in livestock, soil or feral animals
- more humane - kills in 3-5 days compared to 20+ for brodifacoum
- acute effects prevent feeding (after a lethal dose has been ingested) within 24 hours
- lethal dose is detoxified in carcass eliminating secondary poisoning risks to non-target species
- paste formulation prevents waste because animals can't remove large quantities
- quantities necessary for control are lower and easier to carry.
- no licence required.

Trust People

Congratulations:

Friends of Three Streams

In April, the Friends of Three Streams Conservation won an Auckland Regional Council Environment Award in the stewardship category.

The National Trust has owned the Three Streams property, in Albany, since 1991.

John Hogan, former owner and now custodian of the property, has spent much of the past 30 years revegetating the property with native trees.

King Country Farmer

National Trust covenantor Peter Spencer of Mapiu in the northern King Country, has been named National Bank King Country Farmer of the year. Peter, together with Susan Fraser, Guardian Trust Co Ltd, and his brother Mark, covenanted 24.5 hectares of lowland podocarp/broadleaved forest on his farm in 1998. It is a very attractive area of forest as seen from Tata Road. Feral goat numbers have been drastically reduced and bait stations are being used to keep possums under control, and the health of the bush has responded accordingly.

Karst Covenantor

Tasman District Council Environmental Award - David Harwood was one of three people to receive a Tasman District Council Environmental Award in late 1999.

The award recognised David's contribution to protecting areas with significant natural features and enhancing public access to these areas in the Takaka karst landscape, which was achieved through David's development of four National Trust covenants covering over 350 ha on Takaka Hill.

Biodiversity Accolades

At the Parliamentary launch of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy in Wellington on 29 March 2000, a number of people associated with the National Trust were presented with Biodiversity Accolades.

The people in question were Wade Doak and Stephen King (from Northland), Jim Holdaway (Auckland), Gordon Stephenson (Waikato) and Ian Atkins (Wellington).

Congratulations are extended to these people.

Arrivals and departures

In March, we warmly welcomed Susan Halse as the new Receptionist/Secretary (Legal) in the Wellington Office. Susan has returned to the workforce after 19 years at home bringing up three sons. Now, she and her husband Martin have swapped roles, and Susan is enjoying not only being back in the workforce, but also going home to a cooked meal every evening.

Susan has settled quickly into her role, and copes good-humouredly with the various demands and idiosyncrasies of other staff.

another corner of the world. Marilyn has been with the Trust for over seven years, so her depth of knowledge about the workings and staff of the Trust will be greatly missed (as will her infectious laugh). We wish both Marilyn and John all the very best for their time abroad.

Ross Bishop, our Regional Representative for Central North Island, has regretfully retired due to ill health.

Ross started with the Trust in 1992, as Regional Representative for Taranaki, after 38 years of farming. Within a short period, Ross and his wife Helen moved to Owhango near National Park, and Ross looked after the covenants in the central North Island from Te Kuiti to Taihape. Over the last eight years, the number of approved covenants in Ross's territory has doubled to 69, covering some 3070 ha. Had Trust funding permitted, there would have been significantly more than this.

As well as getting on well with

farmers, Ross is widely respected as a botanist. He has a particular interest in ferns and native orchids - roadside banks and other places inaccessible to browsing animals have always been of interest to Ross and he has a way of making them interesting to anybody with him.

Ross will be very much missed and we wish Ross and Helen all the best for the future and happy botanising.

Obituary

The National Trust notes with sadness the recent deaths of John Anderson, founder of the John Anderson Arboretum in Albury, South Canterbury and Hugh Williams of Tikokino, Hawke's Bay.

Mr Anderson's arboretum, which includes over 140 conifer species, was featured in the last issue of Open Space.

Two stands of podocarp forest (totalling over 20 hectares) on Mr Williams' farm property are covenanted with the National Trust.



The trustees of the Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust: from left, Carol Geissler (and Johannes); Diana Noonan; Keith Olsen; Mike McPhee; Mabel; Fergus Sutherland; Mary Sutherland; Jennifer Keenan; Bruce Anderson.

Shanks Bush interpretative trail

In late March, Southland Rep Gay Munro joined members of the Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust and others at Shanks Bush, in the Catlins area, to see the unveiling of a unique interpretative trail.

The trail, with signs explaining the forest features, is planned to encourage people, especially children, to find new ways to explore the native flora. Signs will suggest where visitors can lie down

and observe the trees, other places where a hands and knees approach would be more appropriate and even, for the more athletic, the possibility of swinging upside down and looking through the undergrowth at the small plants and mosses.

Clutha District Mayor Juno Hayes, whose ancestors farmed in the Tahakopa district, carried out the unveiling.

Property for Sale

**Covenanted*, remote lifestyle,
one hour from Wanganui, including
over 330 acres of steep virgin forest and
20 acres suitable for organic farming.**

Two houses, schoolroom, sheds, equipment, stock, tools,
lumber, exotic trees (some millable).

Power and phone. Needs DIY family. \$160,000

Contact John and Esther Williams,
telephone/fax (06) 342 8785

* National Trust covenant covers 134 ha (330 acres) of
primary broadleaved/podocarp forest.

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Island Style



Aroha Island Sunrise by Gordon Roberts

Hands-on environmental education

Environmental education is an important activity at Aroha Island, near Kerikeri.

Day visits by school classes to the Ecological Centre are common throughout the year and fieldcamps of one to four nights take place especially during Terms I and IV, although a fourth form class from Epsom Girls Grammar had a wonderful week during late August 1999.

Teaching facilities and equipment in the Ecological Centre include an excellent indoor teaching space, overhead projector, TV/video, and slide projector.

We provide information sheets to aid planning for the fieldcamps and are available to assist with some of the activities.

We discovered through two Seaweed workshops held here during March that Aroha fits in well

with the Social Studies and Science curricula at Primary and Secondary levels.

There are many specific study topics:

- endangered birds, primarily kiwi - kiwi habitat on the island and adjacent reserve
- native trees - regenerating coastal bush discovered through a tree trail
- marine studies - Kerikeri Inlet with sand/mud/rock coastal fringe
- mangrove forest exploration in kayaks and dinghies
- bush walks - day and night-time
- bird spotting
- water quality testing in a freshwater stream in the adjacent reserve
- seafood gathering (oysters & fish) and food preparation (BBQ

and hobo stoves)

- marine farming and the environment - an oyster farm adjacent to Aroha

- orienteering

Classes focus on some or all of these topics, but also enjoy time out, swimming, kayaking, bush walks, picnics, creative writing, and art in a beautiful peaceful environment. They also include a service activity in their program.

Catering is straightforward with a well-equipped kitchen, BBQs, large covered decks, and a marquee. Parents helping with the fieldcamp usually stay in The Cottage, while the teachers get lucky and camp near the students.

See Aroha centrefold pages 12, 13 for student views.

Greg and Gay Blunden
Centre Managers