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

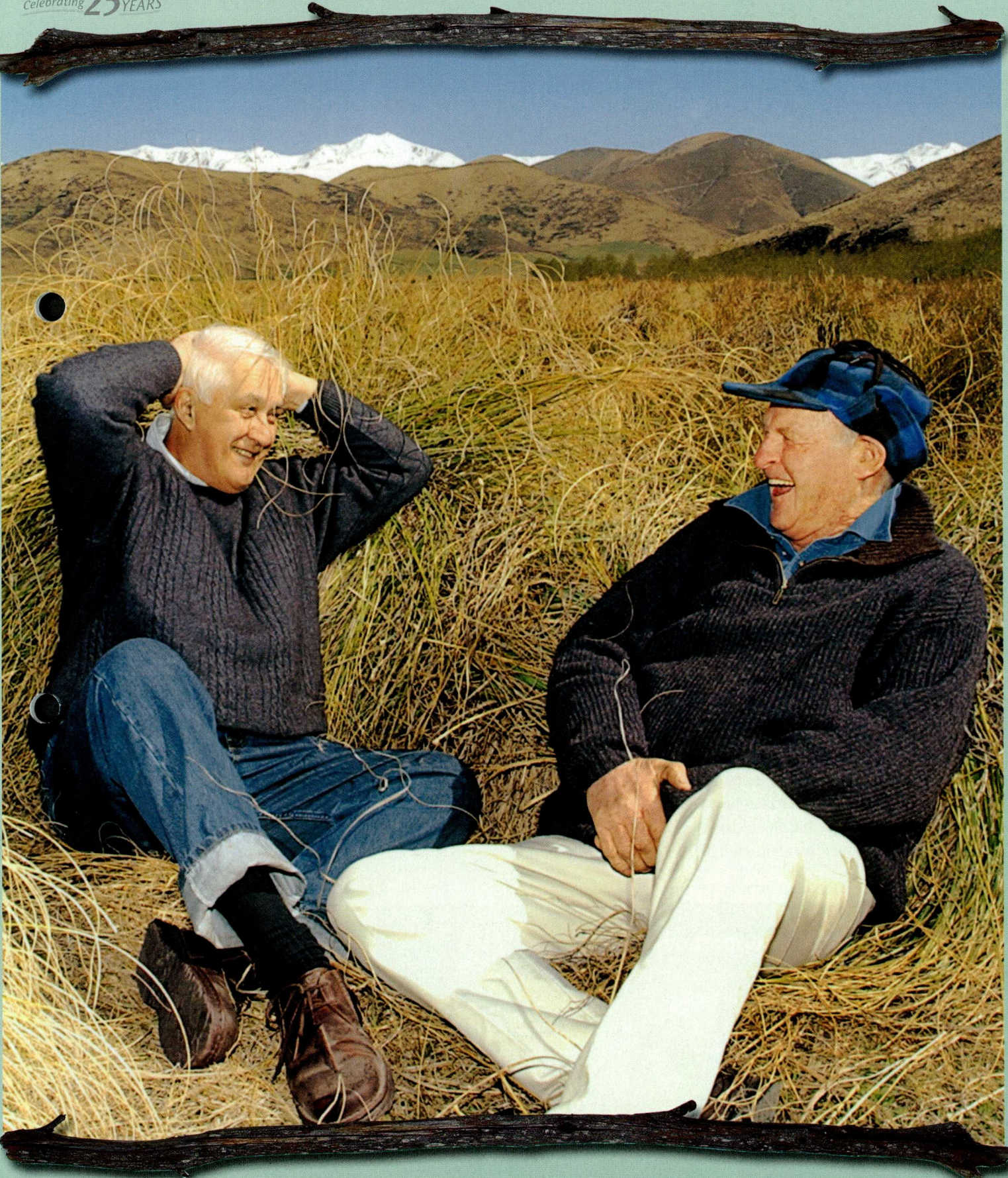
Nga Kairauhi Papa

Celebrating **25** YEARS

# Open Space

MAGAZINE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST

No.57, April 2003



**IN THIS ISSUE** Focus on the North and the Deep South • Funding boost from government



The QEII National Trust is an independent statutory organisation established to protect open space on private land.

The Trust helps landowners protect natural features including:

- Landscapes
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Coastlines
- Forests
- Lakes
- Tussock grasslands
- Geological features
- Cultural and archaeological sites

## How the Trust helps you

We administer a simple, effective mechanism that protects the special feature of your land forever, while letting you and those who follow enjoy continued ownership and management.

You enter into an open space covenant with the Trust, appointing us as permanent trustee.

You retain ownership and management of the land, and we visit regularly, usually every two years, to assist with specialist management advice.

The covenant is registered against the title of your property and binds subsequent owners. Most covenants are in perpetuity.

We provide assistance with the establishment of your covenant and meet standard legal and survey costs. Some councils will consider financial assistance with establishment fencing, weed and pest control and rate relief.

## How your covenant helps New Zealand

A lot of the plants, animals and landscapes found in New Zealand are unique to this country. Their uniqueness helps set us apart and define us as a nation. Unfortunately, many of these species and features are under threat. In fact, experts consider the decreasing diversity of our indigenous flora and fauna as our biggest environmental problem.

While there is a network of publicly owned conservation areas, the vast majority of New Zealand's land remains in private hands. Many habitats and features are found only in these areas. They can only be protected with the goodwill and action of landowners like you.

## Practical land management

Quite apart from the deep love and respect for nature, the practical dimension motivates many covenantors. Protecting natural features makes good land management sense.

Bush and wetlands help filter rain and protect water quality. They encourage recycling of nutrients and reduce soil erosion. Forest remnants reduce wind and provide shade and shelter, enhancing stock management and production.

Fencing covenanted areas allows regeneration of the bush, helps protect stream banks and water quality, and also keeps stock out of hard-to-manage areas.

Protecting bush and landscapes beautifies and adds value to farmland.

## Other ways to support our work

We rely to a large extent on donations and gifts to fund our work. There are several ways you can help us:

- Make a donation or endowment. We are a statutory charitable Trust, and your gift will be tax-deductible.
- Make a bequest – it could be financial or property. Please contact us to discuss this option in confidence.

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# Haere pai e te tino rangatira

## Farewell to Sir Paul Reeves

The retirement of Sir Paul Reeves as Trust Board Chairperson in March saw the end of a remarkable contribution to the Trust.

"Sir Paul retires from the Trust leaving it in excellent shape. He will be much missed, not only by the Board and Trust team, but also by covenantors, officials, conservationists and rural communities throughout the country," Deputy Chairperson, Bill Garland said.

"In our travels viewing the work the QEII Trust does, I saw how much respect and mana Sir Paul attracted wherever we went. This can be seen by the pile of clippings in our office with his smiling photo on the front page of newspapers – always standing on land that is now preserved for future generations," he commented.

The Trust has been privileged to have the time and energies of one of New Zealand's great men. For someone who held high office as Governor General and Bishop he shared his wisdom, professionalism and love for the land with the Trust and our covenantors.

Sir Paul has increasing commitments to his work with the



*The Silver Jubilee function at Government House in November last year was a wonderful and moving celebration of the anniversary of the enactment of the legislation establishing the QEII Trust 25 years ago.*

*Pictured from right and part of the official party are: Margaret McKee (CEO), Their Excellencies Peter Cartwright and Dame Silvia Cartwright, Professor David Bellamy (international guest speaker), Lady Beverley Reeves and Sir Paul Reeves (Chairperson).*

Commonwealth Secretariat as Special Envoy to Guyana, and as Chair of the newly formed Bio-Ethics Council.

The Trust wishes him well in his future activities, and thanks him for his dedication over the past eight years.

Sir Paul was appointed as a director to the Board in 1995, and five years later he became Chairperson.

Deputy Chairperson, Bill Garland is Acting Chair until the new appointment is announced. This is expected to be in July.

## News Flash - New Funding!!

We are delighted to announce additional funding for the QE II National Trust for the 2003/04 and 2004/05 financial years.

Total government funding for the Trust in 2002/03 was \$2 million. Next year, this increases to \$2.97 million and the year after to \$3.2 million. This is very good news and will enable the Trust to significantly increase and enhance its work.

This funding has been made available from the Government allocation for protection of biodiversity on private land. There has been a redistribution of funding available to the Nature Heritage Fund, Nga Whenua Rahui and QE II National Trust.

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Cover photo: Recently retired Trust Chairperson Sir Paul Reeves and farmer Brian Beattie share a joke amongst the covenanted tussock grassland of Dry Creek Station near Fairlie, South Canterbury. Photo courtesy Timaru Herald.

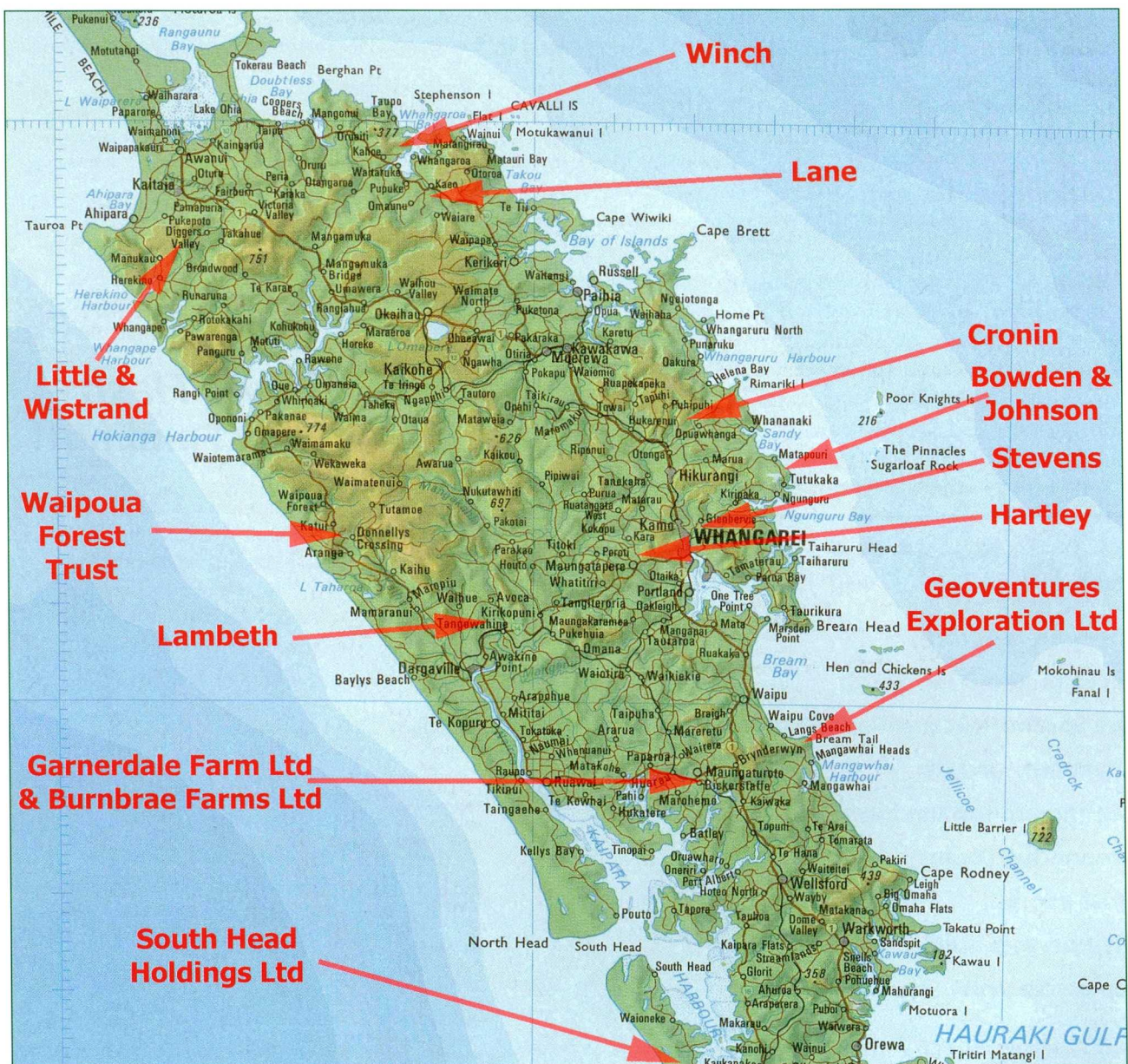


# Focus on: The North

Featuring covenants and covenantors, Trust supporters and events in the north of the North Island, from South Head Kaipara to Kaitaia.

