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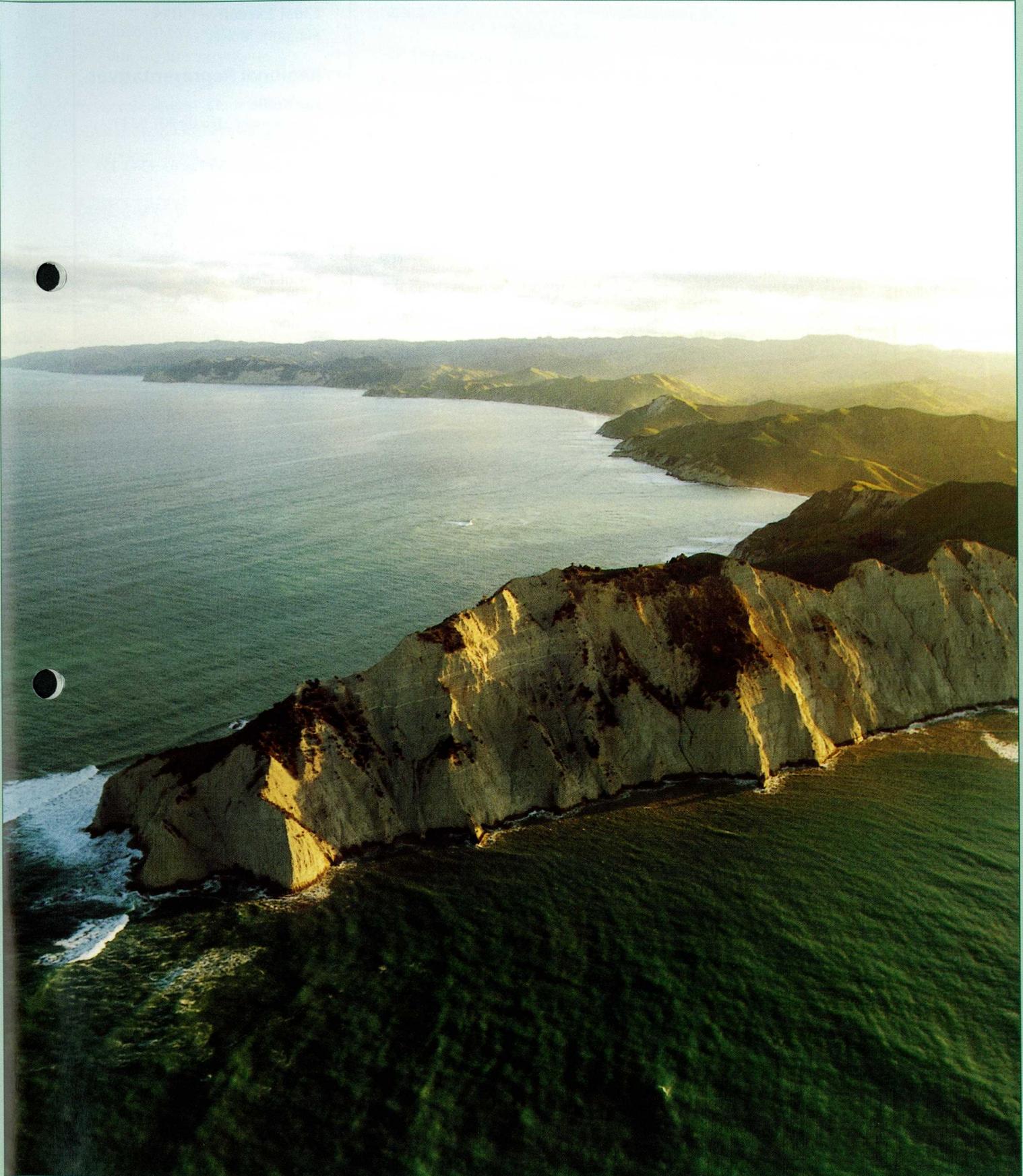


QE II National Trust
For open space in New Zealand
Nga Kairauhi Papa

Open Space

MAGAZINE OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II NATIONAL TRUST

No.58, September 2003



IN THIS ISSUE Landscape Protection • Canterbury Covenants • Farm Environment Awards

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

The Trust helps landowners protect natural features including:

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

The QE II Act provides the perfect legal mechanism to secure protection on private land - an *open space covenant*. It preserves ownership and management. As a resource and environment management tool the QE II solution is simple, rigorous and highly cost effective.

