

Queen Elizabeth II

National Trust

Nga Kairauhi Papa

ARCHIVE COPY  
DO NOT REMOVE

# Open Space

No 52, August 2001

## In the Shadow of the Mountain

On Kevin and Heather Zimmerman's dairy farm, just south of New Plymouth, an amazing 18 hectares of swamp forest and forest has been covenanted.



Trustees of the **Zimmerman Family Trust** are the official landowners, but Kevin and Heather live on the property and have responsibility for its day-to-day management. They recognise the high ecological and landscape values of the natural areas on the farm, and felt it was part of their duties as good land managers to ensure the areas were given permanent protection.

The covenant covers three areas on the Zimmerman farm, including about half of Umutekai Bush. (The remainder of Umutekai Bush is on the neighbouring property to the east.) Umutekai Bush is a 28-hectare swamp forest that was designated as a recommended area for protection in the Egmont Ecological Region PNA Survey because it is unique in this region. It is mainly kahikatea/pukatea forest with some swamp maire, with patches of pure kahikatea and a ridge of tawa/rewarewa. The vegetation is in excellent condition because the land is generally too wet to allow stock access and there is an almost impenetrable undergrowth of small trees, shrubs and lianes. Umutekai Bush is the only known locality for *Athyrium japonicum* in the region, and two other species (*Astelia grandis* and *Gahnia xanthocarpa*) have never been noted before at such low altitude in Taranaki.

The covenant also protects a small, quite separate, area of semi-coastal forest to the north that is dominated by tawa

and kohekohe. This remnant is most attractive, with large trees that would have been part of the original forest.

Heather and Kevin have historical photos showing how the bush was removed in the past, which reaffirm to them the value of the covenant.

Kevin and Heather's wetland is just one of four in Taranaki that have been protected by open space covenant recently. See *Focus on Taranaki and Beyond* in this issue for more information.



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Focus on Taranaki and Beyond 3
- NZERN website – an award winning resource 11
- New compilation of Dr Leonard Cockayne's reports 20



# TRIBUTE TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR THADDEUS MCCARTHY PC, KBE, ONZ. (1907 to 2001)

## Chairperson of the National Trust from 1977 to 1983.

By Sir Peter Elworthy

**T**he Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Board met first in early 1978 with Sir Thaddeus McCarthy as the Founding Chair.

Sir Thaddeus would say that Gordon Stephenson and Federated Farmers were the initiators of the National Trust concept. Gordon, being equally modest, would undoubtedly offer that tribute to Sir Thaddeus. The truth was that Gordon, with his experience of the conservation of rural land in England, his deep ethic in ecology, and his knowledge of agriculture, provided the initial idea through Federated Farmers. As the Trust's first Chair, Sir Thaddeus, with his huge appreciation of New Zealand open space then founded and drove the organisation.

The QEII National Trust Act itself (Sir Thaddeus contributed to its wording) is amongst Sir Thaddeus's very special legacies to his homeland. He had an unequalled grasp of parliamentary, bureaucratic and legal processes, and an extraordinary network through his lofty and credible position as Supreme Court Judge and then President of the Court of Appeal. He used these, while Chairperson of the Trust, to set the Trust upon a base which allowed it to provide a seminal influence on conservation policy and action independently from Government departments.

For example, the Act allowed the Trust to advise the Government, and particularly the then Minister of Lands, on conservation issues. This gave the Trust a profound influence for good on preserving open space in perpetuity.

Until the Department of Conservation was established in 1987, the independent and measured voice of the Trust met the Minister of Conservation regularly, and helped the Government in its

decision making. As well as overall policy, specific issues as important and focussed as the Motu River Water Conservation Order, the first in New Zealand, were debated, not least because of the Act and Sir Thaddeus's astute and wise use of its considerable powers.

When conservation policy issues were drawn together under the Department of Conservation, and the Director General of Conservation met the Minister once a week, then so was the influence of the Trust's independent voice lessened. Until his death, Sir Thaddeus regretted, as did many others, this shift in emphasis from the Trust as an independent advisor to the Minister.

The Trust has since concentrated on protecting open space on private land; a role it performs very well. But, it has never been able to exercise the very profound national influence that it did, for the reasons expressed above, under the Chairmanship of Sir Thaddeus.

Certainly Sir Thaddeus was an uncommon man with a common touch. These attributes allowed him access without hindrance to all

peoples and issues in the complex personal and structural maze of conservation decision-making. He had a wide diversity of friends, and his lifelong friendship with Bill Chisholm, and association with Molesworth Station, has become legendary.

Alongside all his significant legal and other contributions to this nation, Thaddeus would attest to family and friends that his first love was the National Trust and that for which the Trust stands. He would have been thinking of his passion for the high country when he said "within the compactness of New Zealand there is a marvellous range of contrast of landscape, mountain, water and sky".

He successfully worked to achieve, through the Trust, the protection of the tussock grasslands, mountain lands, lakes, forests and wetlands of the country he loved so much.

Thaddeus loved, and contributed hugely to, that marvellous diversity and range of contrast in Aotearoa.

The QEII National Trust provided the perfect vehicle for that contribution.

**Want to give permanent protection to a natural feature on your land but want to retain ownership, manage it yourself, and have control over public access?**

**An open space covenant might be the answer.**

**Call freephone 0508 732 878 or your local National Trust rep (see back page) for more details.**



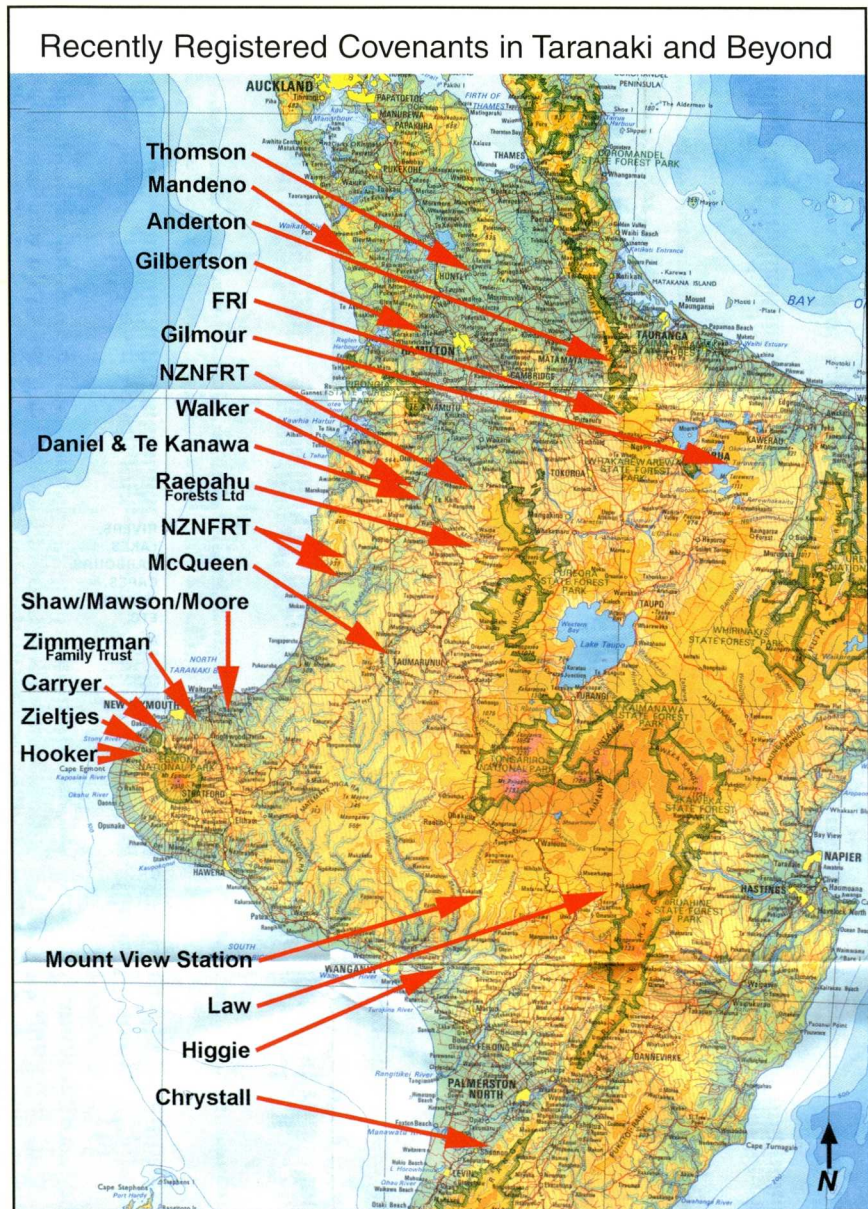
# Focus on: Taranaki and Beyond

Featuring covenants and covenantors in Taranaki, Wanganui, Waikato and Volcanic Plateau.

*Taranaki Regional Representative Neil Phillips covers the area from Cape Egmont in the west, to Mokau in the north, to Jerusalem in the far east.*

*Having been brought up in the Waikato by parents who are very conservation minded, Neil attended Lincoln College, studying for a Diploma in Parks and Recreation. This was followed by a stint working in Nelson Lakes National Park, then moving to Egmont National Park where he stayed until leaving to go dairy farming full time 10 years ago. Neil and his wife Denise (who is a schoolteacher) milk 130 cows at Pukengahu, east of Stratford. Over the past 8 years many trees have been planted, especially along the river margins on the farm.*

*In his spare time, Neil enjoys flying, and is also a keen cyclist, competing in road and mountain bike events.*



From his home base in Stratford, Neil makes use of various modes of transport to reach some of the more isolated covenant areas and proposals.



Neil hits the trail.



# THREE MORE WETLAND TREASURES

Large and small pockets of wetland (areas of swamp, shallow water or waterlogged land) once existed throughout western Taranaki, principally near the eastern side of the Egmont Ring Plain. The largest of them all, the "Ngaere Swamp", located immediately east of Eltham, covered over 7000 hectares and supported mainly swamp maire, kahikatea, pukatea and large patches of low-growing swampland vegetation overtopped by manuka.