The North is divided between Regional Reps Greg Blunden – based at Aroha Island Ecological Centre; Nan Pullman – at Sandy Bay near Whangarei; and Rex Smith – in Auckland.

## Recently Registered Covenants in Northland





## A fourth for South Head

The South Head of the Kaipara Harbour has been intensively farmed and afforested for many years, leaving only a few heavily modified pockets of the original kahikatea forests that once existed there.

Bruce and Danny Taylor (father and son) of **South Head Holdings Ltd**, have become members of an elite little group on the peninsula by covenanting a 22-hectare block of regenerating forest on their property. A special feature of the land is a Maori pa site that has extremely high archaeological values.

Manuka and kanuka dominate the vegetation within the protected area, with karaka, puriri and cabbage trees. The presence of kahikatea in gullies bodes well for the regeneration of this forest area.

The Taylors' forest lies immediately to the east of the Gilchrist covenant. In 1999, Mark Gilchrist took a most important step in becoming the first covenantor on the peninsula by protecting in perpetuity 40 hectares of wetland and associated dry land at Lake Karaka (*Open Space* #46). Rex Smith reports that the covenant area is already showing the benefits of stock exclusion since the fence was completed, and the vegetation is flourishing. It is great to know that new owners Michael and Christine Barnes are keen to continue caring for the covenant area, and have undertaken some plantings of native species.

In contrast to the Gilchrist covenant area, the Taylors' regenerating forest is on relatively steep land that is subject to extremely strong westerly winds. It will, therefore, be very interesting to monitor regeneration there now that stock has been removed.

These two covenant areas, together with the Ferrall Bush (2 hectares) and Te Heke Farms (1.9 hectares) covenant areas, are all that the Trust has protected on South Head. But Rex is optimistic that more landowners on the peninsula will be inspired to follow suit, once they see the benefits that covenants bring to the landscape and the landowner.

## Fragile coastlines gain protection

When beef farmers **Noel and Margaret Currie** asked Nan Pullman, "What about protecting a strip of sand dunes with a covenant?", they had no idea quite how special their fragile sand dunes on the dry windswept Pataua North foreshore were.

On closer inspection by Nan and DoC's Northland Conservancy botanist, Lisa Forester, the dunes were found to be home to several New Zealand dotterels, and the largest known population of the northern form of *Pimelia arenaria* (sand daphne).

Three years later, 4.7 hectares of the sand dunes are protected by open space covenant.

The covenant also covers 2.2 hectares of estuarine wetland on the northern bank of the Pataua River. The mangroves and saltwater marsh are full of fernbirds, banded rail, spotless crane and large yellow geckos. Thanks to funding from the Northland Regional Council, the Curries' cattle are now fenced out of the wetland and it provides an important filter for farm run-off.

Not far up the coast, at Matapouri, 3.5 hectares of pohutukawa forest is now protected on Tawapou Farm, owned by the **Bowden** family.

Guy Bowden had been concerned about the damage cattle were inflicting on forest and delicate understorey plants on the steep coastal cliffs of Taurawhata Point. The pohutukawa forest on the headland is a small but significant remnant of a forest type that is becoming increasingly rare on Northland's east coast due to subdivision, land development and overgrazing.

Conservancy botanist Lisa Forester surveyed the area and took specimens for a closer look under the microscope. Finding "evenly hairy seed capsules" confirmed the identity of *Senecio scaberulus* (an annual native fire weed that has "Vulnerable" status). Another notable plant was *Hebe bollonsii*, which is endemic to the coast and offshore islands near Whangarei.

Fencing off the coastal cliffs at the southern end of the Bowdens' property was also included in this project and was assisted by a grant from the Whangarei District Council. Altogether, these additions complete formal protection of all the native



*Sand daphne – a species highly vulnerable to development or competition from other plants.*



*Margaret and Noel Currie above the covenanted area.*



bush remnants on Tawapou Farm. In 1993 the family covenanted 30 hectares (see *Open Space* #30) of forest considered to be the best example of pohutukawa forest left in Northland.

*A strong contrast between grazing land and covenanted land on Taurawhata Point.*



# Forests of birds

Andersons Cove, at the southern end of Bream Bay, has a backdrop of beautiful coastal forest that is a favourite with bellbirds, kaka, morepork, fantail, kukupa and tui, many of which are visitors from the nearby Hen and Chicken Islands.

Marie and Duncan Dow, of **Geoventures Exploration Limited**, have protected 22 hectares of contiguous regenerating forest by open space covenant: 10.5 hectares was covenanted in 1994 (see *Open Space* #33), and a further 11.6 hectares was similarly protected in 2002.

*Kahikatea sentinels line the stream edges.*



Above: Tawa and thick understorey in the Cronin covenant area.

The latter area includes a sheltered amphitheatre, with the steeper slopes covered in young teatree. The main valley features substantial puriri and pohutukawa, a thick carpet of young nikau, and a diverse regenerating understorey. Downstream, kahikatea line the stream before it opens out into a swampy valley floor with several pukatea.

An objective of the two Geoventures open space covenants is that the protected areas can never be subdivided.

Further north, brown kiwi, kukupa, fantail, grey warbler, shining cuckoo, and morepork all make themselves at home in **Kim and David Cronin's** new 23-hectare covenant area at Opuawhanga.

The lowland podocarp forest is contiguous with a larger DoC reserve off Pigs Head Road. It has a thick understorey of *Gahnia* sp., grasses, tree ferns, crown fern, miniature tree fern, tangle fern, and sickle-, shining- and hanging spleenwort (see inset box). A special feature of the flora is the presence of monoao - a widely distributed but uncommon plant.

Kiwi probe holes can often be seen amongst the soft mosses and leaf litter along the walking track that leads down to a waterfall. A reminder of the kauri giants that used to be found amongst much of Northland's native forest lies close by, stuck in too awkward a position to retrieve.



Below: Monoao is a special feature.

## Of words, worts and warts

The word "wort" has a long history. It is derived from the Old English word *wyrt*, which meant *plant*, *root* or *herb*, and it appears in many common English plant names.

Why then, with its worldly, worthy heritage, do we abuse it so?

Wort should be honoured with the same "or" sound as in *word*, *world*, *worse*, *work*, *worm*, and *worthy*.

Let's hear no more ragwort, spleenwort, or liverwort, let alone that holiest of small skin growths, – St John's Wart!

**Open space covenants are on private land.**

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

**Public who visit a covenant area do so at their own risk.**



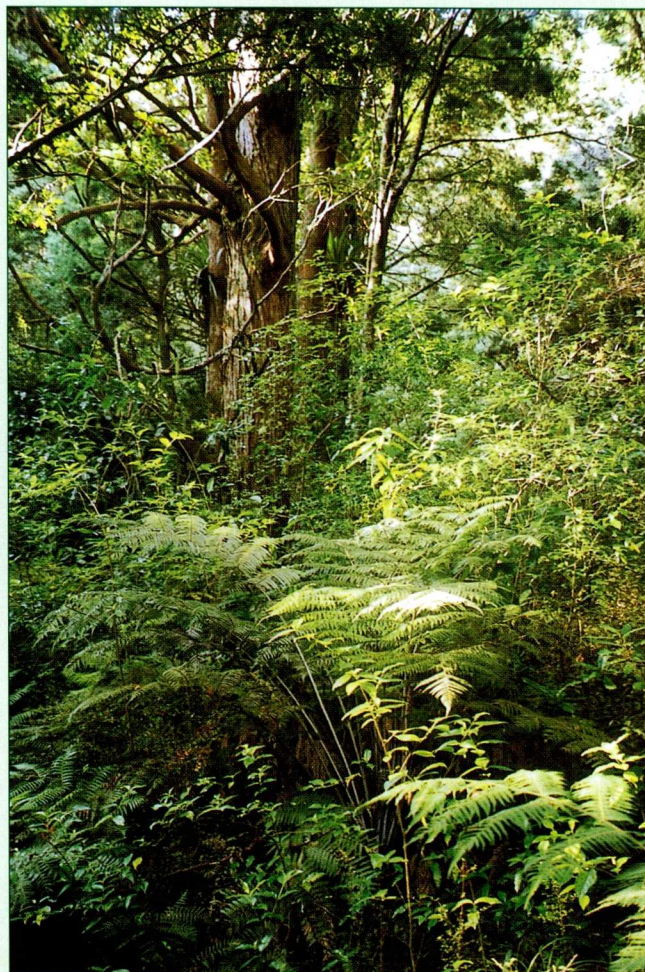
# The growing trail of Whangarei stepping stones

Subdivision of properties around the fringes of Whangarei City has led to two more podocarp forest covenants, providing more permanent stepping stones for native birds, especially kukupa (see Open Space #48, 51 & 55).

On their Whareora Road lifestyle block to the east of the city, **Angela and Martin Stevens** have covenanted nearly 2 hectares of regenerating riparian totara forest. It is significant as a habitat not just for kukupa, but also for a variety of common or local snail species, including several that are only found on limestone terrain (such as *Rohapapa ponderii* and *Microlaoma unicolorata*). Other notable snails include *Fectola charopiformis* and *Dorilaoma ariel*. In total, twenty-six snail species have been recorded from this area.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, on the volcanic plateau at Maunu, **Agnes and Keith Hartley** have covenanted 3.6 hectares of tall, cathedral-like podocarp, taraire and kohekohe forest in the midst of their avocado orchard. Agnes and Keith have lived on the property for over 25 years, and the first thing they did when they moved there was to fence stock out of the forest. The regeneration of the sub-canopy and ground covers is thus well advanced and includes nikau, mapou, pigeonwood, ponga, hangehange and a good diversity of ferns. A large mature rimu is a special feature.

Agnes Hartley in front of the large rimu tree.



Prime snail territory – the Stevens' forest.



The Hartleys' walking track.

## Visit the Hartleys' forest!

Agnes and Keith have encircled this almost flat covenant area with a wide, easy-walking track. For permission to visit and enjoy this particularly tranquil stand of bush, phone them on (09) 434 6892.



# The mystery of Maungaru Mountain



Above: All the Lambeth covenant areas are visible from SH14, especially Maungaru Mountain.

Near the top of Maungaru Mountain (418m asl), a small tree caught the attention of Nan Pullman and Conservancy botanist Lisa Forester. "It looks like a tree over there, but I think it's a hebe!"

After some scrambling to retrieve a sample, Lisa thought the hebe very similar to one found up north. Indeed, it is a specimen of an as yet unnamed hebe called *Hebe* aff. *acutiflora* ("Waima yellow"), and it was an unexpected and significant find, as it is only found at a very few discrete upland locations in western Northland. Other interesting species found in the vicinity included *Cyathea smithii* (Smith's fern), *Collospermum microsporum*,

Right: "Waima yellow".