An open space covenant is a legally binding agreement between a landholder (Covenantor) and the Trust to maintain an area of land or water as open space in perpetuity. The landowner retains ownership and management of the land. The standard covenant document includes provision to satisfy a covenant's specific requirements. The right of public access is encouraged but is not always appropriate. The Trust as partner offers advice and regularly monitors the covenant to ensure that the aims and objectives are being observed.

Establishing covenants in perpetuity can attract funding assistance from the Trust and/or local government towards fencing and survey costs. Covenanted land can attract rates remission under the Local Government (Rating Powers) Act 2002.

In addition to the legal mechanism of open space covenants the QE II National Trust offers a range of assistance in the preservation, protection and enhancement of natural features on private land. This includes:

Term covenants. Open space covenants are generally in perpetuity, though there can be a case for a variable term-

- Kawenta, on Maori land which recognises tino rangatiratanga,
- Life of the Trees covenant, where individual trees occur in a managed landscape.

Landscape protection agreements.

The use of this type of agreement is most appropriate where land may not have title such as road reserve.

Management statements are often prescribed within the covenant document and provide detailed policies and methods for the ongoing management of the particular values for which the area is

protected. They may include such things as species management, pest control and/or restoration methods.

Monitoring and ongoing support

Monitoring covenants is an important function of the Trust. Visits occur regularly, usually once every two years. The Trust offers management advice and support. Reports detail the ecological condition, trends, any threats and ensure covenant objectives are being met.

How your covenant helps New Zealand

Many 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. The decreasing diversity of our indigenous flora and fauna is regarded as one of our biggest environmental problems.

While there is a network of publicly owned conservation areas, the vast majority, 70%, of New Zealand's land remains in private ownership. Many habitats and features are found only in these areas. They can only be protected with the goodwill and action of landowners.

Practical land management and farm productivity

Many farmers are motivated to protect natural features because it makes good land management sense. Bush and wetlands help filter rain and runoff ensuring water quality. They encourage recycling of nutrients and reduce soil erosion. Forest remnants reduce wind and provide shelter and shade enhancing stock management and production. Fencing areas not only allows the regeneration of the bush, but also helps protect stream banks, water quality and keeps stock out of hard to manage areas. Healthy bush and natural landscapes beautify and add economic value to farm properties.

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Landscape Protection – it’s what we do

Our landscapes form an integral part of our culture and heritage. They help define what it means to be a New Zealander and give us our sense of place. As a country we have a huge diversity of outstanding landscapes ranging from our magnificent coastlines to the peaks of our high country.

But we are rapidly losing many of our special landscapes through changing land use and the demand for development. There is an increasing need to identify outstanding landscapes and ensure their long-term protection.



Glenmore Station, Tekapo. 1,000 hectares of montane tarn wetland and dryland are protected by covenant on Jim and Anne Murray’s high country pastoral lease station above Lake Tekapo.



Photo courtesy of the Gisborne Herald

Tuaheni Point, Gisborne. 20 hectares of significant headland between Gisborne city and Wainui Beach are protected for landscape open space values and prevents development.

One of QE II’s functions is to protect heritage and cultural landscape features of New Zealand. The legislation providing for this affords the perfect legal mechanism, an open space covenant.

The Act defines open space as, “any area of land or body of water that serves to preserve or to facilitate the preservation of any landscape of aesthetic, cultural, recreational, scenic, scientific, or social interest or value”.

The emphasis in recent years has been on protecting ecological values, in recognition of the urgency to conserve the last remnants of lowland bush and wetlands before the opportunity disappears.

However the Trust over time has achieved protection of some stunning landscapes on individual properties. In addition covenants on different but contiguous properties and Crown land collectively contribute to the protection of the broader landscape. Covenants tend to occur in clusters as landowners and communities grow, share experiences and develop similar values. There are examples such as on the East Coast of the North Island between Mahia and Tolaga Bay where the Trust has protected six very significant coastal features including a number of headlands, coastal dunes and wetlands within 100 km.