As Taranaki's agriculture-based economy developed, most of the natural wetlands were drained or filled to allow the land to be used for agricultural production or urban development. It is estimated that of Taranaki's original wetland areas just 1.5% remain, with only about 0.2% outside Egmont National Park. Most of the original vegetation has long since disappeared, and none was set

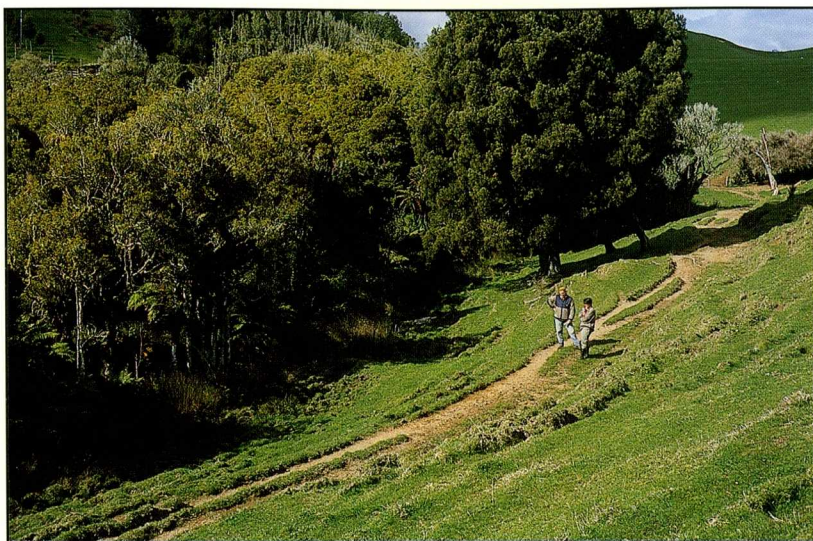
aside as reserve. The only patches of swamp maire forest that still exist are on privately owned land.

In the Egmont Ecological Regional Protected Natural Areas (PNA) Survey Report of 1986, forty-eight natural areas were recommended for protection. The report noted that because there are so few areas protected in the coastal, semi-coastal and lowland zones and so little left to protect, all recommended areas must have a high priority for protection.

It is therefore extremely pleasing

that, thanks to the enthusiasm of the landowners, and the field and legal expertise of the National Trust, four wetlands in the Egmont Ecological Region are not only being protected and restored, but have also recently been covenanted to ensure their future security. The financial assistance of the Taranaki Regional Council and Taranaki Tree Trust towards these projects is greatly appreciated.

One of these wetlands features on our front page, the other three are described below.



*Above and facing page – Two views of Clarke Road Swamp.*

## Clarke Road Swamp

The Clarke Road Swamp is a large (~ 4 hectares) wetland that oozes its way across four properties next to the intersection of Lincoln Road and Clarke Road, in the rolling countryside between Inglewood and Huirangi. About half of the wetland is on **Edgar Mawson's** land; the remainder is split between the properties of **John and Lorna Moore, Gavin and Lynne Shaw, and Amos and Carol White.**

This group of neighbours all agreed the wetland should be given long-term protection, and all decided to approach the Trust for open space covenants. Three of these covenants have now been registered, and the

fourth (the Whites') is well on its way.

A special feature of the swamp is the presence of spotless crane. Spotless crane would have probably once been widespread in the Egmont Ecological Region, but due to drainage and clearance of their habitat they now have a very restricted range. Clarke Road Swamp is one of only six sites in the region where they have been recorded.

Clarke Road Swamp was noted as a Recommended Area for Protection in the Egmont Ecological Region PNA Report. The wetland was rated as being of particular value because its swampy nature had made

it impenetrable to stock and so it had remained in very good condition. The swamp forest is dominated by swamp maire in association with pukatea in the south and *Carex* species to the north. On a drier hill slope to the east is a very small pocket of mixed forest. The Shaws' section of the swamp is unusual in that it is dominated by dense kiekie. These associations are representative of the type of vegetation that covered much of the swampy Taranaki lowlands prior to the arrival of humans.

The wetland is readily visible from Lincoln Road and Clarke Road as it sits below road level.

*The National Trust protects biodiversity on private land.*



# HOOKED ON THEIR WETLAND

Southeast of Okato, on Oxford Road, lies the dairy farm of **Merv and Rae Hooker**. Some years ago, a previous owner partially dammed a small stream in a gully that runs through the middle of the block. The result was, eventually, an attractive, long narrow lake with a margin of raupo and *Carex* wetland and podocarp forest remnant.

The lake and margins are a favourite with local birdlife, and regular visitors include kereru, bellbird, black swan, paradise shelduck, white-faced heron and pukeko.

In the five years that they've owned the land, Merv and Rae have developed a strong attachment to the wetland, and they decided to protect it with an open space covenant so that it could never be destroyed. 1.5 hectares of lake and margins are now protected.

Thanks to the Taranaki Tree Trust and North Taranaki Conservation Corps who assisted with restoring the lake's riparian margin by fencing it off and planting appropriate vegetation.



Merv and Rae Hooker's lake is a favourite with local birdlife.

## Cleaner Than the Average Bird – The Spotless Crake (*Porzana tabuensis*)

Spotless crakes are amongst the smallest members of the bird family known as rails, which includes pukeko, takahe and weka.

- A spotless crake weighs 45 grams (compared with 1 kg for the pukeko and weka).
- They live in swamps and make their nests in cutty grass, where available, up to a metre above water level.
- The spotless crake's tail flicks continually as it searches for snails, spiders, beetles and worms on wetland margins.
- Its long toes give support and spread weight over a large area, like snowshoes.



Photo courtesy of R. Morris – Department of Conservation

- They can fly, but prefer to run for cover.
- They are seldom seen, but their distinctive high-pitched squeak or scolding *crack-crack-crack* calls are often heard.
- They lay their pinkish-cream, brown-flecked eggs (2-3) between August and December.
- Cats and rats are the spotless crake's worst enemies.





Richard and Michelle with their recovering lake.

# Despondant no longer

By Neil Phillips

**Richard and Michelle Julian** had never seen anything like it.

Thanks to an extremely dry summer in the coastal region of Taranaki, the water level in their lake, which relies completely on runoff from the surrounding paddocks, dropped to such an extent that by April only a big puddle was left.

This 4-hectare wetland complex,

known as "Julians Lake", is situated between the main road and the shore near Opunake. It is an important habitat for water birds such as pied stilt, white-faced heron, pukeko, black swan, and many breeds of duck, and was identified by the Taranaki Regional Council as being regionally significant. Fortunately, rain was starting to refill the lake when Regional Rep Neil Phillips

revisited the covenant area in May.

Richard and Michelle are the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of the family to farm this property. They are extremely proud to have this covenant and are also continuing to enhance their farm with further plantings of native plant species along waterways. The Taranaki Tree Trust helped by supplying trees to replant the lake margins within the covenant area.

## WETLANDS – THEIR IMPORTANCE

- A valuable habitat and food resource for a large range of fish, birds, invertebrates and reptiles.
- Provide water storage in times of drought or flood.
- Can act as filters for pollutants (this capacity is not infinite).
- Scenic attraction.
- Scientific interest.
- Opportunities for environmental education.

## THREATS TO OUR WETLANDS

The value of wetlands is often not recognised and many are not properly protected. Common threats are:

- Reclamation for agriculture and grazing, industrial estates, playing fields, residential developments, road construction, canalisation.
- Pollution by fertilisers, stock effluent, oil spills, toxic chemicals, dumped garbage.
- Flood mitigation drainage works, flood levee banks, gates and weirs.
- Siltation accelerated by land disturbance.

## For more information on protecting and restoring wetlands in Taranaki, contact:

### Neil Phillips of QEII National Trust.

Phone (06) 762 2773,  
email [nd.phillips@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nd.phillips@xtra.co.nz)

### Taranaki Regional Council.

Phone (06) 765 7127,  
email [info@trc.govt.nz](mailto:info@trc.govt.nz)

### Fish & Game New Zealand.

Phone (04) 499 4767.  
Website [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

### Taranaki Tree Trust.

Phone (06) 765 7127



# FOREST & BIRDERS SEND PESTS PACKING

Rats, stoats, cats, possums and goats need to be extremely wily to escape from a dedicated team of volunteers at work in the eastern Taranaki.

The South Taranaki Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (F&B) is into the fourth year of a major pest eradication programme in the Collier and Lintott (now owned by the Dicksons) covenants at Lake Rotorangi. Under the guidance of Rex Hartley and Allan Baikie, a regular programme of poisoning, shooting and trapping has been undertaken, and large numbers of pests have been destroyed, including over one thousand possums. One of the most disturbing revelations from this exercise was the size of the wild cat population: nearly 20 wild cats have been trapped in two years – these animals would have had a major effect on the bird population.

The two covenant areas are adjoining and total 358 hectares. As the very first covenants to be registered in Taranaki (1981), regeneration and quality of the forest is extremely good, and will only improve with this animal control.

A highlight for F&B volunteers last summer was watching a pair of falcons rear two young within the covenant area.

Thanks to J. Watson Trust (via F&B), Waikato Branch of F&B, Lottery Grants Board, and the Taranaki Electricity Trust (assistance with purchase of quad bike) for their financial contributions to this project.

By Neil Phillips



Allan Baikie with another successful catch.



Jason Baikie setting traps.

## The Hinterland of Eastern Taranaki

By Neil Phillips

After my first visit to Ohura, 100km northeast of Stratford, the journey does not seem such an expedition! Even though it is a 2½ hour drive from home, the dedication and enthusiasm of the landowners towards conservation and their covenants is obvious, and this makes the trip always exciting and worthwhile.