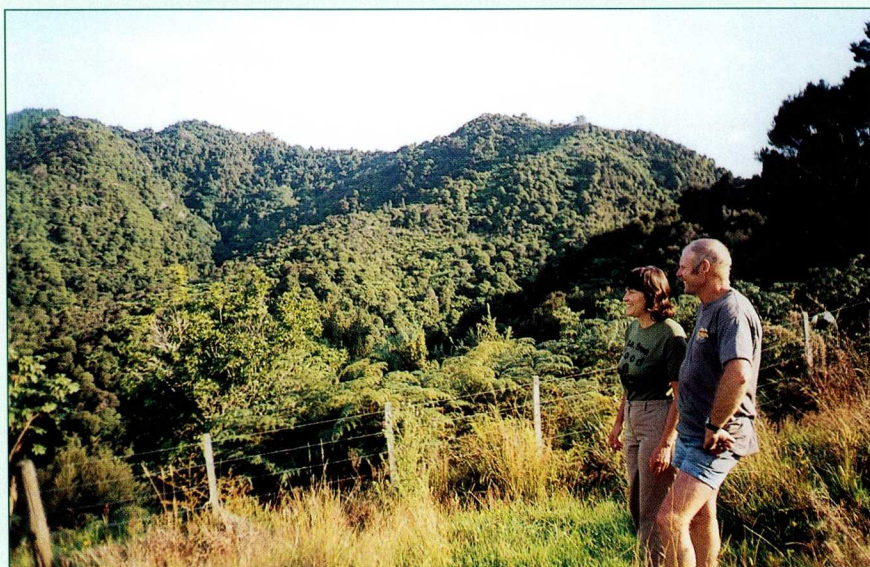
mangeao, and *Nestigis cunninghamii* (black maire).

The hebe is in the largest of three areas since covenanted by **Wilna and Bill Lambeth** on their 327-hectare Hereford stud farm at Tangiteroria. Wilna and Bill had already fenced two small areas of lowland podocarps closer to State Highway 14 but were keen to see the forest on the mountain also fenced and legally protected before they retired.

Sally and Doug Lane have covenanted yet another part of their Kaeo farm, bringing the total to over 61 hectares. The new area adjoins a 44-hectare block covenanted in 1998 (*Open Space* #46) and has similar vegetation. Both these areas form part of "Burlaces Reserve" (Eco Site P04/039 in the Whangaroa Ecological District survey report).

Burlaces Reserve forms habitat for several threatened species, including North Island brown kiwi, kukupa and kauri snail.

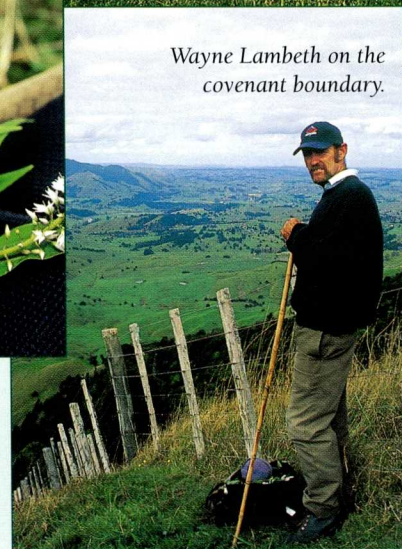
Sally and Doug in front of part of the protected area.



The fencing materials had to be helicoptered onto the site.



Wayne Lambeth on the covenant boundary.



With the moral support of their son Gordon and daughter Ruth, the help of the National Trust, and after a mammoth fencing job by son Wayne and a local contractor, a total of nearly 30 hectares of the property is now covenanted.





# The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and the NZ Kiwi Foundation

The NZ Kiwi Foundation is a charitable trust that operates to ensure the survival and enhancement of remnant kiwi populations on mainland New Zealand. It is based at the National Trust's Aroha Island property near Kerikeri.

The Foundation is in its fourth year and currently organises predator management on Kerikeri, Russell and Purerua Peninsulas in the Bay of Islands and assists with predator management in other parts of the region.

## **Whatever helps kiwi helps other indigenous wildlife.**

Administrative personnel associated with the Kiwi Foundation are mostly voluntary, so most of the funding raised is used for actual pest management and advocacy. Experienced trappers are contracted as funding allows.

## **Integrated predator management protects and enhances both flora and fauna as the whole spectrum of animal pests is controlled.**

Funding for kiwi project areas consists of contributions from private

landowners, various trusts and agencies, so it is a combination of private and public funding. In this regard, some private landowners are able to assist financially whilst others help with organising and/or trapping thus making a contribution in kind. Sometimes landowners supply equipment, such as a farm bike, to assist the trappers in their activities and this keeps down the overall costs of pest management. However, communities must ultimately take ownership of the projects and the funding because public money cannot be expected to last much longer than two years for any single project area.

Purerua Kiwi Project provides a good example of a kiwi project area. Purerua Peninsula is the northern arm of the Bay of Islands, covers 3,500 hectares, and is particularly defensible against pest reinvasion because it has a relatively narrow isthmus. It contains the Stowell open space covenant (8 ha.) and possibly the largest kiwi population in Far North District as well as Marsden Cross. It is now under intense development pressure and the Kiwi Foundation is acting to protect and

maintain the kiwi population before it is too late. Laurence Gordon is the project operator. 2002 was the "knockdown" pest control year and maintenance pest control and monitoring is now being carried out. The annual maintenance cost of \$30,375 is half of the "knockdown" costs, reflecting capital purchases during the first year and less labour input in following years.

With sufficient advice, landowners can control their own possum and rat problems. The NZ Kiwi Foundation's primary role is to control the tricky predators which do the most damage to birds – weasels, stoats, ferrets, cats, dogs, and even pigs. Covered Fenn traps are used for mustelids and cat traps (live-catch cages, Coni-Bears, or adjusted Timms traps) are set where required.

**Greg Blunden**

*Convenor, NZ Kiwi Foundation  
Charitable Trust.*

## BABY KIWI AT AROHA ISLAND

The kiwi enclosure at Aroha Island is occupied once again, this time by two tiny kiwi chicks. The eggs were uplifted from a burrow in a section of Waitangi (pine production) Forest which was about to be felled – well done to the forestry crew!

The eggs were sent to Robert Webb at Northpower Native Bird Recovery Centre at Whangarei, where he and his crew carefully tended the eggs for several weeks. Queenie (who is being weighed in the photograph) hatched on Boxing Day weighing 320 grams and Baldrick (so named because of a bald patch on his forehead) on 4<sup>th</sup> January weighing 294 grams.

Baldrick has been a worry since hatching, with his weight changing dramatically at times. However, both have now exceeded their hatching weight and are in a larger enclosure. Once they weigh more than one kilogram, they will be released back into Waitangi Forest, possibly with transmitters attached to find out where they make their home territory and to check that they survive. We will keep you posted.



*Little Queenie.*

*Gay and Greg Blunden.*

## Beehive support for Northland kiwi

In the first distribution of funding to improve indigenous biodiversity on private land, the Aroha Island Ecological Centre (QEII National Trust) and NZ Kiwi Foundation Charitable Trust will receive \$18,000 of condition funding and \$20,800 of advisory service funding. This money is to be used for the enhancement of biodiversity in the Far North district.

The project will extend an existing programme of advice and pest control provided to private landowners to enable better management of biodiversity. The work is focused on looking after kiwi and kiwi habitat. Condition funding will be directed to legally protected areas.

Source: Media Statement from Hon Marian Hobbs (Minister for the Environment) and Hon Chris Carter (Minister of Conservation) on 15 January 2003.



# 100 hectares of healthy diversity at Totara North

An open space covenant was registered recently on a 32-hectare block of native bush at Totara North owned by Michael Winch. The block adjoins 75 hectares of native forest that was owned jointly by Michael Winch and Linda Conning when an open space covenant was registered on it in 1988. On the eastern boundary is the popular walking track to Lane Cove on the Whangaroa Harbour. These covenanted areas are contiguous with the southern side of Mangonui Forest, administered by the Department of Conservation, and can be seen from Totara North, Whangaroa and State Highway 10.



Michael Winch in the newly covenanted forest.

The forest is semi-coastal and has been logged in the past but not clear felled. The forest is notable for its botanical diversity, with over 200 species of native vascular plants. Species with limited distribution in NZ but common in the covenanted area are kawaka (*Libocedrus plumosa*), *Pseudopanax gillesii* and *Colensoa physeloides*. The new covenant includes a number of large, healthy rata growing in association with kauri and tanekaha. An old, hollow kahikatea, 1.5 metres diameter at the base, is readily accessible from the Lane Cove track. The forest is home to native pigeon (kukupa), kiwi, tomtit, grey warbler, fantail, tui, morepork, and kingfisher.

Michael and Linda went to a great deal of trouble to ensure that the covenant on the original block recognises and protects the special values of the area by including conditions banning exotic plants and animals (including pets) and requiring protective screens around windows to protect native pigeons. These conditions, more stringent than the standard covenant document, have been applied to the new covenant as well.

Michael lives on the property and has developed a network of tracks and bait stations to control possums and rats. The forest is free of cattle, deer and goats, but does have a pig problem.

Visitors are welcome, but please telephone first – (09) 405 1746.

## Selling or Moving?

Please tell us.

Keeping in touch with you, and making contact with new owners, is important to us.

## Collaboration on Bickerstaffe Road

Neighbours Karen and Ashley Cullen, of **Garnerdale Farm Ltd**, and Sue and John Finlayson, of **Burnbrae Farms Ltd**, have collaborated to protect a 10-hectare primary podocarp/hardwood forest remnant on their Bickerstaffe Road properties near Maungaturoto.

For the Cullens, covenanting the forest at this time fitted in well with sorting out fencing and other developments on their dairy farm, and for both parties, the covenants formalised the protection the forest already had. Karen and Ashley are the third branch of the Cullen family to establish a relationship with the National Trust: Ashley's father – D D Cullen – covenanted bush on his neighbouring property several years ago, and cousin Bryce Cullen has 3 covenants on his Maungaturoto property. It was Bryce who fenced the Bickerstaffe Road covenant area.

Together, the two contiguous areas of bush on Bickerstaffe Road provide a wide range of habitat and flora. On the 3.2-hectare Burnbrae Farms portion, a mix of rimu, totara and kahikatea dominates the knoll and upper slopes of the remnant, with occasional tanekaha, miro and matai. The sub-canopy is sparse but dominated by mahoe, with seedlings of matipo, nikau, pigeonwood, hangehange and kahikatea appearing. The Garnerdale Farm portion includes kahikatea, rimu, totara and matai, with karaka, kowhai and tawa along the stream edges, and several kauri on the southern ridge.

A flock of kukupa (Northland name for kereru or native woodpigeon) regularly visits the forest.



# 100% Commitment

Before approving a new covenant project, one of the factors the Trust Board considers is the prospective covenants' commitment to caring for their area of open space. When **Gary Little and Asta Wistrand**'s proposal was considered last year, there could be no doubt of their commitment. In their own words:

"This piece of bush is on a small but varied topography, and contains at least two notable trees (kauri and rata) and a wetland area. We wish to preserve and protect them and their surrounding environment from further damage by introduced predators, and to rejuvenate the local native and endemic flora and fauna.



*Asta and Gary at the base of the rata shown in the top photo.*



*The two most impressive specimens on the property: Northern rata (left) and c.200 years kauri (right foreground).*

We have long enjoyed bush walks and viewing the beauty of the New Zealand flora and fauna. To finally own a reasonable sized piece of native bush that permits us to continue our learning about and admiration of our surroundings, is something that we wish to share and protect in perpetuity. To this end, we wish to place a covenant on the land so that we may continue to present the property to the general public as an open area of regenerating bush. It will attract ecotourists to visit and be shown examples of both the flora and the fauna of the region."

The whole 22 hectares of Gary and Asta's Diggers Valley Road property near Kaitia is now protected by open space covenant.

## Waipoua Millennium Kauri Forest keeps growing

In *Open Space* #48 & 51 we reported on the National Trust's involvement with the Waipoua Millennium Kauri Forest project. The project entails restoration planting of seedling kauri by the Waipoua Forest Trust over land adjoining the Waipoua Forest Sanctuary. The kauri forest is protected by open space covenants.

Three more covenants have now been finalised, bringing the total area protected to over 150 hectares.

These covenants cover two purchased properties and some 16 hectares previously designated as road and administered by the Kaipara District Council.

## Duneland habitat protected

A duneland area fronting Awana Bay on Great Barrier Island that is a critical wildlife habitat for rare and endangered birds, is now owned by the Trust and protected by open space covenant.