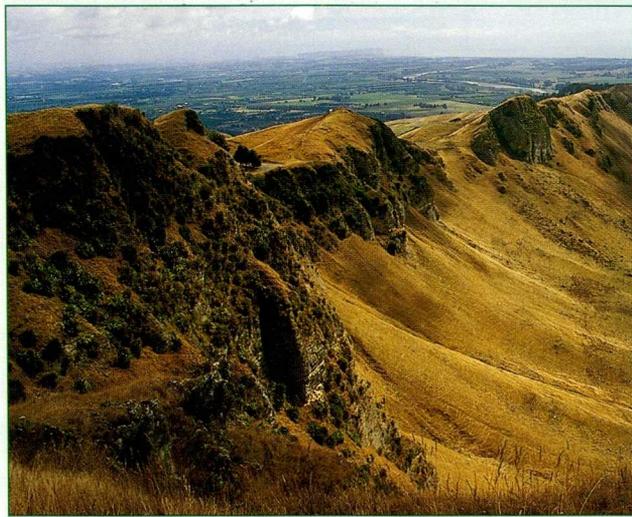
Contents

Landscape Protection	3-6
Focus on: Canterbury	7-11
Marlborough	12-13
Farm Environment Awards	14-15
Harmful Hedgehogs	17
Improving Covenants	20-21
Fabulous Ferns	22-23
West Coast Progress	24
Fragments	26
A place to visit – Jolendale Park	28

Cover photo: Nicks Head Station, Gisborne. Young Nicks Head is arguably New Zealand’s most iconic heritage landscape. The cliff face has been gifted to the Crown as reserve. The 148 hectares of adjoining headland remains in private ownership and is protected by a QE II National Trust open space covenant in perpetuity. Photo courtesy of Dunstan & Kinge.



Ngai Tahu Sinclair Wetlands, Otago. An extensive 315 hectare wetland landscape and water fowl habitat is protected.



Te Mata Peak, Hawkes Bay. 95 hectares of lowland grassland and remnant forest protected for outstanding landscape values.



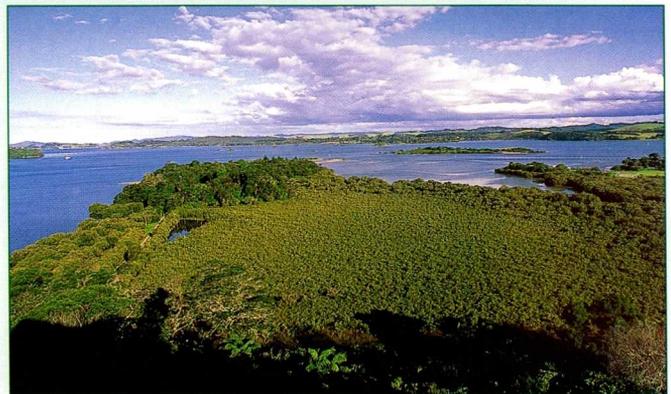
Above and below: Hickory Bay, Banks Peninsula. The covenant protects the foreshore against building and subdivision ensuring open space protection.



Wider use of the open space covenant for landscape protection, in collaboration with other agencies, has the potential to make a significant impact on landscape protections on the 70% of land in private ownership.

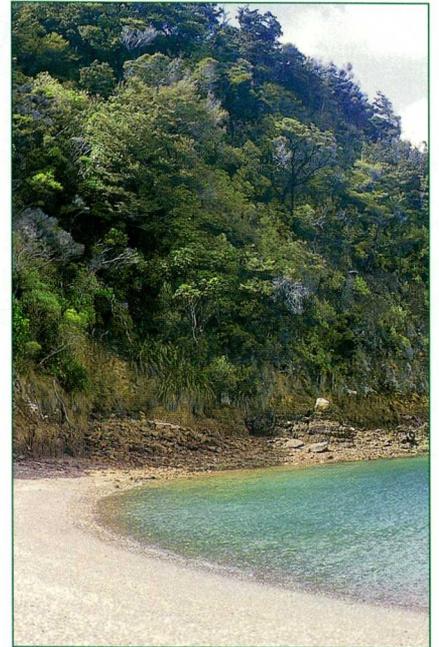
Heritage, in its wider sense, is both natural and cultural. It is what we have inherited and wish to pass on to our mokopuna. Therefore, heritage landscape protection is the protection of natural and cultural features in the landscape. Natural features include bush remnants, wetlands, headlands, islands, waterfalls, hills and rock outcrops. We are also getting better at recognising the value of these features to our native fauna and flora, and how to look after them. Our land is also very rich in cultural features.

For over 700 years people have lived in New Zealand. They have explored virtually every nook and cranny and have settled where they could. There are old tracks, house sites, quarries, mines, mills, middens, pa, camps, huts, water races, fences and gardens almost everywhere you look. Every sand dune has remains of the daily lives of people long gone. Stone adzes have been found high in the ranges. People have moved plants such as harakeke (lowland flax), karaka, kowhai and cabbage trees about for centuries. Even in what seems to be a remote pristine bush tract you might find a cut stump, or a storage pit. Protection of natural heritage areas usually also protects something of cultural heritage.