**Kelvin and Glenyss McQueen** have recently had the covenant over their 14-hectare podocarp broadleaf forest at Ohura registered. This remnant has been fenced for the last 15 years. With the control of feral goats, the forest is regenerating very well. The canopy species, consisting of kamahi, tawa, hinau and hoheria,

have thickened up and closed together well. The undergrowth is also very strong, and with this protection in place we have an excellent forest remnant preserved.

Kelvin and Glenyss are very excited about their covenant and are continuing with the planting of trees on their farm.

Likewise with **Kevin and Megan Friel**, also at Ohura. They have recently finished the fencing of their 7-hectare covenant area and are eagerly waiting for registration to be completed. We were fortunate to have the help from the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (Horizons.mw), especially Land Management Officer Guy Vickers, who helped with the fencing of this primary tawa forest remnant.



Low cloud over the McQueen forest

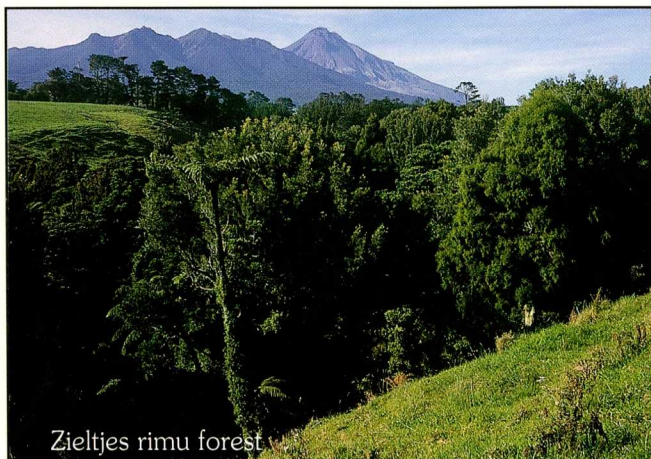


The mossy interior of the Friel forest



# FOREST LINKS TO EGMONT NATIONAL PARK

Two compact little stands of native forest within 2km of the Egmont National Park's northern boundary have been covenanted recently. Both forests have low possum counts, thanks to the Taranaki Regional Council self-help control programme, and are well frequented by birds (tui, fantail, kereru, bellbirds and grey warblers) from the Park.



Zieltjes rimu forest

**Roger and Judith Zieltjes** have protected a fine little stand of rimu on their dairy farm in Upper Pitone Road. The 1.5-hectare forest is in a damp and sheltered valley of a Timaru Stream tributary, and the terrain includes two areas of raupo swamp and wetland. The lack of large podocarps indicates the forest has been logged, but the canopy is intact and is extremely attractive as seen from high ground to the east.

Now that the possums are under control, the next



Carryer forest

management priority is to deal with infestations of the weed *Tradescantia*, which has the potential to smother regenerating native seedlings.

A few kilometres to the northeast, **Colin Carryer** has covenanted almost 2 hectares of kohekohe, hinau and tawa forest on his dairy farm on Plymouth Road. Some large kohekohe specimens indicate that this forest remnant is extremely old and it is unmodified except for stock grazing in the past. Since the forest was fenced ten years ago, there has been good regeneration, with good seedling cover over the forest floor. The Taranaki Tree Trust provided eco-sourced taupata, and several other early colonising species, for revegetating one corner of the covenant, and Regional Rep Neil Phillips reports that these are coming away very quickly.

## Who is the Taranaki Tree Trust?

The Taranaki Tree Trust arose as a concept in 1990. It was recognised that while there was often a will to protect indigenous forest by landowners, it was often at the bottom of the priority list for farm expenditure. Similarly, national organisations such as QEII National Trust had limited funds and prioritised those funds on a national basis. Regional and locally significant areas therefore were not being protected because of a lack of funds.

The Taranaki Tree Trust was established as an independent regional initiative to assist landowners financially with voluntary mechanisms to protect indigenous forest. It was registered as a Charitable Trust and therefore all donations to the Trust are tax deductible.

The Taranaki Regional Council



Taranaki Tree Trust trustees and previous National Trust rep Bill Messenger at the Stretton covenant area.

undertook to administer the Trust at no cost, so that all donations received go directly to projects. The Trust works closely with other agencies (mostly represented as Trustees) so that various roles are not duplicated. Donations have mostly come from

industry in the region.

To date the Taranaki Tree Trust has been able to assist finance 15 National Trust open space covenants. Assistance has variously included fencing and/or survey costs and supplementary restoration planting. These are covenants that would not have been able to proceed without additional financial support. Other projects of the Taranaki Tree Trust include assistance to landowners with riparian enhancement and coastal restoration.

The Taranaki Tree Trust is heartened by the support of industry in the region, which has enabled the funding gap to be met in achieving some very worthwhile conservation projects.

**By Maggie Bayfield**



# Beyond Taranaki

In the Waikato and northern King Country, Gerry Kessels is the National Trust's Regional Rep. Gerry has twelve years experience as an environmental scientist and planner, but has not forgotten his childhood Waikato dairy farming roots.

He has been working with the Trust since 1998. In that time he has met a vast range of interesting and incredibly motivated landowners as well as visiting some very beautiful and precious covenants.

The Trust congratulates Gerry on his recent capping as Master of Resource and Environmental Planning (1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours). His thesis explored the conflicts and potential co-management opportunities where rural landowners lived next to State protected sensitive natural areas. Gerry interviewed a number of landowners, tangata whenua, government staff and resource users, using the Whangamarino Wetland as a case study.

Six covenants have been registered in Gerry's territory over the past year. He comments that all covenants in the Lower Waikato (eg, the Gilbertson, Mandeno and Thomson forest blocks) are of particular value because they lie amongst prime farming country and very little is left in this district.

These forest remnants could easily have been destroyed and developed into very productive farmland. Gerry considers that the general public is not sufficiently aware of how much potential income these landowners forego when they covenant such areas.



Gerry Kessels



*A hazard of working in dairy country. Gerry reckons it took him over an hour to water blast the Mamaku cow poo off his little Subaru – But, a Hilux got stuck where he managed to get thru' on this day!*



## A Good Spot for Spotless Crane

Forestry company **Raepahu Forests Ltd** has worked with its neighbours and the National Trust to ensure that 31 hectares of prime native bird habitat is protected by open space covenant.

This area of rewarewa/hinau hardwood forest is in the hills north of Benneydale, and adjoins the Raepahu Forest and Raepahu Fernbird Ecological Area (both managed by DoC). All these forested areas are of high conservation value due to the presence of good populations of fernbird and spotless crane. NZ falcon and North Island robin are also found in the forests.

Always gain permission from the landowner before entering an area protected by open space covenant.

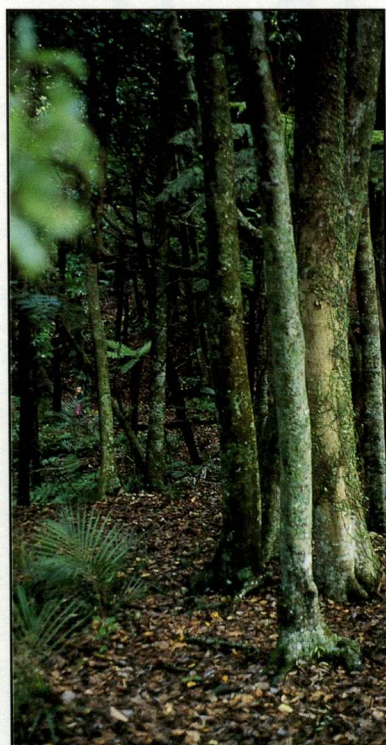


# MEDICINAL TREES IN TE KUITI

In the heart of Te Kuiti township, a whole bush-covered section has been covenanted by owners **Mike Daniel** and **Lee-Anne Te Kanawa** to protect it from subdivision or development.

Mike and Lee-Anne live on the section next door, and appreciate the many values of the bush, particularly the medicinal and cultural values of the large karaka trees within it. Forest birds also find the block appealing, with tui and kereru being regular visitors to feed on the variety of native flowering and fruiting species.

The canopy and sub-canopy of this miniature (860m<sup>2</sup>) forest is healthy, but ground cover is sparse at the moment due to constant trampling by children playing amongst the trees. A fence will be erected soon along the western boundary to control casual access.



A pixie plays in this magical little Te Kuiti forest.



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

Approach with caution: the potent leaves of the karaka tree.

**K**araka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) is a large coastal tree that can grow to 20 metres tall. It has dark green, shiny, smooth-edged leaves and elliptical orange berries about 3-4 cm long. It is believed Maori introduced karaka to New Zealand when they first colonised this country, and it is now common throughout the North Island and parts of the South Island. The tree had two traditional uses: the leaves were healing if applied to wounds (provided the leaves were applied the right way up – otherwise they were harmful), and the fruits (although bitter and very poisonous

unless prepared correctly) were important source of food.

Maori held the karaka tree in great esteem and many battles were fought over the possession of karaka groves. Each year, on a certain day in summer when the star Puanga was clearly visible, the Moriori held a ceremony to ensure the trees' fruitfulness. In the hand of every person present was a stick on whose end were bound seed kernels from the karaka. Each person pointed their stick at Puanga and recited a karakia to ensure a good harvest. (Source: Maori Healing and Herbal, by Murdoch Riley)

## Nancy's nightmares

Thinking of selling, setting up a family trust or subdividing your property?

Please let Nancy know. It is important that the Trust be kept informed of any changes that may impact on the covenant. Prior to registration, ownership changes can cause significant delays to the process, which can be lessened if the Trust is notified as soon as practical.

After registration, while it is not necessary to gain the Board's consent to a subdivision if it does not affect the covenant, letting the Trust know your intentions would be appreciated. Much time can be spent tracking down a new legal description and Certificate of Title reference for the covenant (Nancy dreams of Terranet!).

Remember, if you're too busy to put pen to paper, you can always ring on our freephone 0508 732 878.