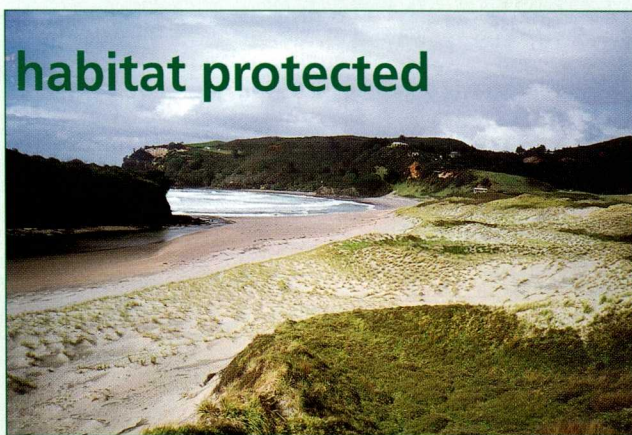
The site in question, known as the Ina Menzies Duneland, is a favoured habitat for endangered species such as the dotterel.

In 1979, the owners of the land, Laurie and Muriel Curren, approached the Trust suggesting covenant protection be given to it. For a number of reasons, the covenant proposal was not advanced at that time. However, when Mr Curren approached the Trust again in 1999, a covenant was approved. Both Mr & Mrs Curren then offered to gift the protected area to the Trust.

Trust Regional Rep. Rex Smith notes the site has high scenic value as well as being ecologically significant. "Mr & Mrs Curren demonstrated considerable determination in ensuring ultimate formal protection for this area over a substantial period of time. It is a true testament to their foresight and commitment that this 7.7 hectare area is now protected in perpetuity", said Rex.

Regrettably, Mr Curren died in early February this year.

At the suggestion of Mr & Mrs Curren, the Trust Board agreed the duneland be named after Ina Menzies, whose family had farmed the land while in their own way endeavouring to protect it since the late 1800s.

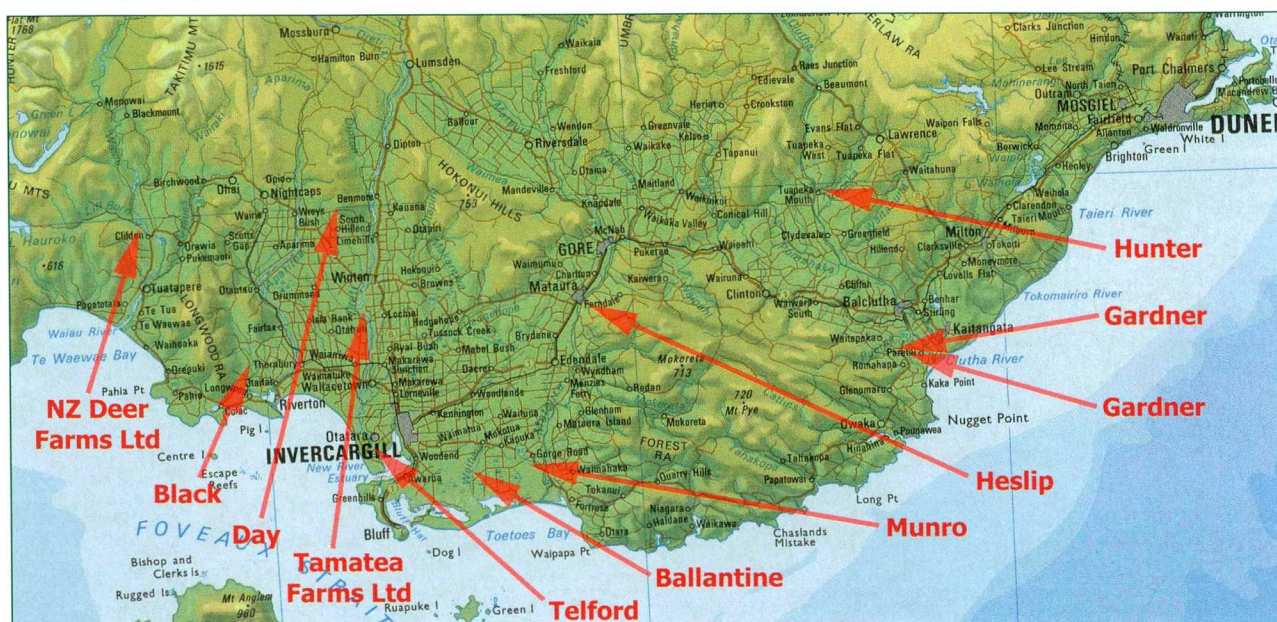




# Focus on: The Deep South

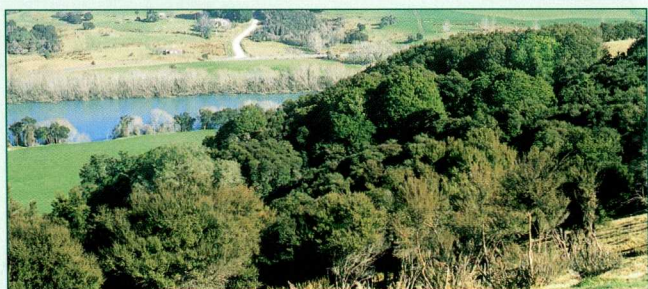
Featuring covenants and covenantors, Trust supporters and events in the south of the South Island.

## Recently Registered Covenants in southern South Island



## Clutha River

Graham & Pamela Hunter have protected a beech-podocarp and kanuka forest remnant on their 400-hectare farm near the small settlement of Tuapeka Mouth in east Otago. The covenant covers 20 hectares on the southeast edge of the Rongahere Gorge, through which the mighty Clutha River flows.



The Hunters' forest remnant on the banks of the mighty Clutha River.

The covenant area is a very important site ecologically, as it is one of the last remnants of lowland, river terrace forest between the central Otago lakes and the sea. It consists of pockets of large silver beech trees in the gullies, some mature totara trees with miro and kahikatea, plus dense kanuka and small-leaved shrubs on the drier face.

A special feature is the presence of a *Nothofagus* species, which could be a hybrid between red and mountain beech. It is rare to see either red or mountain beech this far east of the main divide in Otago. Regional Rep Helen Clarke is also on the look out for a possible population of *Teucrium parvifolium*, as has been recorded within a DoC reserve close by. Other notable features include the nearby presence of some

threatened bird species, namely fernbird and mohua, which may visit the covenant area.

This combination of features marks this as a truly significant site and we congratulate Graham and Pamela for approaching the National Trust for its protection.

## Protecting wetlands – a family affair

It's a family affair when it comes to protecting wetlands and associated native flora and fauna just south of Balclutha. The **Gardner family** now has a total of three open space covenants, protecting nearly 15 hectares of wetlands, thanks to the initiative of Brent Gardner, who together with wife Robyn, farms his and his parents land.

Brent has recently covenanted 2.9 hectares of wetland on his own property. The area has a small pond but is predominantly rush, sedge, flax and *Coprosma propinqua* with the occasional emergent cabbage tree.

Meanwhile, Brent's parents – Peter and Verna Gardner – have covenanted part of their property on the other side of State Highway 92. Their new covenant protects 0.7 hectares of wetlands consisting of 80 percent open water with a fringe of wetland plants, namely *Phormium tenax*, sedges and *Carex secta*. Although small, this covenant area is very valuable as it is one of the last unmodified remnants of the larger Waitapeka swamp.

In both wetlands, fernbirds, marsh crane and Australasian bittern have been sighted, plus grey warbler, bellbird, fantail and black shag. Brent has also noted the presence of whitebait. Both wetlands have been recognised as significant by the Otago Regional Council, which has contributed to fencing and weed control.



Southland Regional Rep Gay Munro reports on eight open space covenants registered recently in her territory, which includes Southland, Gore and Invercargill districts.

## Threatened Plants Secure

When Warren Heslip and Dave Ballantine approached the National Trust for covenant protection over their pieces of bush, little did they know that they were helping the survival of some of New Zealand's threatened plant species. This may well be the secret of many of our covenants throughout the country, as plants, birds, lizards and insects turn up in all kinds of places.

The Ballantine covenant area – home to *Coprosma pedicellata*.

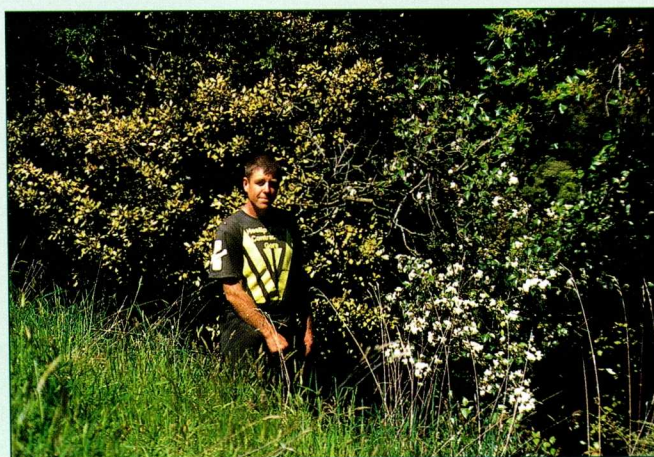


Dave Ballantine and his son, Derek, enjoyed listening to the birds as they worked around the bush on their farm at Mokotua. Dave wanted it to stay that way and so he saw the value in having an open space covenant registered on the land. Although the bush had been milled in earlier days, the Ballantines had kept their stock out of the bush and so the undergrowth was in good order. It wasn't until after the covenant was in place that an inspection of this 17-hectare area and the nearby Waituna Scenic Reserve by Department of Conservation staff revealed one of the best populations of *Coprosma pedicellata* in Southland.

For Warren Heslip, the forested slope near his house was special and he regularly undertook possum control there. It was a real reward for him to see the forest health improving with this work. However little did he know that one of the trees that his effort was benefiting was the threatened plant, *Olearia fragrantissima* (fragrant tree daisy). Warren's covenant protects 2.7 hectares of forest.

With the catch cry these days being preserve New Zealand's biodiversity on private land, National Trust covenantors with their open space covenants are leading the way.

Warren Heslip next to a fine specimen of *Olearia arborescens*. The threatened species *O. fragrantissima* is also found in his covenant area.



Steven Black and friend on Pourakino riverbank.

## The beech have it -

- protection that is, with covenants registered over beech forest at the Dean Burn and the Longwoods.

### New Zealand

Deer Farms Ltd already has a kowhai/ribbonwood riparian open space covenant. Now it has added to its suite of protection with the registration of a covenant over 32 hectares of the beech-lined banks of the Dean Burn. Once again initiated by the Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust, who assisted with fencing finance, this covenant provides



The papa stream bed of Dean Burn.

excellent protection for the sparkling waters of the Dean Burn.

On the southeast side of the Longwood Range lies the Black property. Steven, an enthusiastic deerstalker, had developed a great love of the bush over his years of hunting, and so was keen to know that his 17-hectare patch was protected into the future. Lying just below the Pourakino Reserve and adjoining the Pourakino River, this beech/

podocarp forest remnant is of real value. The Pourakino catchment is quite unique in Southland as the banks of the river have natural cover for most of its length. Steven has led the way to ensure this remains into the future through covenant protection – let's hope others follow his example.



# EXPLORE THE SOUTH

## Otago-Southland QE II Treasures



Sinclair Wetlands,  
Waipori.

*Fernbird.*

Many of you will have heard of the Southern Scenic Route. This route leads south from Dunedin, turns off SH1 at Balclutha, and follows SH92 through the rugged forested Catlins area to Invercargill on the fertile Southland Plains. From here it moves around the windswept coast to the west turning inland to Tuatapere and north through to Manapouri and Te Anau. There are many sights to see along the way, including the following little gems protected in perpetuity by open space covenants.

First on the list, 25 minutes drive south of Dunedin, the world famous **Sinclair Wetlands**. Signposted from SH1 south of Lake Waihola, this is a must visit for bird lovers. You may even spot an otter! Allow an hour or two to do this covenant justice and keep your binoculars handy. Four smaller wetlands can be seen from SH92 5 minutes from Balclutha.