# Mystery Plant Baffles Botanists

An innocuous occupant of a damp forested valley on **Tom Mandeno's** property had botanists scratching their heads for a while recently (admittedly, they were trying to identify it from a photo), and there were even suggestions it was a new discovery. However, the mystery of the spindly little plant with a delicate white flower was eventually solved when Bev Clarkson (Landcare Research) identified it as *Lobelia anceps*.



*Beat the botanists - name this plant!*



*Looking southwest over the Mandeno forest near Waikaretu.*

Over 6 hectares of the little plant's wetland habitat and surrounding forest near Waikaretu is now protected by open space covenant.

The Trust is grateful for Tom's patience with this covenanting venture. He and his wife Anna first approached the Trust in 1993 wanting to protect the unusual mix of kauri, broadleaf and podocarp forest on the farm, and the National Trust was keen to help them. However, lack of funds on the part of the Trust meant the project had to be put on hold. Fortunately, when money became available four years later, the forest was still there and Tom and Anna were still keen to go ahead.

## New Addition to Waitomo Covenants Network

**Donald Walker** has covenanted a fine stand of rimu forest covering 21 hectares of land, plus two smaller blocks of forest surrounding a stream and limestone sinkholes. The three areas are just southwest of Waitomo Caves - an important extension to the nearby 114-hectare Ruakuri Caves and Bush Scenic Reserve - and bring the total area covenanted in the Waitomo district to over 470 hectares. The protected forest and cave network enhances the water quality of the streams, and is a haven for the specialised plants and creatures that enjoy a limestone environment.

## The Joy of Kauri

A delightful grove of native trees, including a 40-metre tall kauri, has been covenanted on the Ngaruawahia lifestyle block of **Joy and Don Gilbertson**. Joy is particularly fond of the big kauri, giving it a hug whenever she's passing, and she says that kereru, bellbird and tui are regular visitors to the grove.

Kauri forest is severely depleted in the Hamilton Ecological District, and this little block (measuring just 0.58 ha) represents about 2% of what is left.

The National Trust is grateful to Environment Waikato and the Waikato District Council for fencing finance, and to the Department of Conservation for the donation of manuka plants, which will be planted this winter/spring to provide wind shelter.

## HOWZAT!

Cricketers playing in Orini, near Huntly, can readily admire the newly covenanted forest block on **Brian and Judith Thomson's** land, because it forms the southern boundary of the village pitch.

The 2-hectare stand is dominated by mature kahikatea, but includes numerous other species of podocarps and hardwoods, plus prolific perching, epiphytic and liane species. There are a few troublesome weed species in the forest, but Judith and Brian have been busy planting fast-growing native species to out-compete them, and are actively controlling the *Tradescantia*. The high number of possums will also soon be knocked for six.

**Please note:** although this covenant area is easily accessible, please ask permission from the landowners before entering.



# Covenantor Peter Levin wins Waikato Farm Environment Award

By Phillipa Crequer

This year's supreme winner of the Waikato Farm Environment Award has 23 hectares of his Waikato bull beef property under National Trust protection, and the reason is simple. Peter Levin wants to make sure the stand of predominantly totara trees remains untouched well beyond his farming tenure.

When he bought the 222 hectare Gordonton property 15 years ago, none of the bush was fenced off, and what's more, after he'd bought the place, but before he took possession, the previous owner was busy whacking down kanuka trees and cutting them into firewood for his Auckland friends.

Peter, with his strong conservation bent says he could see the same thing happening again unless he put a permanent protection order in place.

The bush reserve was fenced off immediately and Peter says the area's shown a "heartening response" with regenerating ferns and other seedlings. Within a year there was significantly more undergrowth and forest regeneration was underway, and that's despite weeds being a problem.

Wandering jew and honeysuckle are choking out some seedlings but Peter says it's not practical to do much while he's still busy developing and intensifying the bull beef unit. "It's a huge job and success would be limited against wandering jew. I may turn my attention to it one day, but for now I can't."

The whole of the gently rolling farm is extremely pleasing aesthetically. Not only is the covenanted stand of trees highly visible, but once naked waterways are now all fenced off and have been planted with a variety of natives so the theme of forest regeneration rolls into restoration elsewhere.

All the conservation developments are having a positive spin off for farm management too. Stock flow is improved as Peter no



*Peter Levin amidst his totara forest.*

longer has to chase animals out of drains or forest, and he says there's an additional advantage which is often overlooked. "You add another aspect to farming, and it's an enjoyable one. It's interesting watching trees grow and develop."

Peter Levin's covenanted block of land has also boosted the capital value of his farm by \$115,000, as it should according to him, "that's a minimum". He can back up that figure following a recent council valuation of the farm where the native bush was marked as "waste"

area and valued at \$2500/ha. After objecting, the revaluation came back putting the bush area at \$7500/ha.

Peter's farm is a credit to his, and worker Wayne Dreadon's hard work, vision and planning. The well-planted streams and wet areas are filtering 80 percent of the farm's run-off and once well trodden areas are now providing a suitable habitat for birds and other wildlife. The native forest block, while not containing any threatened or rare species, is a showcase for others to consider on their properties.



# NFRT Continues its Good Work

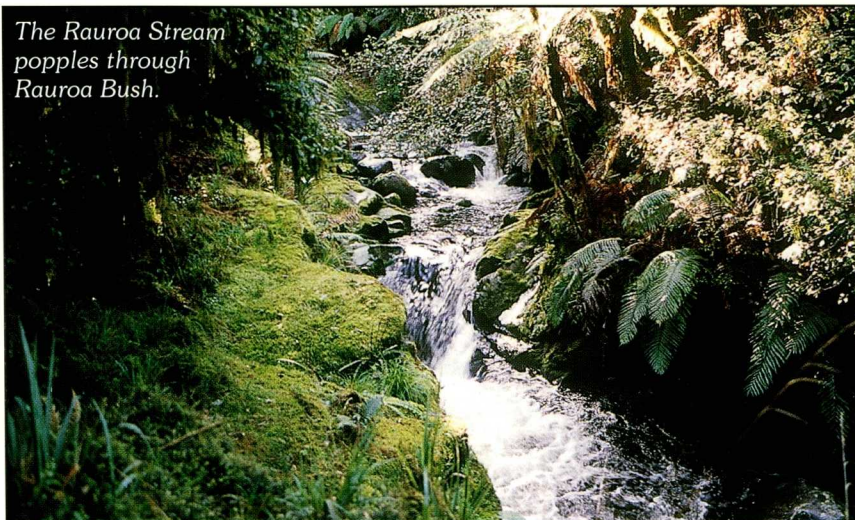
By Gerry Kessels

The **NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust** (NFRT) has been a prolific purchaser of vast areas of indigenous forest and wetland throughout New Zealand since its formation. In all cases, the NFRT seeks the National Trust's help in placing an open space covenant over the newly acquired land as well as assistance with fencing and survey costs. Three large and regionally ecologically significant NFRT forest blocks totalling 894 hectares in the King Country have been protected by OSC in the last year. Tim Oliver (ex National Trust Regional Rep. and now trustee of the NFRT) and Arthur Cowan (ex National Trust Board director and now trustee of the NFRT) were key people in the successful protection of these blocks.

The 244 ha Owen Lewis Reserve, enveloping the steep sides of the Waimahora Stream Valley, Otorohanga, near the 450 ha NFRT-owned covenant Rangitoto Station, was purchased by the NFRT in 1996. The previous owners, Lou and Sheryl Jones, were willing sellers and are now the honorary rangers for the reserve. Purchase of the block was made possible by significant donations from the Otorohanga District Council, Environment Waikato, and Nature Heritage Fund. Registration of the covenant, however, was only confirmed at the end of last year due to problems with some very old (80 year plus) survey definitions. The forest itself is mainly tawa, with totara, rimu and kahikatea common also. Along with its important ecological corridor functions, the forest has very high soil protection and landscape values. The reserve is named in recognition of Owen Lewis's many years service to the NFRT.

Brian and Andrea Hanna were the previous owners of Rauroa Bush, near Awakino. The 290 ha

*The Rauroa Stream  
popples through  
Rauroa Bush.*



of lowland tawa/rimu and hinau forest are regenerating well since the block has been fenced. Recently retired Regional Rep. Ross Bishop, with the kind voluntary help of several Landcare botanists, identified 175 species of native plants in the reserve, many of which are nationally rare. There is also a stunning waterfall in the middle of the reserve, well over 80 metres high. Brian and Andrea operate a lovely farm stay on their property adjacent to the reserve: they were overall winners of the Waikato Farm Environment Award and ECNZ Energy Efficiency Award in 1999. This is a very special area with many surprises for the adventurous naturalist.

The Basil Hewett Reserve was formally registered as an open space covenant in November 2000. The 360 ha forest is now a lasting tribute to Basil Hewett's efforts for the NFRT. Perhaps the most important ecological feature of this bush is that it links large tracts of Lower Awakino River forest with the Whareorino Conservation Park. The Basil Hewett Reserve also has some of the finest stands of lowland tawa/podocarp forest in the Waikato region. Graeme and Lynn Merchant, the original owners, are now honorary rangers for the reserve. Like the Hannas, they also practice what they preach and won "best drystock farm" in the 2000 Waikato Farm Environment Awards.



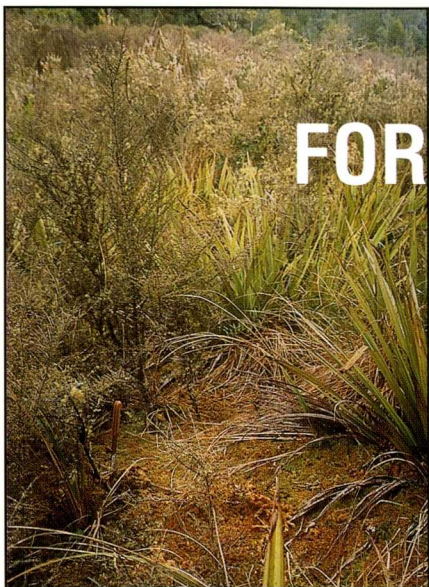
*Arthur Cowan and Brian Davis (chairman NFRT) in front of Basil Hewett Reserve.*

**Visit the NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust reserves.**

All of these areas are available for the public to visit and enjoy.  
Contact Gerry Kessels (phone 07 825 9025) for access details.