At Papatowai, a walkway through **Shanks's Bush** (turn right after you cross the Tahakopa River) is a 20-minute adventure. An innovative and imaginative nature walk takes you through secondary forest to the river's edge, and back to the roadside. This natural area was purchased and protected by the Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust, a local group dedicated to protecting native forest in the district.

There are many other sights to explore as you drive on down the coast, however the next covenant of interest is just after you drive alongside the Fortrose Estuary and across the whitebaiter's haven of the Titiroa River. On your left here is a small remnant, **O'Neill's Bush**, which is part of the 82 ha of



Photo courtesy of C.E. Barwell



Photo courtesy of Roger Sutton

*Banded Dotterel on its nest.*

covenanted forest in the ownership of Environment Southland, who purchased much of this lower Maitava floodplain land during the 1970's and 80's. O'Neill's Bush is being developed as an example of 'How to care for your forest remnant' with Envirosouth undertaking animal and plant pest control and members of the local community involved in revegetation of the eastern bush edge. A 10-minute walk through the forest interior shows that a small piece of bush can have great biodiversity. The unusual feature of these forest remnants is the presence of silver beech, not generally found on the Southland Plain, however it seems seed has been carried here from the upper reaches of the Maitava River where beech is abundant.

From here it is a 35 minute drive to Invercargill, where there is a range of good accommodation available and a growing number of restaurants and cafes to explore, along with the excellent Southland Museum, which houses one of New Zealand's best tuatara displays.

### *Ecotours - Accommodation - Walks In the Catlins*

**Web site:** [catlins-ecotours.co.nz](http://catlins-ecotours.co.nz)

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# SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

## Southland's Secrets Revealed.

A mere 5 minutes drive west of Invercargill is the suburb of Otatara, which prides itself on its nationally significant podocarp forest on ancient sand dunes. Here, at the end of Grant Road, you'll find the **Gambles' Boardwalk**. Ian and Jenny Gamble open their covenant to the public, generally Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 4.30pm, and a guided tour along their boardwalk through kahikatea/totara dominated forest, manuka shrubland and then out to the jointed rush estuary edge, where fernbirds frequent, is well worth while. (For further information contact Jenny, ph. (03) 213 1302 or e-mail [fernbird197@hotmail.com](mailto:fernbird197@hotmail.com). Donations gratefully accepted.) Just before the Gambles you will find covenanted, Brian and Chris Rance, who have established the Southland Community Nursery and Threatened Plant Garden, along with another impressive area of revegetation work on the north of their forest covenant. (Chris can generally be found at home working in the Community Nursery on Fridays, but appreciates forewarning of a visit - ph (03) 213 1161; website: <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~rances> ).



*Southern Scenic Route locality map.*

Continue west from Invercargill and it's only half an hour's drive to Riverton. Here on the right just after you cross the town's boundary is **Te Wai Korari** - a 4-hectare area of the Jacob's River Estuary eastern margin and upper terrace covenanted by the Riverton Estuary Care Society. A 25-minute walk along the circular track past ponds, estuary edge and flax land provides a pleasant break from your



*Riverton Estuary*

journey. The upper terrace is being reforested and a freshwater wetland created. The ponds are popular with native fish, and you may spot whitebait, long- and short-finned eels, and giant kokopu. Some 38 bird species frequent the mudflats and marginal vegetation, including pukeko, oystercatchers, banded dotterel, and Caspian tern. Watch this space - it can only get better as years pass.

Following the coast westwards, you then swing inland to Tuatapere and on up the valley that the Waiau River flows down. Forestry dominates the scene through this road, but not long after you drive over the Jericho Hill watch out on the left for the pull off for the **Redcliffs Wetland**. This major waterfowl roost was created by the Southland Acclimatisation Society (now Fish & Game), enhancing the old oxbow landscape feature by way of a few sticks of gelignite and a dam bank or two. Paradise shelduck, black swan, scaup, Canada geese, shoveller, grey teal and mallard can all be seen here (take your binoculars for the best view).

Then it's on to Manapouri and Te Anau to enjoy the splendours of Fiordland. However, although minute in comparison, the open space covenants that you've just had the privilege to visit and enjoy, are equally of high value in retaining many of our native species, both flora and fauna, for now and future generations.

*Enjoying the adventure of Shanks's Bush.*





## Peace of mind

Brian and Joyce Telford, of Otatara, had watched the subdivision of the property next to theirs and the resulting damage to the bush as another house site was cleared. Brian was determined this should not happen to their own special forest area. When he was told, in May 2001, that he only had months to live, there became a real urgency to the situation. He was concerned that his wife Joyce should feel happy with the commitment too, but she, Treasurer of the Otatara Landcare Group at the time, felt equally strongly that no further disturbance of the forest should be allowed.

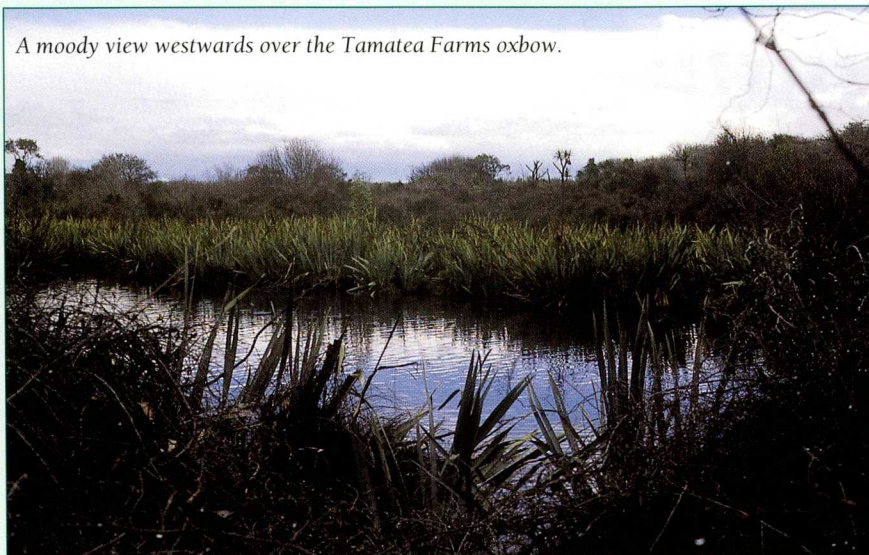


*Joyce and her late husband, Brian, in August 2001, in front of their own special forest.*

When Brian died in mid-August 2001 he knew that the process had begun to ensure the protection of his special place at Otatara. The knowledge that an open space covenant would be registered on the title of his land had brought him peace of mind. The covenant covers the whole of the 8544m<sup>2</sup> Ruru Avenue property.

## Valuable Wetlands Protected in Central Southland

*A moody view westwards over the Tamatea Farms oxbow.*



For the Day and McLeod families, wetlands are important, hunting being a part of their lives. However it was more than that. The protection of waterfowl habitat was their main goal.

Frank McLeod, in the early days of owning his property at Thomsons Crossing, recognised the value of the old oxbow on the Oreti River as a resting place for ducks and had wildlife refuge status placed upon it. It is estimated that up to 15,000 ducks have settled there at one time, especially in the days when cropping was the typical land use around Winton. Frank's son, Alistair, realised that the status over the area did not extend to habitat protection and so he began the process of covenanting.

With new owners, **Tamatea Farms Ltd**, now on board, the 3.5-hectare area is protected with an open space covenant to ensure the McLeods' special wetland remains a sanctuary for waterfowl into the future.

For **Warrick Day**, creating open water is second nature. He has a number of ponds on his property. However his latest open space covenant (he already has a forest remnant and a wetland area covenanted) protects not just the 6 hectare dam, but also the shrubland area with the stream running down into the dam and then on down into another couple of ponds he has created below – total area 27 hectares. The large dam is one of the main paradise shelduck moulting sites in

Central Southland and the shrubland is home to the threatened bird species, the fernbird.



*Above: An overview of the Day wetland complex.*

*Right: Warrick Day and Ron Munro (Ducks Unlimited) by the stream.*





# A Different Kind of Wetland

When an American approached Ducks Unlimited member Ron Munro to help him find a wetland to buy, the search began.

A farm that adjoined the DoC Toe Toes Reserve near **Ron and Gay Munro's** farm at Mokotua came on the market and it seemed that the answer would be to pursue purchase of the natural wetland part of it. However, having been spoilt by a visit to the wide water expanses of Sinclair Wetlands on the way to Southland, the prospective overseas buyer found the peat bog and natural swamp on offer was

not the kind of wetland he desired.

In the meantime, the Munros had taken a liking to this area. Ron and Gay (Southland QEII Regional Rep) couldn't bear the thought of the wetland being drained, or the abundance of fernbirds being made refugees, so they bought the land themselves. Now they are the proud owners of two wetland covenant areas – their original one that has the open water (see Trust Newsletter #23), that is, water fowl habitat – a wetland as most people envisage it, and now this 89ha of the peatland/swamp variety of wetland.

## Not just duck ponds

### What is a wetland?

The word 'wetland' encompasses many different types of landform. A wetland can be a coastal estuary or lagoon, a freshwater lagoon, a braided river, a swamp or marsh, a high mountain bog or a large stockwater dam. Many wetlands are the border between dryland and open water; others are boggy areas where water collects. Some wetlands are temporarily wet, drying out between tides, rainfall or floods, and others are permanently wet. Open water within a wetland is shallow; land within a wetland has a high water table. The water may be still or flowing, fresh or brackish.

### What to look for in a good bog

Bogs are wetlands which are fed by rainfall only, so, because of the lack of nutrient inflow, tend to be acidic and have low fertility. The waterlogged conditions slow the rate of decomposition of plant and animals, over time creating a deep layer of peat.

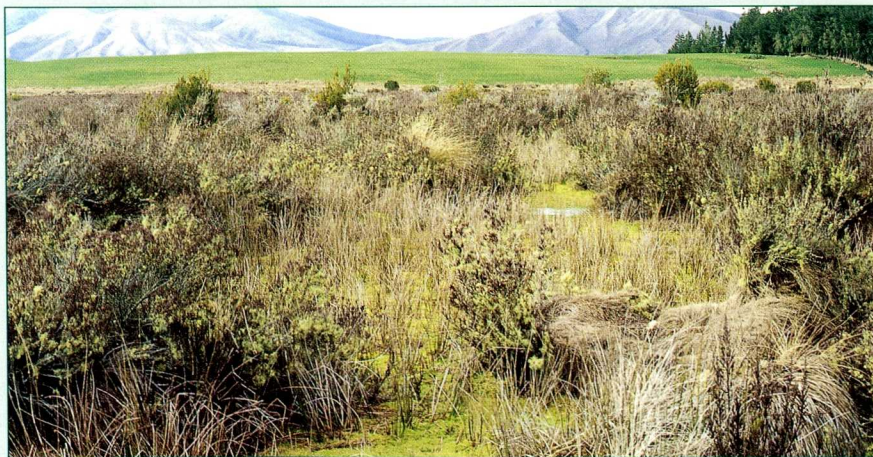


*This wetland is home to both red and silver tussock, with scattered matagouri bushes.*

The wettest bogs are dominated by sphagnum moss. Drier bogs support a variety of plant species, including sedges, rushes, umbrella fern and sphagnum moss. Bogs may also have a shrub component, often manuka or bog pine. Similarly, there a number of tree species which may be associated with them, for example, pink pine, rimu, kamahi and pokaka. Aquatic animals are few, but many insects and spiders use exposed vegetation, as do terrestrial and aquatic birds.

### Adaptations for a wetland life

To survive in a wetland, a plant needs very special adaptations. For example, to overcome low fertility in some wetlands, two groups of native plants have adapted to catch insects for nutrients. Bladderworts trap minute insects from the soil or water with bladders (which have lids) on their roots. The sticky hairs on the sundew's leaves serve the same purpose. Some plants (raupo, rushes) have overcome waterlogging by having hollow or nearly hollow stems which transport air to their roots; others (mangroves, swamp maire) have aerial breathing roots. One of New Zealand's tallest trees, kahikatea, grows on damp ground on the edges of rivers or lakes, or in swamps, and tolerates waterlogging by having some feeding roots at the top of the water table. Very few large stands of kahikatea are left due to the loss of lowland wetlands.



*Dominant species of this bog are dracophyllum, rush and bog pine.*

Source: *New Zealand Wetlands, a management guide*, by Robert Buxton. 1991.



## Covenants Update

As at 17<sup>th</sup> February 2003, there were 1680 registered open space covenants totalling over 62,500 hectares. The breakdown by Region (which differs from our Regional Representatives' boundaries) is as follows:

Region	No. of Covenants	Area Protected (ha)
North Auckland	377	6611
South Auckland	367	10637
Gisborne	83	9144
Hawke's Bay	93	2694
Taranaki	101	2555
Wellington	280	11991
Marlborough	17	709
Nelson	77	2180
Westland	6	180
Canterbury	118	4364
Otago	66	9398
Southland	95	2063
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>62,529</b>

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## Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered between 16<sup>th</sup> October 2002 and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2003 that have not yet been reported in Open Space.

Covenantor	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Barclay	6	Montane modified primary beech forest	Gisborne
Brown	1	Lowland podocarp forest remnant	Invercargill
Campbell	33	Lowland secondary forest & wetlands	Wairoa
Campbell	11	Lowland podocarp/hardwood forest	Rangitikei
Cargill & Hikaka	2	Semi-coastal kohekohe forest	New Plymouth
Cawte	45	Lowland secondary hardwood forest	Far North
Clements	8	Lowland podocarp forest & arboretum	Whangarei
Doyle	8	Coastal modified karaka/ngaio forest remnant	South Wairarapa
Duncan	1	Lowland wetland & forest remnant	New Plymouth
Dunlop	4	Semi-coastal kohekohe forest & wetland	New Plymouth
Fenton	4	Arboretum	Queenstown Lakes
Hartles	1	Semi-coastal secondary forest remnant	Kaipara
Hokianga Holdings	97	Semi-coastal podocarp/hardwood forest	Far North
Hoogerbrug	1	Broadleaved forest & archaeological site	Gisborne
Horne	8	Forest & sub-alpine shrubland/tussock	Hurunui
Hutton & Nolan	6	Montane riparian treeland	Queenstown Lakes
McColl	1	Lowland pond, shag rookery & reveg.	Manawatu
Masterton Trust	5	Revegetation project	Masterton
Merriman	2	Primary modified tawa forest remnant	W. Bay of Plenty
Sharp	.07	Limestone outcrop landscape	Whangarei
Smith	84	Lowland beech & hardwood/podocarp forest	Central H.B.
Smith	.16	Modified lowland podocarp/hardwood forest	South Wairarapa
Spiers	2	Semi-coastal regenerating forest and reveg.	Kaipara
Summit Road Soc.	10	Semi-coastal podocarp/hardwood forest	Banks Peninsula
Waipawa Farms Ltd	3	Lowland secondary podocarp/hardwood	South Wairarapa
Waldron	2735	Montane tussock grassland	Central Otago



# BEATING AROUND THE BUSH

## TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FOR NATIVE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

### Weed profile: *Bomarea caldasii*

By Tim Park

*B. caldasii* is a climbing vine native to Ecuador. It was once a popular garden plant in New Zealand but is now recognised as a problem. Its bright orange fruits are eagerly eaten by birds and dispersed over considerable distances. It infests disturbed sites, most importantly native forest remnants, where it strangles and smothers native plant species. There are several large infestations of this vine in bush remnants in the eastern South Island and the lower North Island and it threatens to establish in other places throughout the country. It is important to report infestations so its distribution is known.

#### Why is *Bomarea* a pest plant?

If left uncontrolled, *Bomarea* can smother and eventually destroy plants as it invades remnant forest and shrubland interiors. The vines grow into the tree canopy and form large masses, which overtop and smother the supporting trees. Seedlings are able to establish in the shade of forest interior, creeping along the ground, strangling saplings and smothering low growing species. Extensive infestations in the tree canopy alter light levels, which can kill mature trees and prevent the establishment of native species.

#### Identification

Leaves are thin, pale green, elongated and pointed. Trumpet shaped flowers are produced in dense drooping clusters of 15–20 flowers. They are tinged red outside and are bright yellow with red spots on the inside. Flowering can occur at any time but primarily in the spring. The fruit is a capsule that

ripens and splits to reveal bright orange/red fleshy seeds, dispersed by birds. Tubers can go very deep.

#### Suggested control options

One contractor sums it up eloquently... "A real bastard to control." Regrowth can occur from any rhizome fragments left in the soil. Rhizomes do not usually go deeper than 25cm. Where possible cut the aerial vines and dig out all the rhizomes. Tubers, which commonly grow at soil depths > 25cm have no reproductive function and so can be left in the soil and will not resprout. Dispose of rhizomes and seedpods by placing in a black plastic bag, letting the sun cook the contents before disposing. Please don't dispose of rhizomes or seeds in ways that will allow the plant to spread. Small plants can be hand-pulled effectively if less than 20cm high.

Escort®, and Touchdown® or equivalent herbicides have been found

Above: *Bomarea* bank infestation.

Left: The attractive *Bomarea* flower and its leaves.

to effectively manage infestations, but repeated application may be necessary. Apply herbicide directly to cut ends. Once the stem has been cut, the herbicide must be applied immediately. Leave vine on tree to minimise damage to the supporting plants. Beware of non-target damage when using herbicides and if spraying ensure that wind conditions are calm. Control is best undertaken before fruit is set. Use herbicides at application rates recommended by the manufacturer and wear protective clothing.

#### Follow up management

Control of a pest plant is not a one-off task. Follow up action must regularly be undertaken. The site must be checked for regrowth from underground rhizomes and seedling establishment. Plant a friendly alternative such as native *Clematis* or *Parsonsia* (native jasmine) species.

Thanks to Lisa Maria from the Otago Regional Council who compiled most of this information, and Darrel Key, WeedWorks for comments on his control experience.





# Know your natives:

## How to tell Matai and Kahikatea apart

*Kahikatea and matai are often hard to tell apart from a distance. The following clues may assist in deciding which species they may be.*

### From a distance

- **Situation**

Kahikatea demand primarily high fertility soils and high soil moisture content, so are often found near streams or in areas with poor drainage (swamps or wetlands). Although matai can also occur in these sites, they prefer sites with better drainage and will be found on dry ridges, usually not near streams. However, kahikatea may also occur away from permanently wet areas if the fertility is high enough for them.

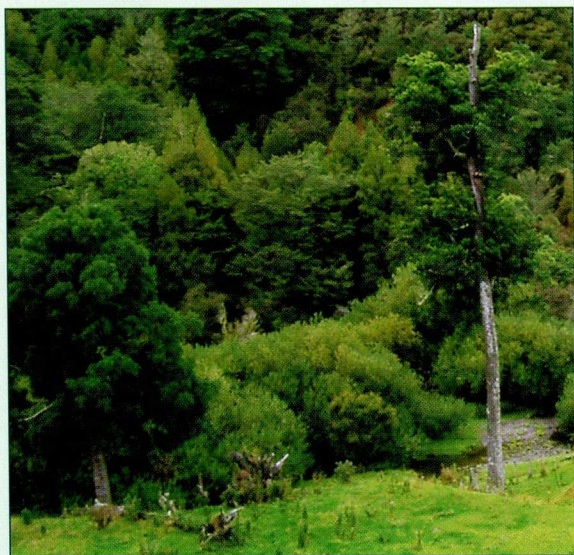
- **Canopy Structure**

From a distance, the canopy of mature matai has a much more even 'cloud' or 'cauliflower' like form than mature kahikatea, which has a more open, diffuse canopy structure. One characteristic of matai tree structure is very different from kahikatea: matai branches from the stem or trunk at an acute angle, whereas kahikatea sends its branches out at right angles to the stem or trunk.

- **Seasonal colour variation**

Seasonal variation in the species may give them away, as kahikatea tends to colour itself either a shade of grey when female, or a shade of orange when

*Matai in foreground (left and right) with kahikatea regenerating behind.*



male as their cones ripen (in spring). Female kahikatea have ovules (beginnings of fruit) which are grey and turn red when the fleshy receptacle (fruit) becomes ripe and males have pollen producing cones which go a yellowy orange. Male matai have yellow-green cones and females have bright green drupes which turn black when ripe. Accordingly, cone colour *enmasse* is a readily distinguishable feature from a distance to the keen eye.

- **Bark**

Another way of telling them apart is the hammer bark pattern. Typically, matai has very dark hammered bark, which tends to be deep red where flakes have recently fallen off. Kahikatea has lighter grey bark, which is also flaky, but its trunk is fluted when mature, with longitudinal grooves.

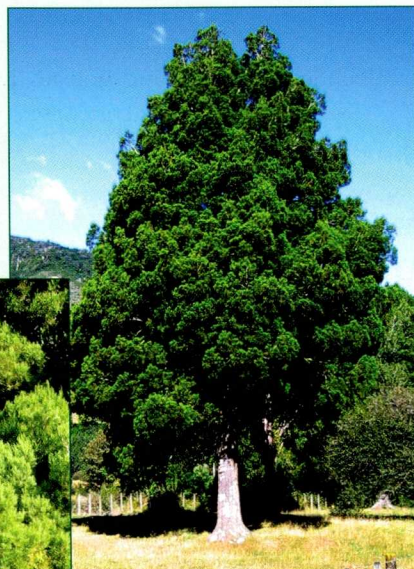
### Up close

- **Leaves**

But when it comes down to it, colour and structure are often variable, as with most native species, so if in



*Kahikatea foliage.*



*Candle flame like kahikatea on alluvial flats.*

doubt it's best to check the leaves if you can. Juvenile leaves are usually the only ones that can be reached, but often canopy leaves can be found at the base of the tree. The juvenile specimens of these species are very hard to confuse. Matai heavily divaricate and looks like a tangle of wire with a few leaves. Kahikatea branches horizontally and is divaricate much less. The juvenile leaves of kahikatea are flattened and form on the stem in two rows like scales and are generally 4-6mm long. Matai, on the other hand, does not look as scaled as kahikatea as the leaves do not cling closely to the stem. Matai saplings are much more tightly divaricating and the leaves are generally 1.5-2 cm long.

Thanks to Pat Enright and Barbara Mitcalfe for their comments and suggestions for this article.

Source: *Trees & Shrubs of NZ*. Poole and Adams and *Native Trees of New Zealand*, Salmon.

## Special Government funding for weed and pest control

The Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust will receive \$79,800 of condition funding for weed and pest control on sites under open space covenants nation-wide.

The project will implement a concentrated weed and pest control programme by the Trust's Regional Representatives, with the support of landowners and associated councils. Sites with significant weed and pest issues will be targeted. The project will improve the values and integrity of the QEII National Trust covenant system by ensuring greater physical protection and natural regeneration of biodiversity.



## Traps – Raising the standard

Funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, the Department of Conservation, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Landcare Research staff Bruce Warburton and Nick Poutu have been testing a range of new kill traps for possums, stoats, ferrets, feral cats, and rats. This trap testing is not about eliminating trapping from New Zealand, but rather about ensuring that traps used for controlling pests are both effective and humane, and continue to be available.

Society increasingly demands that we consider animal welfare issues when deciding on methods for pest control, so trap performance is therefore increasingly coming under scrutiny. Traps are used extensively in New Zealand for controlling possums, stoats, ferrets, feral cats, and rodents. They enable pest control personnel to mix non-toxic and toxic control methods (to, for example, overcome or avoid aversions that may develop from extended use of poisons) and provide an alternative control option for use where poisons are unacceptable. For the control of mustelids and feral cats, traps currently provide the only effective control method.

In 1999, animal welfare legislation in New Zealand was reformed via the Animal Welfare Act. This Act allows for the prohibition of traps that cause animals unreasonable pain or distress. The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) makes recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on which traps should be prohibited.