# EXCEPTIONAL WETLAND FOREST ON MAMAKU PLATEAU



the canopy for the enhancement of planted and natural seedlings, and to study the ecology of individual species.

The 1954 0.4ha Ecological Transect in the area is one of the oldest such plots in the North Island.

Large numbers of native podocarp trees (rimu, kahikatea, totara) were planted in groups between 1959 and 1961 in the southeastern part of the area (between Galaxy Road and Bamicott's Road) and now form a canopy up to 10m tall. This is the largest experimental group planting of native trees within existing native forest in New Zealand (Pardy et al, 1992).

The most recent chapter of the history is that the property has just been protected by open space covenant.

A wonderful array of regionally rare and interesting plants can be found in the boggy hollows and wetlands of the block, including



*Gahnia rigida* and the only known population of *Dracophyllum subulatum* on the Mamaku Plateau.

It also provides a first-rate habitat for many threatened and rare native animal species, including fernbird, kereru, NZ falcon, robin, kaka, striped skink, short-tailed bat and long-tailed bat.

The future ownership of the property is uncertain, but its protection as a habitat for native wildlife and a site for scientific research is secure.

The protected area is highly visible from Galaxy Road North, which runs north off State Highway 5.

## Young Forest on Lakeside Lifestyle Block

On their lifestyle block on the western shore of Lake Tarawera, **Chris and Julie Gilmour** have protected just over 1 hectare of regenerating forest by open space covenant.

The area is a small but useful extension to the neighbouring Miller Bush Scenic Reserve (39ha), which has a similar secondary cover of kamahi, rewarewa and other broadleaved shrubs. The young forest is part of the pleasing backdrop to the lake and it attracts a good range of birds.



Lake Tarawera from Chris and Julie's lifestyle block.



Deep in the 100-hectare wood, a North Island robin plays.

© courtesy of DoC

## PURE KAIMAI TAWA

**Colin and Tania Anderton's** farm lies on the lower slopes of the Kaimai Ranges, and a substantial part of their land is clothed in mature tawa forest.

Some 33 hectares of this forest is now protected by open space covenant. Some podocarp logging was carried out in this block but the tawa was left and there are also pockets of smaller rimu, miro and totara.



# Tiger Country Covenant Registered

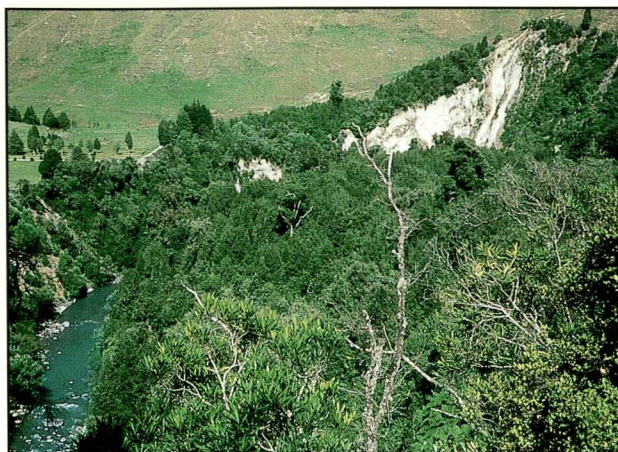
Regional Rep. Bruce Kirk ventured way into the upper reaches of the Wangaehu River valley last summer to pay his first visit to the newly registered covenant area at Ngamatea. The long, steep, unsealed road that leads up the valley is fondly known by locals as the Burma Track, and Bruce asserts it is not for the faint-hearted.

It was back in 1983 (before Bruce's time) that the then owners of the property, David and Ngaire Hine, first approached the National Trust about covenanting two areas of forest – known as Ngamatea Bush (36ha) and Big Gully Bush (4.5ha) – within their farm boundary. The forest areas had been selectively cut over at some time, but plenty of large *hikatea*, *rewarewa* and other species remained, including some magnificent specimen trees. The Hines were great nature lovers and were keen to preserve the two forest

stands for the benefit of future generations of foresters, botanists and fellow nature lovers.

A prerequisite of the covenant was that the northern boundary of Ngamatea Bush be secured by the erection of cattle-proof fencing (30-40 metre high bluffs along the stream weren't enough to deter cattle from entering the forest). This was achieved, thanks to the co-operation and efforts of neighbour Mr Trevor Collins and his son Richard.

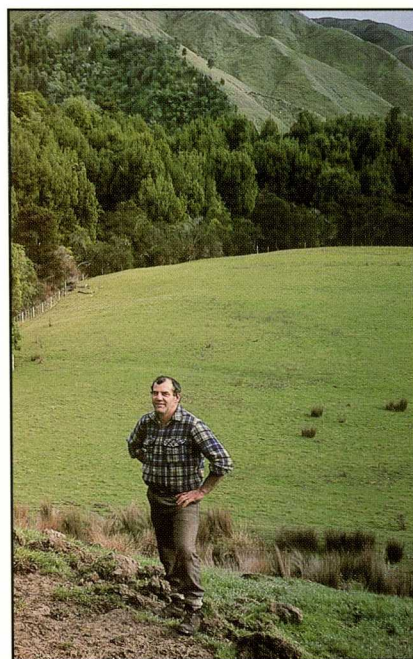
In the meantime, however, the Hines had sold their farm. Fortunately, the new owner –



*Ngamatea Bush.*

**Mount View Farms Limited** – was keen to continue with the covenant and it has now been completed. Bruce is thrilled that the new owners are equally keen about the forest and the work of the Trust, and the covenanted area is in safe hands.

*The homestead and bush above the Whangaehu River.*



*Mr Hine with section of new fence.*

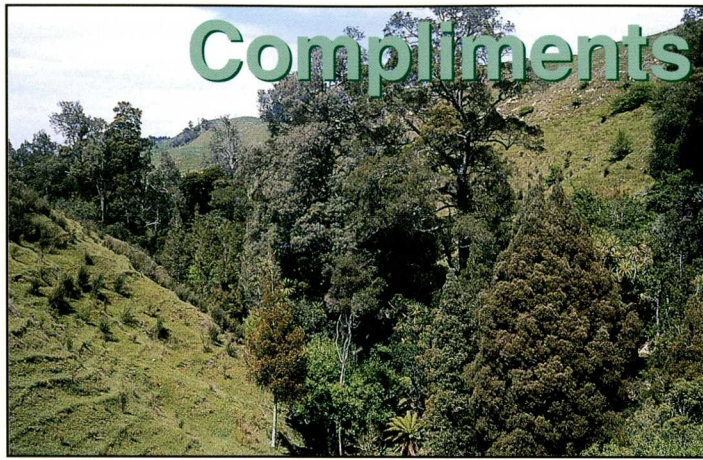
## Leita Chrystall Covenant

**Mark and Madre Chrystall** farm a block to the east of Shannon in the Horowhenua. A 10-hectare stand of broadleaf podocarp on the property has been protected by open space covenant and named after Mark's mother – Leita Chrystall – the protagonist for the covenant.

The forest is popular with kereru, tui and other native birds, and has high landscape value as it is readily viewed from Kingston Road and further afield.







## Flow for Fordell Plant Fanatics

transformed much of their little valley with bizarre and wonderful plantings of exotic palms, succulents, ferns, cycads and bamboos. These gardens have featured in articles in *North & South* and *Straight Furrow*, and attract people from round the world.

But beyond the garden, amongst the 350 hectares of steep farm country, are several very valuable remnants of native forest and wetland that the Higgies are equally enthusiastic about. Four of these areas are now protected by open space covenant. The two forest areas, which total over 13 hectares, contain a wide variety of native trees, with some large specimens. The two almost contiguous wetlands total just over 1 hectare in area, and were identified as a recommended area for protection in the Rangitikei PNA Report of 1995. Amongst the many regionally rare plants in the wetlands are two *Baumea* species, *Hypolepis distans*, and *Clematis quadribacteolata* - at its southern limit in the North Island.

"Kahikatea/wetland is just bursting with growth"; "Canopy superb, revealing excellent balance and variety"; "NZ rehabilitated forest as it should be"; "an outstanding example of just what can happen with excellent management"; "whole valley has taken on a most pleasing appearance"; "many enthusiastic visitors"; "an excellent conservationist". These are just some of the comments from Regional Rep. Bruce Kirk's recent annual inspection report on the covenant areas of **Clive and Nicole Higgie**.

Many visitors are drawn to the Higgies' farm at Denlair Road, Fordell because of the gardens: Clive and Nicole have

## Possums Out-Lawed

Thanks to a possum control group formed by Andy Law and his neighbours, possum numbers have plummeted within this new covenant of **Andy and Claire Law, Annabelle Law, Robert Law and John Bruce**, and the foliage of possum-prone species is already showing the benefit.



The protected area is a 24-hectare expanse of podocarp forest on the northern side of the steep Kokopunui Stream valley, south of Pukeokahu settlement. The gorge's inaccessibility to humans and stock means that most of the forest is in pristine condition and is highly representative of the original vegetation in this region. It is also miraculously free of old man's beard.

### PESTOFF POSSUM BAIT

Pestoff™ possum bait is available direct from Mark Bell-Booth Ltd: phone 0800 80 90 91.

**Discount price for Trust members is \$35 (plus GST) for 10kg bag.**



### Visit the Higgies

If you would like to visit the covenant areas, the exotic gardens or stay at Clive and Nicole's farm stay, phone them on (06) 342 7857.