Such recommendations are based on an international draft trap standard for assessing the welfare performance of traps, and include criteria for both restraining traps (i.e., cage, box and leg-hold traps) and kill traps. Restraining traps, especially leg-hold traps, have the potential to cause limb injuries, and the performance criteria to assess them are based on the frequency and degree of any injuries. For kill traps, the performance criteria are based on the time taken for captured animals to be rendered irreversibly unconscious, and is currently set at 3 minutes.

NAWAC has now made their first recommendations for prohibiting some traps, including glue-boards (cardboard smeared with sticky glue to entrap rodents), Lanes-Ace ('gin') and similar traps, and Victor No.1 and larger unpadded double-coil spring traps. The commonly used Victor No.1 trap and its 'look-a-likes' will not be prohibited. This is, however, only the start of the prohibition process. Before the Minister recommends an Order in Council to prohibit any trap, he must have regard to a number of issues identified by the Animal Welfare Act. These include, in part, whether the nature and purpose of the trap, whether the pain or distress caused is unreasonable, whether it conforms to relevant New Zealand standards, and whether it can be modified to meet the welfare concerns.

These issues are currently being evaluated for the three trap models listed above, with the outcome of the evaluation still unknown.

*Extract from Issue 17 of Possum Research News, a publication of Landcare Research New Zealand Limited.*

## What's brown and sticky?



### Answer: A stick insect in my garden.

The rock rose (*Cistus* sp.) shrub in my garden is home to a multitude of stick insects – big and small, green and brown. These photos show just two of them.



There are 21 species of stick insect in New Zealand: most of these are green, the others are brown. Stick insects are masters of camouflage, and if disturbed or picked up, will adopt a completely rigid posture and remain motionless for an hour or longer. They are all flightless.

Female stick insects can grow up to 150mm long, but the males are much smaller. When mating during autumn, the male hitches a ride on the female's back, staying there for 2 weeks, even while she lays eggs. Adults generally die once winter arrives. The eggs hatch after 2-3 months.

Voracious feeders, stick insects feed on a variety of plants including manuka, rata, pohutukawa, ramarama, totara, rimu, and, in alpine areas, *Dracophyllum* species.

Story and photos: Sue Perry

Stick insect facts: *The Natural World of New Zealand*, by Gerard Hutching.



# AROUND THE COUNTRY

## Dinosaur stream protected permanently



*Jeremy Fleming and Joan Wiffen.*

Hawke's Bay's dun-coloured rounded hills, dried off in summer, with maybe a few scattered cabbage trees clinging onto life, are the most enduring image many people have of the Bay.

But up against the ranges in the northern part of Hawke's Bay, lush rainforest clings to steep-sided gullies, and branches intertwine across narrow gorges, with cool, fast-flowing streams running far below.

This is the kind of country Joan Wiffen, New Zealand's own "dinosaur lady" and her team, has been investigating for the past 30 years.

Working in the Hawke's Bay Palaeontological Research Group she found many fossils, including shells, fish, and shark teeth. A rich fossil collection of ancient marine reptiles includes the long-necked plesiosaurs, and large, predatory, alligator-like mosasaurs. Remains of both marine and freshwater turtles are present.

In 1980, the bones from the carnivorous theropod were discovered, and since then fossil evidence of pterosaurs (an ancient flying reptile with a 4-metre wingspan), an ornithomimid (three to four-metre-long, bi-pedal, herbivorous dinosaur), an ankylosaurus (armour-plated, herbivorous dinosaur), and a sauropod (a large 12 to 14m long, four-legged herbivorous dinosaur) has also been established.

Joan is delighted the dinosaur site and its surrounding beech and podocarp forest are now protected with a National Trust open space covenant.

Signed recently with the landowners, Carter Holt Harvey Forests Ltd, the covenant protects the 225-hectare area in perpetuity. Carter Holt Harvey Forest Resources chief executive Jeremy Fleming, pictured with Joan Wiffen in the Mangahouanga Stream, says the covenant is designed to protect the area's scientific values and strictly limit public access.

"Because of the unique scientific values, and the ease with which they could be damaged, and for reasons of health and safety, public access remains strictly controlled, particularly while we develop a long term management strategy," Jeremy says.

The best place in Hawke's Bay to find out more about Joan's discoveries is at the Hawke's Bay Museum and Cultural Trust in Napier, which has a permanent exhibition of her discoveries.

## Coastal Dunes Conference

Coastal Otago Rep Helen Clarke attended the Coastal Dunes Conference in Dunedin in February. The conference was hosted by the local Pikao recovery group and the Coastal Dunes Network, and included a field trip to some of the beaches around Dunedin. Topics discussed at the conference included Ngai Tahu traditional values and links with coastal dune habitats, invertebrates within dune systems, dune system morphology, rare plants, subdivision, weeds and pests.

Several organisations spoke on their restoration projects and some recent research was presented. Dr Mike Hilton from the Department of Geography at Otago University frightened us all by describing weedy plant species found commonly on the Tasmanian coastal dunes systems and presently spreading up the east coast of Australia. He considers it will only be a matter of time before some of these species will appear on our beaches.

Anyone interested in further information can contact Helen 03 454 3320 or e mail [hclarke@clear.net.nz](mailto:hclarke@clear.net.nz) For other information on coastal dune issues go to the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network website at [www.forestresearch.com](http://www.forestresearch.com) and look for CDVN under research - cooperatives.

### **Open Space welcomes contributions from Trust members.**

If you have a question,  
suggestion, problem,  
story to share,  
comment on a previous  
article, book review, or  
whatever, send it to  
the *Open Space* editor  
at the Trust's  
Wellington office.



## Electric fishing demonstration sparked interest in Pearl Creek in January.

Nelson/Marlborough Rep Phillip Lissaman attended a get together at Pearl Creek, Appleby, to mark World Wetlands Day in the Nelson Region. Pearl Creek is the finest coastal spring-fed stream on the Waimea Plains, and over 1 hectare of its margins were covenanted in 1996 by the O'Connor family.



Lawson Davey of Fish & Game demonstrates the workings of electric fishing equipment in Pearl Creek.

Department of Conservation and Fish & Game staff demonstrated the use of electric fishing equipment in freshwater fishery monitoring. The device does not injure the fish, but stuns them for long enough to allow easy trapping. The fish can then be examined and released or moved to a safer environment. Fish traps set in Pearl Creek overnight revealed the presence of giant kokopu, long- and short-finned eels, and other more common native fish (but happily no trout!). The variety of native fish highlights the importance of streams like this that feed into the Waimea Estuary – now ranked as a wetland of international importance.

A community-funded programme has been initiated by the Tasman Environment Trust to fence the stream, revegetate the banks with native trees, and progressively remove the infestation of willows. Native plantings outside the covenant area will complement the existing native plantings within.

## World Wetlands Day at Sinclair Wetland.

Otakou Runaka hosted a wanaka for World Wetlands Day at Sinclair Wetlands. About 60 people attended the very successful day. The program included information on traditional links with wetland habitats and research at the wetlands. In the afternoon while the adults were busy planting native trees on one of the wetland islands as part of the restoration project, the children were entertained with a variety of exciting activities and games.



Planting at Sinclair Wetlands on World Wetlands Day.

## I'Anson Surprise

By Ruth James, Wellington Office

A surprise invitation to a wedding in Bethlehem, Tauranga, gave me an opportunity to catch up with old friends and visit an area where I had never been before. Stephen Parr, the Trust's Regional Representative, was helpful with suggestions for accommodation: Charlemagne Lodge appealed to me, as "mine host", Peter, offered to pick me up from the airport.

My first impression of Tauranga was not good, as it was grey and cloudy. The plane was delayed and mist surrounded the whole area. Peter was cheerful even though he had a wait of over 45 minutes due to my late arrival. It seemed a long drive to the lodge but it looked

magnificent in the distance. When we turned up the driveway, I was astounded to see I'Anson Reserve (a National Trust property) right next door to the lodge. It looked majestic and inviting. For several hours, I had a leisurely walk around the beautifully kept reserve observing nature's perfection. The peace and tranquillity of I'Anson Reserve are still with me. I'Anson Reserve and the green pastures from the air are lasting impressions of my visit to Tauranga.

### Visit I'Anson Reserve!

This 10-hectare area of native forest, picnic areas and lake is freely available to the public. The main entrance is off Loop Road, some 8 km north of Tauranga via State Highway 2. Carparking and toilet facilities available.



Charlemagne Lodge is next door to I'Anson Reserve.

I'Anson Reserve was gifted to the National Trust in 1987.





# West Coast birds defend their patch

Margaret McKee (CEO) and Phillip Lissaman's visit to a Westland covenant included an unexpected confrontation with some very pushy locals, as Margaret reports.

On a recent visit to the West Coast, Regional Rep Phillip Lissaman and I had the great privilege of visiting a covenant area that protects part of the habitat of the rare Westland black petrel (*Procellaria westlandica*). Our host for the visit was landowner Denise Howard, who, together with Bruce Stuart-Menteath, had covenanted the area in 1998 (see *Open Space* #44).

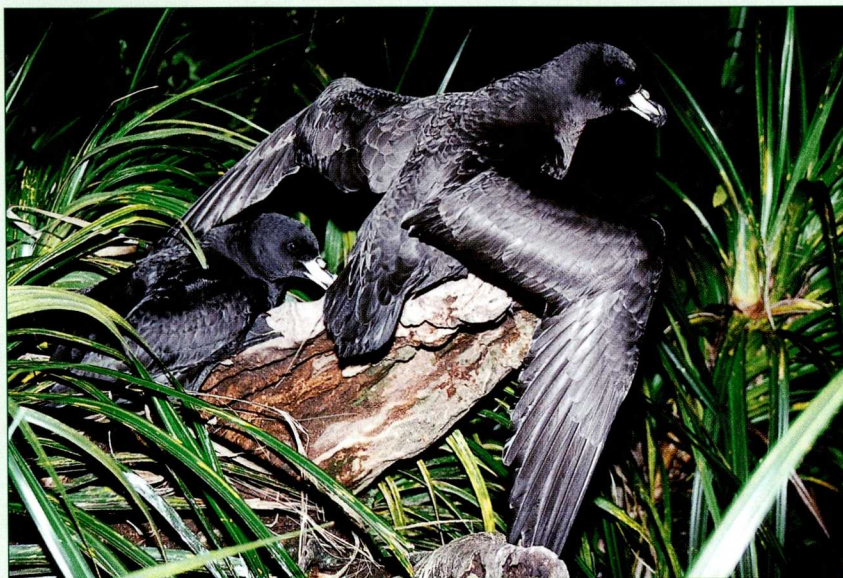
The Westland black petrel, whose population numbers between 2,000 and 4,000 breeding pairs, breeds in only a small stretch of the Paparoa ranges, near Punakaiki.

Phillip and I visited in early December, to see the fledglings preparing for departure - Denise explained that the last of the fledglings

leaves in late December, though most have gone before Christmas. The petrels begin returning in early March, although it is not until April before the majority of them return.

Sure enough, right on cue, the chicks emerged from their burrows at dusk to stretch and flap their wings in

preparation for flight. Oblivious to our presence, they very assertively obtained their exercise space. In fact, as one fledgling went through its stretch and flex routine, it transpired that I was standing within its workout area, and I was unceremoniously pushed out of the way. Obviously I wasn't a Coaster.



Above: Young Westland black petrels stretch their wings.



**Soggy Survivor.** This young tui had a gruelling start to life. After falling out of its nest into our garden, it was discovered and picked up by our elderly Labrador before being given up to 'Mum'. In remarkably good health after this slobbery ordeal, the tui was taken to a local bird-rearing expert and has made a good recovery. The photo was taken two weeks into "Sali"'s rehabilitation. His damp feathers in the photo are not the result of doggy drool this time, but over-exuberant drinking from his nectar feeder. If you find a bird that needs help, contact your local SPCA or vet. DoC regulates the keeping of native birds in captivity.

Photo and story by Sue Perry.



A petrel chick in its burrow - vulnerable to predators.

## Gifts and Bequests

The Trust is always grateful for cash gifts or bequests, as these assist the Trust in its work.

If you are contemplating making a gift or leaving a bequest to the Trust, or would like to talk about possibilities, please contact our Wellington office.