# BEATING *around the bush*

tips and techniques for native ecosystem management

## The NZERN website – an award winning resource

By Tim Park

Recent hard work by a Christchurch-based umbrella group, known as New Zealand Ecological Restoration Network (NZERN) has produced an Internet web site ([www.bush.org.nz](http://www.bush.org.nz)). This site is a wonderful resource to those interested or involved in ecological restoration projects in New Zealand.

Those not able to access the Internet from home can do so at most local libraries.

To illustrate how landowners can take advantage of this web site, I am going to use Taranaki wetlands as an example. I have found a most useful component of the site is the **planterguide**, which provides a list of plant species native to your ecological region (eg Taranaki) that are appropriate to be planted at your specific location. It is the result of efforts by Colin Muerk (Landcare Research). The planterguide is accessed directly at [www.bush.org.nz/planterguide](http://www.bush.org.nz/planterguide).

Due to the obvious range of environmental conditions that occur within an ecological region such as Taranaki, lists have been prepared to target the most suitable plants for different soil types that occur within each ecological region (McEwen et al. 1983) for the whole country. For a Taranaki freshwater wetland I would choose the **recent** soil categories, and the **plant list** link in the wetland/swamp/seepage category. If you are not sure what soil type you are working with, just click on each **soil type** link and a description is presented.

The **plant list** link brings up a species list for the Taranaki ecological region which can be printed out (to take to your local nursery) or copied to a word processor so you can create your

own restoration plan. I recommend that you consider these lists a useful guide, not a definitive list of what you should plant. I would go further – have a good look around to see what is already present (or used to be) in your locality and use this to identify what indigenous species you want to utilise to restore your local ecosystem.

The planterguide is only one of the many resources that the NZERN website has to offer. Others include posting activities and events, personalised restoration pages, ecological district species lists, many links to other organisations and groups and so on...

Conclusion: use this site and contribute to it; the more who do so the better it will get.

## Winner of a 2001 Green Ribbon Award

The environmental efforts of the NZERN have won it a prestigious Green Ribbon Award this year. The NZERN was initiated by the Addington Bush Society, a group of eight Addington families who joined their backyards to plant native trees and shrubs. Links were made to other small community groups nationally and there are now 143 member organisations and 50 volunteer staff. The Addington Bush Society is in the process of placing an open space covenant over the combined backyards.

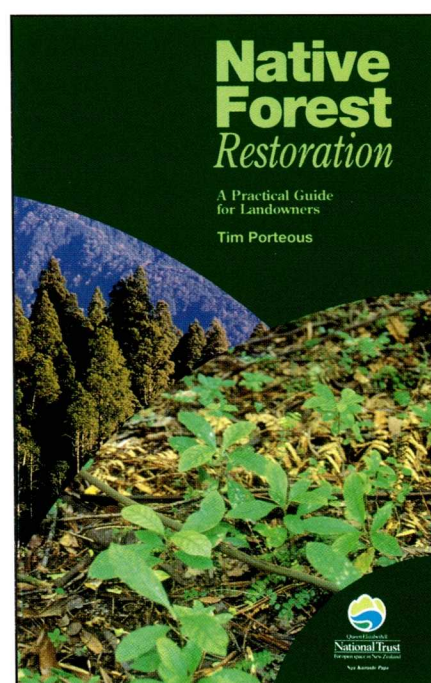
17

## NATIVE FOREST RESTORATION

**A practical handbook**  
for people  
creating, enlarging  
or enhancing areas  
of native forest.

**Price \$25**  
**Trust members \$20**

Order your copy from:  
QEII National Trust,  
PO Box 3341, Wellington  
Email:  
[sperry@qe2nattrust.org.nz](mailto:sperry@qe2nattrust.org.nz)





## NEW TRUST PUBLICATION –

*For the first time under one cover, Leonard Cockayne's reports on New Zealand's montane tussock grassland: compiled by Dr Brian Molloy.*

Dr Leonard Cockayne is regarded as having been one of New Zealand's foremost research plant scientists.

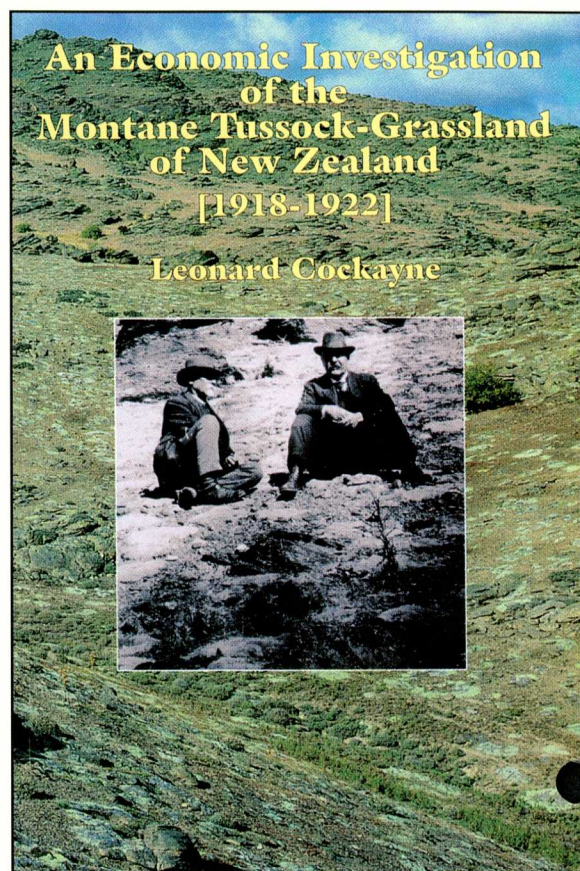
Born in Norton Lees, England, in 1855, Leonard Cockayne came to New Zealand in 1881. He travelled extensively throughout the country preparing a wide variety of botanical reports – including significant works from 1907 onward relating to Kapiti Island, Waipoua Kauri Forest, Tongariro National Park, the sand dunes of New Zealand and Stewart Island.

In 1918, he was appointed by the Department of Agriculture to undertake an economic investigation of the montane tussock grassland of New Zealand. The results of his findings were published in fourteen separate articles in the New Zealand Journal of Agriculture from 1919 to 1922.

Among the many highlights of this seminal study of tussock grassland and mountain lands re-vegetation were Cockayne's re-grassing experiments in the depleted grasslands of Central Otago. The most notable of these were on Northburn Station, Cromwell, where his fenced plots, the now famous "Cockayne Plots", are still present and will soon be formally protected in perpetuity under a National Trust open space covenant.

Much of what Cockayne wrote about eighty years ago is still relevant. Most of the plants and plant processes he described with such clarity can still be observed, and throughout his articles there are many perceptive statements on a variety of issues as pertinent today as they were then.

With the assistance of grants from the South Island High Country Committee of Federated Farmers, the Community Trust of Otago, the Miss E.L. Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust and the Dr Lucy B. Moore bequest to the



National Trust, Dr Brian Molloy has compiled Leonard Cockayne's reports on montane tussock-grasslands. The facsimile of the compiled reports has been published by the National Trust under the title "An Economic Investigation of the Montane Tussock-Grassland of New Zealand (1918-1922)".

Copies of the publication can be obtained from the National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington on receipt of payment of \$5 per copy to cover packing & postage.

## Please don't confuse us!

### The QEII National Trust DOES

- Protect natural areas of New Zealand in partnership with private landowners.
- Place open space covenants over private land to provide legal protection in perpetuity.
- Support covenantors by regularly inspecting the protected land and offering management advice and assistance.
- Own Tupare and Hollard Gardens in Taranaki, which are open to the public.
- Own a number of properties with natural values, including Taupo Swamp just north of Wellington on SH1.
- Accept gifts and bequests to help with its work.
- Have a membership exceeding 2500 New Zealanders who care about protecting our country for the future.

### The QEII National Trust DOESN'T\*

- Have any association with the QEII Park in Paraparaumu or Christchurch!
- Give out grants to artists, actors or dancers (that was the QEII Arts Council that was renamed Creative NZ about 10 years ago)!
- Have anything to do with notable or heritage trees in district plan documents.
- Run a hospital in Rotorua!
- Administer Maori language preschools!
- Have anything to do with listed buildings (that's the NZ Historic Places Trust)!

\* Believe it or not, we regularly receive enquiries about all of these organisations, activities and places.



# QEII National Trust Affiliates with New Journal

QE II National Trust is one of four Australasian organisations that have been invited to affiliate with the new journal 'Ecological Management & Restoration'.

This affiliation is based on the fact that the journal and the National Trust share a common goal of wanting to promote improved ecosystem restoration and management, and recognise private land as critical to the conservation of biodiversity.

What it means in practical terms is that the National Trust has agreed to assist the journal partners to develop stronger links with practitioners and managers to let them know about the journal. The National Trust has agreed to place occasional snippets about the journal in *Open Space*; take fliers, posters and sample copies to conferences; and provide ideas, contacts and / or actual articles to the EMR Editor. We

also hope that National Trust members will encourage practitioners doing good work to submit articles or short notes on their projects.

In return, the Ecological Society of Australia and Blackwell Science-Asia (who own and run the journal) can reduce the price of a subscription by some 20%.

***This discount offer applies to all Open Space magazine recipients and can be redeemed using the flier inserted into this issue.***

To date, two New Zealand articles have already been published – as well as abstracts of recently-published New Zealand reports and papers relating to the conservation

of biodiversity. And we are actively seeking more!

Readers of this magazine will be interested in the article **Conservation of native biodiversity in rural New Zealand** by David A. Norton and Craig J. Miller - which argues the case for integrating nature conservation into the sustainable management of the 70% of New Zealand that is privately owned. (Published in EMR 1:1)

Another article of interest, **Addressing the effects of private land use on biodiversity in New Zealand**, was written by Judith Roper-Lindsay – who outlines the steps that might be taken to address private land indigenous biodiversity issues. (Published in EMR 1:3)

**Send all ideas to the Editor, Tein McDonald:** <teinm@ozemail.com.au> or phone +61-2- 6682 2885

## National Trust's AROHA ISLAND near Kerikeri in the beautiful Bay of Islands

**A peaceful place to visit and stay.**

**Open every day.**

- Ecological Centre – learn about kiwi and NZ ecosystems.
- Loop track through bush and mangroves.
- Accommodation available – book now for summer holidays.
- Superb camping site.
- School parties welcome, by prior arrangement.

**Contact: The Centre Manager**  
Tel (09) 407 5243 Fax (09) 407 5246  
Email [kiwi@aroha.net.nz](mailto:kiwi@aroha.net.nz)  
Or write to Box 541 Kerikeri





# TRUST PEOPLE

## Ferrall Estate Bequest

In late 1998, the Trust was advised it was a beneficiary from the estate of Glenda Ferrall who had died earlier that year in Australia.

New Zealand born Glenda Ferrall had a lifetime interest in, and commitment to, the protection of the environment. In particular, she had a passion for the history and natural environment in the Helensville-South Head district.

In 1994, Glenda purchased a property on South Head Road, near Waioneke, with the intention of protecting the native bush thereon and planting native species on open sites. She was, however, only able to initiate her planting programme before she moved to Australia for business reasons.

Following her untimely passing, the South Head Road property transferred to the National Trust. In accordance with her wishes, the Trust has placed an open space covenant on the 2-hectare bush area. With the covenant in place, the property has been sold to Ann and Justin Basevi.

Trust Chairperson Sir Paul Reeves has indicated that the proceeds from the sale of the property will be applied towards the general work of the Trust. "The Trust was surprised to receive this bequest and records sincere gratitude to Glenda Ferrall."

## Generosity at Mystery Creek

Gerry Kessels (Waikato Regional Rep.) is most grateful to Neale Blaymires and the Waikato Branch of the Royal Forest & Bird Society for their kind assistance at the 2001 National Fieldays at Mystery Creek. Neale allowed the National Trust display to share his Magpie Trip-Trap site free of charge, and the RFBPS supplied a tent.

See the next edition of *Open Space* for more information on the Magpie Trip-Trap.

## Obituaries

*We record with deep regret the deaths of Keith I'Anson, James Haggas, Bill Veitch, Jim Kidson and Professor Douglas Lilburn, who each had close associations with the National Trust.*

In 1987, **Mr I'Anson** gifted to the Trust part of his farm at Te Puna, adjacent to State Highway 2, some 8km north of Tauranga.

Mr I'Anson had had a long-standing desire to see a native bush reserve established in the locality for recreational, educational and scientific purposes. Further land was gifted in 1993, making the total area of what is today the 10.2 hectare I'Anson Reserve.

As a result of combined input of funding and personpower from the

district council, the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society and the Trust, what was farmland is being transformed into a valuable community park. Extensive planting of indigenous tree and shrub species has been undertaken, a lake established as habitat for wetland wildlife, and walking tracks developed.

The Trust and the local community are indebted to Keith I'Anson for his foresight and generosity.



Above – From left to right, Mr & Mrs I'Anson with Reg James (Forest & Bird).

Below – Looking across the original lake at I'Anson Reserve to the car park and entrance.





**James Haggas** covenanted 85 hectares of attractive podocarp forest on his farm near Waitomo Caves several years ago. There are many trees of loggable size within the forest, and these are now protected permanently thanks to Mr Haggas' good judgement.

**Bill Veitch** initiated a covenant over 8 hectares of unique indigenous forest at Pehiri, East Cape. Bill was very proud of the forest, which is now permanently protected and stands as a living memorial to him.

**Jim Kidson** covenanted 2.6 hectares of almost impenetrable forest remnant at Rakopi, northwest Nelson. At the time, Jim described the protected area as "a sanctuary from development and disruption, where nature rules supreme" and said that putting the covenant in place was one of the most significant things he had done.

Composer **Douglas Lilburn** was a significant benefactor of the Trust through donations he made at irregular intervals. National Trust Estate Manager John Bishop had the privilege of calling on Prof Lilburn from time to time, and on one such occasion Prof Lilburn explained that his donations were in part what he described as "guilt money". When questioned why this was, he explained that his parents and extended family had been farmers, and in their endeavours developing their properties, they had been very successful in removing substantial stands of native forest from the land they had settled on in the Rangitikei district. Without doubt, Prof Lilburn's interest in the work of the National Trust was stimulated by his genuine love of the natural landscape of New Zealand. This he reflected in many of his compositions.

## Well Said

Thank you to covenantors John Broomfield and Jo Imlay for their enthusiastic and kind words about the National Trust on the recent Insight programme (National Radio, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June). The half-hour item, produced by Melanie Thornton, focussed on protection of biodiversity on private land in New Zealand, and reflected very favourably on the work of the National Trust and the conservation ethic of many private landowners.

## Floral tribute to hardy High Country Rep.

*Thanks to Tim Porteous (Wellington Regional Council), who spotted this item on the Landcare Research website: [http://www.landcare.cri.nz/information\\_services/media](http://www.landcare.cri.nz/information_services/media)*

### Scientists name five new species of kowhai

It has mellow, yellow flowers which attract beves of birds and insects, and most people know it simply as kowhai. But in a groundbreaking study, scientists from Landcare Research and the Department of Conservation have

named five new species of the iconic native tree.

[One of these is] *Sophora molloyi*, a shrub with a very long flowering time. It grows on harsh and inhospitable sites on dry, exposed headlands around Cook Strait, Kapiti Island, and parts of the lower North Island. It is named after Dr Brian Molloy, a scientist and research associate for more than 30 years, who is well known in the fields of conservation, taxonomy, and plant ecology. As Dr Heenan puts it, this kowhai is "as tough as old boots", and, like its namesake Dr Molloy, it is hardy in all extremes of weather.

## Takaka Hill Walkway Supporters

Every year, Americans Lee and Rhoda Cohen escape from the Boston winter by spending 3 months at their second home in Nelson, New Zealand.

Lee and Rhoda are benefactors of the National Trust through their own trust – the Fields Pond Foundation. In particular, they have been very supportive of the Takaka

Hill Walkway project and have granted money that has gone towards track extension and upgrading the carpark.

This year, Regional Rep Martin Conway took great pleasure in escorting Lee and Rhoda along the walkway, which since its official opening last year, has become one of the most popular tracks in Nelson.

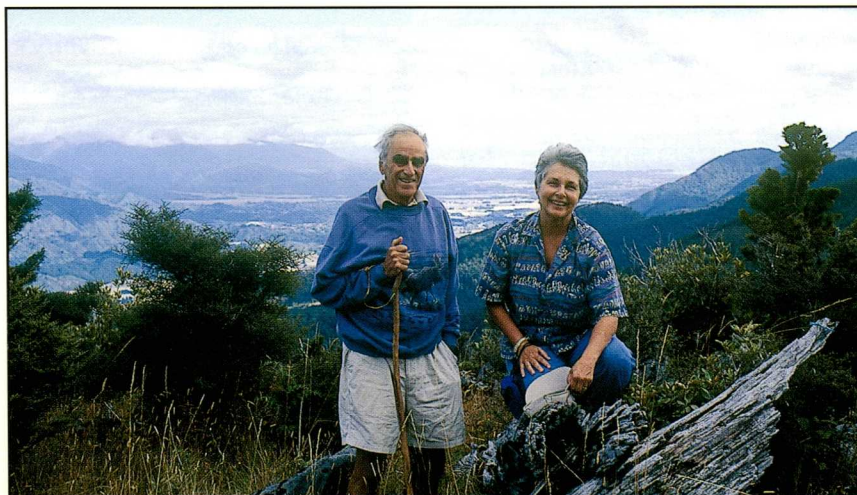


Photo courtesy of Martin Conway.

*The Cohens enjoying some fresh air on the Takaka Hill Walkway last summer.*

### Membership Subscriptions for 2001/02 now due

All financial Trust members should have received a subscription renewal form in the mail.

If you haven't done so already, please return it promptly with your subscription.



# TRUST PEOPLE

## Trust Staff comings and goings

Best wishes to Kane Innes, who has resigned from his position as gardener at Tupare to go to work for Bell Block Garden Centre. Kane was gardener at Tupare for 6 years after serving his apprenticeship at Hollards.

"Thank you & great sailing" to Fenton Hamlin. Fenton has retired as Far North Regional Rep and after 13 years with the Trust. During that time he also built a 30-foot yacht – *Pateke* – which he is now cruising amongst the tropical islands with his wife Jane. Whangarei surveyor Jeremy Woodhall helped Fenton sail *Pateke* from New Zealand to the island of Tanna in Vanuatu, and reports that the trip took nine days, which was pretty good for that sized boat. We wish Fenton fair winds and all the best for the future.

Welcome to Greg Blunden, Centre Manager at the Trust property Aroha Island, who has extended his role to become the new Regional Rep for the Far North.

David Webster retires after 8 years as Regional Rep for Canterbury, a large area necessitating long hours, until recently in his VW beetle. David knows Canterbury well and his affinity with landowners will be missed. We wish David and his wife, Joan, all the best in their new project – a mountain house, and for the future.

Miles Giller is the new Regional Rep for Canterbury. We will tell you more about Miles in the next issue of *Open Space*.

Welcome to Tim Park. Tim Park has taken up the position of Covenant Advisor (Management) at head office that was recently vacated by Charlie Palmer. Tim is a recent graduate with BSc (Ecology) from Victoria and Lincoln, and a range of short consultancy jobs from Stewart Island to Auckland. Conservation and ecology have long been part of Tim's life through the influence of his father Dr Geoff Park.

# TRUST BOARD ACTIVITIES

## Party Time!

When four sets of neighbours can agree and work together to achieve protection over the indigenous forest they share, it's worth a party – so that's what happened in early July.