Photos courtesy of Bruce Stuart-Menteath

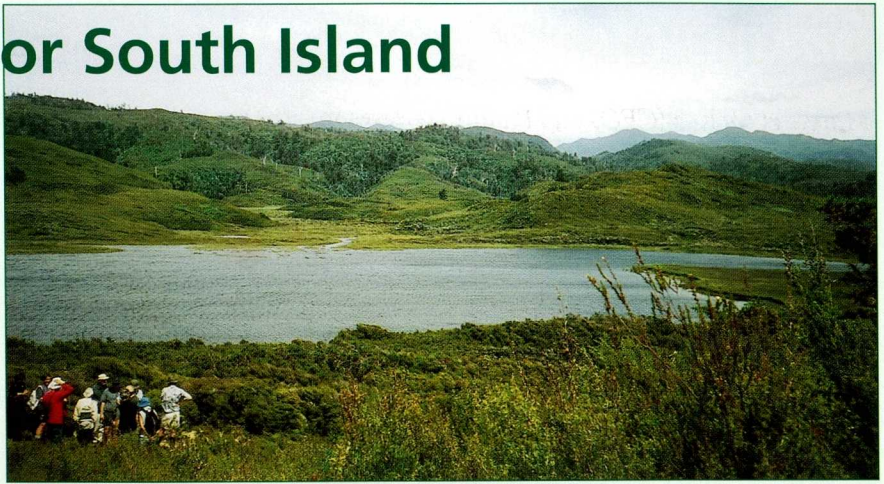


# Fabulous first for South Island

February 8, 2003 saw the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust celebrating the opening of its first South Island purchase at Mangarakau on the West Coast. The Minister of Conservation declared the 160-hectare wetland open and spoke passionately about the bonus for conservation when various parties work together. An open space covenant over the wetland is proceeding towards registration. Over 150 people attended the celebrations, including a Japanese couple on a "mystery" adventure who had embarked with the Tasman District Council bus. They commented that they had never before seen a swamp such as this.

*Top right: Lake Mangarakau – the largest remaining wetland in the Nelson/Marlborough region.*

*Right: The Hon. Chris Carter (Minister of Conservation) speaking passionately as he officially opens the wetland*



Photos: Nancy Watters

## TRUST PEOPLE

### Welcome to the following Trust staff:

- Peter van Essen, who has taken on the role of Regional Representative in the Manawatu/Wanganui region. Peter has been lecturing in Ecology at Massey University and has a strong background in farm forestry and the rural environment.
- Aidan Bichan, who has taken on the role of Regional Representative for the Wairarapa. Aidan is a dairy farmer and runs a Farm Consultancy Business. Two National Trust covenants are currently being processed on the family property.
- Sarah McElrea who is settling in at Wellington Office as Executive Assistant. She will work in a broad range of areas involved with management support. Sarah has recently completed a Masters degree in the management of forest fragments.

### Farewell to:

- Sue Perry, who has been in Wellington Office for ten years and, amongst other things, has compiled the *Open Space* magazine for the last three years. "I will especially miss the interaction with our covenantors – their enthusiasm and commitment has been an inspiration. I wish them all well".

### West Coast progress

The QEII National Trust is delighted to announce that the appointment of a representative based on the West Coast is imminent. While less than 15% of the land on the West Coast is in private ownership, conversely it has the highest percentage of private land per capita – due to the low population. The Coast, like most other areas in New Zealand, is facing enormous development pressure, particularly on the narrow, lowland coastal areas which are mainly in private ownership.

A Significant Natural Areas project has recently been completed. This was a joint project between West Coast Regional, Grey District, Westland District and the Buller District Councils. The project identifies key significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna and will help councils and landowners meet the requirements of the Resource Management Act.

A National Trust Regional Rep based on the West Coast will play a key role in working with landowners and assisting them in recognising and providing protection for these areas.

### Oops

Our apologies to the Batchelor family of Wairarapa, for the mix-up in the last *Open Space*. It was Robert Batchelor who was pictured and who covenanted his forest block, not Peter Batchelor – his father.

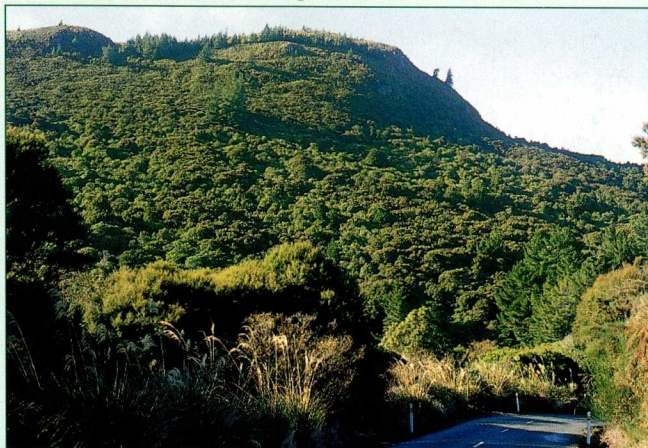


## Obituaries

The Trust notes with deep regret the recent deaths of the following Trust supporters:

- Joe Bashford of Progress Valley, Southland. Joe emigrated from Ireland as a child and worked in mills up the Progress Valley. He later went farming and was one of the earlier covenantors in that district when most people were still grazing their cattle in the bush.
- David Druce of Kumeroa, southern Hawke's Bay. Mr Druce contacted the Trust in late 1984 about the potential gift of 28 hectares of virgin bush on his Kumeroa farm property. While the Trust Board then approved acceptance of the gift, it was not until 1996 that the formal transfer was completed. In the interim, David had registered a covenant over the bush block and completed fencing around the perimeter. Named by David as Awapikopiko Reserve, this block is an ecologically important remnant of podocarp-broadleaved forest. In 1988, David's brother and well-respected botanist Tony, together with members of the Wellington Botanical Society, identified 131 species of indigenous plants in the block. Together with his wife Josephine, who in her own right donated the nearby Durslade property to the Trust in 1982, David won the Norsewear Conservation Award in 2000 (Open Space #49) in recognition of their commitment to natural area protection in the Kumeroa district.
- Lady Patricia Harris of Waikanae. Lady Harris and her husband, Sir Jack, were involved in the formal protection of 4.5 hectares of indigenous forest at Te Rama, Waikanae, in 1982.
- Bob Masfield of Trebor Farm, Akaroa. Bob was a highly respected member of the farming community and was at the forefront of early conservation on Banks Peninsula, having cared for and covenanted bush on his land long before it became the norm (see *Open Space* #53).
- Dorothy Morris of Waitati, Otago. Dorothy and her late husband Lloyd covenanted 81 hectares of Mt Kettle in 1994. The property has a unique combination of native bush with hiking trails, rocky outcrops and clear streams. It was Dorothy and Lloyd's wish that the property be retained as a park and nature reserve in perpetuity for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

*View of Mt Kettle from Mt Cargill Road.*



- H.B. (Bill) Williams of Gisborne. A descendant of the pioneering East Coast Williams family, Bill was prominent in cattle-farming circles, particularly the Angus breed. Together with his wife Elizabeth, Bill took an active interest in the work of the Trust from the time of its establishment in 1977. In many instances, he was personally responsible for protection initiatives including: covenanting of indigenous forest blocks on the family farm Turihaua; the establishment of Eastwoodhill Arboretum, which is covenanted; and the gifting of Pouawa Sandhills to the Trust. Trust Chairperson Sir Paul Reeves noted that, in an obituary tribute in a Gisborne newspaper, Bill Williams was described as "Self-effacing, humble, charitable to a fault, patient, efficient, bold, quietly brave, gentle and mentally tough". "The Trust was privileged and most grateful to receive a number of grants and donations from charitable trusts Bill Williams was associated with", said Sir Paul. "His outstanding support of the Trust was but one of his many achievements during his lifetime. That support has ensured perpetual protection and enhancement of some wonderful features in the New Zealand landscape."
- Mallyon Russell of Tairua. Mallyon ensured the natural values of the property he lived on for over 20 years were protected in perpetuity by way of open space covenants.



*Mallyon Russell's legacy.*

The 611-hectare protected area comprises a mosaic of secondary regenerating indigenous forest, including species of flora and fauna no longer common in the Tairua Ecological District. Mallyon fully appreciated it would take many years before the forest returned to the splendour it had had prior to it being heavily modified by logging, burning, gum digging and gold mining during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. His commitment to protection was an unselfish act to enable present and future generations of New Zealanders to benefit from and enjoy the natural values of the property.

## Trust Board Activities

Board meeting dates for 2003 are as follows: -  
May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>,  
November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.



## JOIN THE QEII NATIONAL TRUST

You can help by joining as a member. In return you receive the following benefits:-

- If you are already a member, please pass the form on to a friend, or use it to gift a membership to a friend or family member.

## Membership Application

Telephone..... Email.....

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate – business	(on application)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate – non profit organisation	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$550		

(Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible)

☐ Cheque      ☐ Mastercard      ☐ Visa      Total \$.....      ☐ Please send a receipt

Credit card details – Number

Cardholder name..... Expiry date.....

Signature.....

- ☐ Making a bequest to the Trust
- ☐ Open space covenants

Gift to: name & address .....

Send next year's renewal to me ☐ to the recipient ☐

**Mail this form to: QE II National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington or simply free-phone us on 0508 732 878**



# A National Trust property to visit: Bowman's Bush, Otatara, Southland

## On offer:

A pleasurable 10 minute walk through a fine example of what makes the Invercargill suburb of Otatara so special - nationally significant podocarp forest which occurs on ancient sand dunes to the west of our southern most city.

The 1.3 ha forest remnant includes rimu and matai up to 500 years old.

## History:

The recent history of Bowman's Bush reflects the story of a number of the significant forest remnants in developed landscapes, where an early buyer of the land had a real appreciation of New Zealand's natural heritage.



*Picnics in a small clearing of Bowman's Bush were an important part of Macdonald family life in the 1930s.*

From 1918 to 1921, Dr J G Macdonald bought several adjoining blocks of land at Otatara that were forest covered, to be the family's time out place from the 'busy-ness' of life in Invercargill. What is now a 10 minute drive from the centre of town along Dunns Road on reclaimed land past the Invercargill Airport, would then have been a slow trip with horse and jig, out and around the New River Estuary on Bay Road.

In his grandson, Richard Bowman's words, "As soon as he bought the property, my grandfather fenced out cattle and sheep which roamed the district. The fences also had to exclude rabbits, which were numerous. These animals had done considerable damage to the native bush on the property. Miraculously though, the bush seems to have escaped milling which was still going on at that time."

The forest was an important part of family life, with picnics being enjoyed in a clearing in the forest. A part of the pleasure for the children was their grandfather taking them for a walk through the bush and telling them the names of the plants

and birds found there. Thanks to the Southland Branch of Forest and Bird, you can also enjoy the opportunity of learning about the plants with a number of name plates in place along the path.

It was in 1986 that Dr Macdonald's daughter, Mrs Marjorie Bowman, on moving away from Invercargill, decided to have the area protected for all to enjoy. She made the property available to the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust at a very reasonable price and, with assistance from the local Council, Forest and Bird, and private donations the purchase was made. The Trust is indebted to the Invercargill City Council for their ongoing management of the reserve.

## Location:

10 minutes drive west of Invercargill centre in the forested suburb of Otatara.

## When to go:

The walkway – see photo above – is open all year round.

## How to get there:

Take the road west of Invercargill to Otatara, follow the main Dunns Rd for 5 kms then turn left into Ruru Ave. Bowman's Bush is signposted on the left hand side and you can pull off on the roadside here. Alternatively you can turn left sooner into Spence Ave where there is a sealed carpark and walk across the grassed ICC reserve to the southeast entrance of Bowman's Bush.

## Accessibility:

Suitable for pedestrians only. The track has a gravel surface.

## For more information:

Contact Gay Munro, 03 239 5827, or Robin Pagan, Parks & Reserves Manager, Invercargill City Council, 03 217 7368.