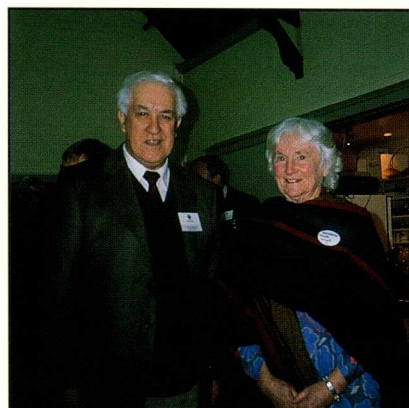
The National Trust Board of Directors hosted a gathering of local covenantors, MPs, councillors and Trust members to celebrate the

completion of four covenants over a continuous stretch of bush in Wadestown, central Wellington, and to recognise the importance of protecting remaining natural open space in urban areas.

The neighbours all live in Hanover Street, Wadestown, and their protected bush-clad hillside blocks extend from Hanover Street down to the Kaiwharawhara Stream, and adjoin Trelissick Park.



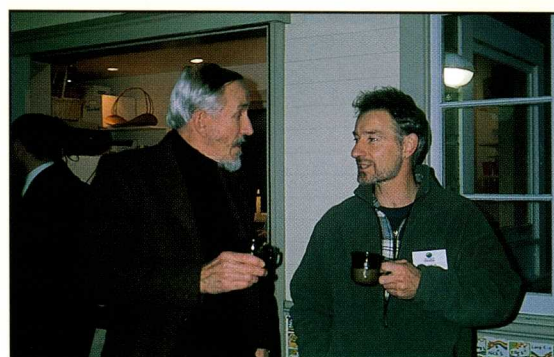
*The covenantors – Terry McCarthy, Gwenyth Wright, Chris Thomas, Nicky Ball and Deidre Burke.*



*Sir Paul Reeves (Chairperson) and Gwenyth Wright.*



*Pat Seymour (director) and Annabel Young (National list MP).*



*Chris Thomas and Geoff Walls (director).*



## New Director Appointed by Minister

The Minister of Conservation has appointed Lorraine Stephenson to the position of National Trust Director. Mrs Stephenson has a special responsibility on the Board for Maori interests - Sir Paul Reeves previously filled this role prior to his promotion to Chairperson of the Trust last year.



Lorraine, who is of Rangitane and Atihaunui-A-Paparangi descent, lives with her family in Dannevirke where she has spent the best part of 10 years working in the community as an advocate on Maori issues.

Her Rangitane iwi portfolios - resource management, conservation, political/cultural/research issues - have allowed her the opportunity to work at a local, regional and national level. She is currently a Hearing Commissioner for horizons.mw Regional Council

and a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

Lorraine knows how to set goals and maintain the determination to succeed. Her wide-ranging experience and training have given her valuable skills in governance and management, decision-making procedures, strategic planning, project planning, policy development and research.

The activities above mentioned are those Lorraine commits her spare time to. Her full time work is with her husband David farming their Dairy Unit Te Hore Farm Trust in Dannevirke.

### Board Meeting Dates

The next meetings of the Trust Board are scheduled on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November 2001.

## Covenants Update

*As at June 2001, there were 1476 registered Open Space Covenants totalling 54536 hectares.*

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

Land District	No. Covenanted	Area Protected (ha)
North Auckland	321	6080
South Auckland	324	10051
Gisborne	74	8975
Hawkes Bay	76	2216
Taranaki	91	2471
Wellington	243	11280
Marlborough	15	690
Nelson	75	2169
Westland	6	180
Canterbury	109	3254
Otago	56	5348
Southland	86	1819
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1476</b>	<b>54536</b>

## National Trust

### Board of Directors

**Sir Paul Reeves**,  
GCMG, GCVO, QSO, Chairperson;  
**Patricia Seymour**, OBE;  
**Bill Garland**; **Geoff Walls**;  
**Dick Ryan**;  
**Lorraine Stephenson**

Chief Executive Officer  
**Tim Cossar**

### Regional Representatives

#### Far North

Greg Blunden Tel: 09 407 5243

#### Central Northland

Nan Pullman Tel/Fax 09 4343 457

#### Auckland

Rex Smith Tel: 09 622 2303

#### Waikato & King Country

Gerry Kessels Tel: 07 825 9025

#### Bay of Plenty

Stephen Parr Tel: 07 544 4733

#### Gisborne

Malcolm Piper Tel/Fax: 06 867 0255

#### Hawkes Bay

Marie Taylor Tel: 06 836 7018

#### Taranaki

Neil Phillips Tel: 06 762 2773

#### Manawatu/Wanganui/

#### National Park/Taupo

Bruce Kirk Tel/Fax: 06 325 8723

#### Wairarapa

John Kirby Tel: 06 378 7458

#### Wellington

Tel: 04 472 6626

Freephone: 0508 732 878

#### Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast

Martin Conway Tel/Fax: 03 542 3712

#### Canterbury

Miles Giller Tel/Fax: 03 313 5315

#### Coastal Otago

Helen Clarke Tel: 03 454 3320

#### South Island High Country

Dr Brian Molloy Tel: 03 348 1077

#### Southland

Gay Munro Tel: 03 239 5827

[www.converge.org.nz/ntsth](http://www.converge.org.nz/ntsth)

#### Aroha Ecological Centre

Tel: 09 407 5243

*Open Space is published by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, P O Box 3341, Wellington, NZ St. Laurence House, Level 4, 138 The Terrace, Wellington.*

Telephone: 04 472 6626

Fax: 04 472 5578

Freephone:

0508 (QE2TRUST) 732 878

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

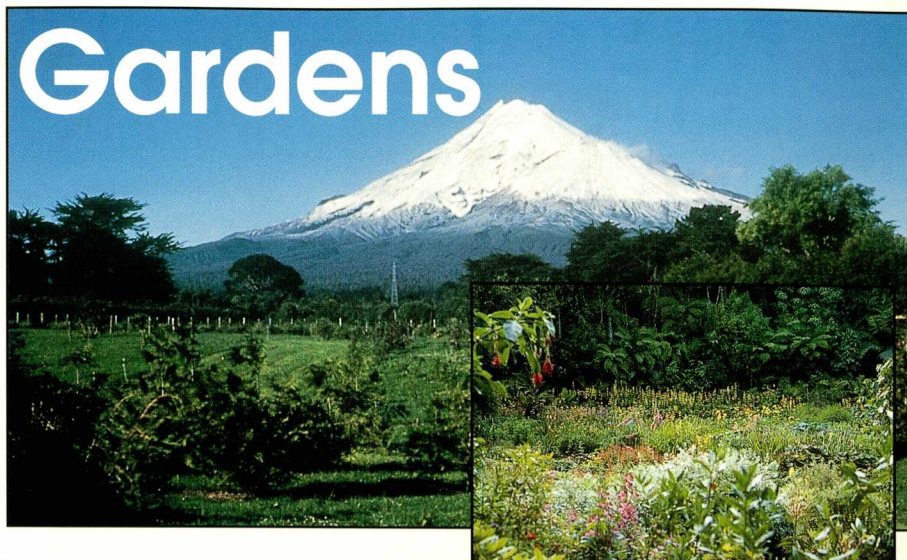
Website: [www.nationaltrust.org.nz](http://www.nationaltrust.org.nz)



# Hollard Gardens

**Hollard Gardens** is a National Trust garden property in Kaponga, Taranaki.

It is a Blue Ribbon garden in the Genesis Energy Taranaki Rhododendron Festival, which will be held from October 26<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001.



## Visit Hollard Gardens

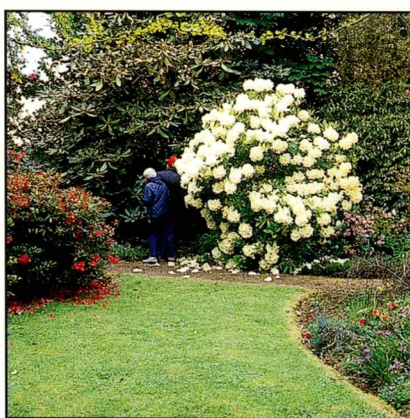
- Hollard Gardens is open daily from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 9am – 5pm. At other times by arrangement.
- View New Zealand native plant species not often found in a single collection.
- Walk through the old woodland garden and experience the grandeur of mature native and exotic canopy trees overhead, while at your feet, closely under-planted rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and a huge variety of woodland perennials abound.
- Follow the walking path to the new garden, established in 1982, and find a huge collection of plants bordering the broad sweep of lawns with scenic vistas of Mt Taranaki.
- Always feature-filled at any time of the year, the gardens are particularly colourful during the rhododendron flowering season, from September through to late November.
- Admission is free for National Trust members.
- Phone Greg Rine on (06) 764 6616 for more information.



**G**ardens Manager, Greg Rine, sees the bright side of a cold winter at Hollard Gardens.

"During these winter months, our productive time is spent taming last year's growth: mainly cutting back perennials, tidying up the herbaceous borders and, where applicable, shaping the trees and shrubs. But our eyes invariably turn to the swelling flower buds of the

## Bugs Chill Out at Hollard Gardens



rhododendrons, and the promise of spring.

After a dry summer and autumn over much of New Zealand (Taranaki was no exception, especially south of the mountain: we were watering our potted plants in May – unheard of in these parts!), it was heartening to firstly get consistent rain (with the soil reaching field capacity by the end of May) and then decent frosts.

Having not used any fungicides or insecticides at Hollards for the past 11 years, a cold winter is great to keep those bugs in check,

especially thrips on rhododendrons, and frost is a great soil conditioner (better than anything you'll buy in a packet). The freezing of the ground stops the microbial activity in the soil, so when temperatures rise again in spring, there is a greater resurgence of activity – a situation relished by plants that are used to a continental climate where the seasons are more distinct."



A reminder of Hollard's basic statistics:

- Rainfall: 2500mm per year.
- Altitude: 380m above sea level.
- Soil: volcanic Egmont ash.
- Area: just under 4 hectares.