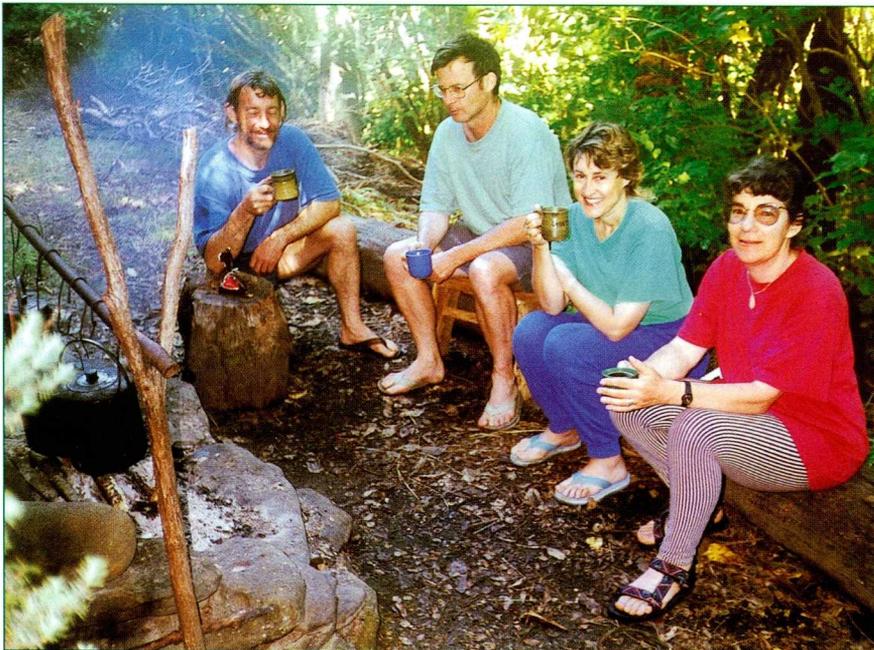


Aroha Island, Kerikeri, Bay of Islands. 12 hectares of prime coastal property with coastal hardwood and mangrove forest are protected by open space covenant

The Walls family covenant on D'Urville Island, Marlborough Sounds provides an excellent example. It includes a couple of beaches, a rugged headland and a nice bush stream. It was set up to preserve and restore the bush and to protect that bit of coastal New Zealand from development. It also has several cultural heritage features including; middens, oven stones and stone flaking areas in the bays, and hand-dug pits on the spurs: ubiquitous signs of former Maori settlement in the region. The walking tracks follow bridle paths and stock tracks in places, even though stock have been fenced out for over 30 years.



D'Urville Island Marlborough Sounds. The Walls family covenant protects stunning wild coastline, beaches, bush and cultural heritage features.



Members of the Walls family sitting around the camp fire. Geoff Walls is on the left.



The Walls family heading out to try for a fish for dinner. The backdrop is little different from that which greeted the first NZ Company immigrant ships when they rendezvoused here on arrival from Britain in 1840.

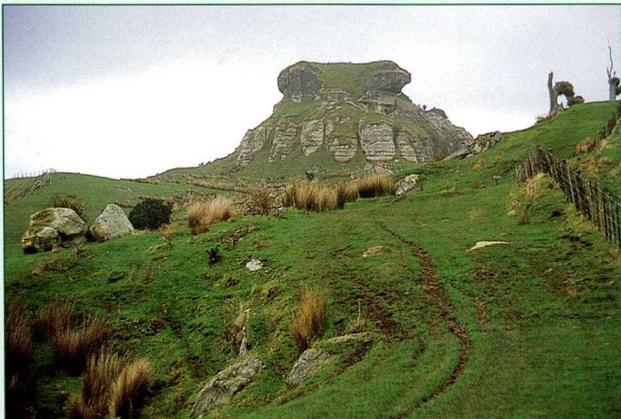
There are other agencies empowered to protect cultural heritage in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Historic Places Trust keeps a national register of historic places (archaeological sites, buildings, trees, cemeteries, gardens, shipwrecks and landscapes) and wahi tapu (sacred Maori places). It is a national and regional watchdog and advocate for cultural heritage protection.

The Department of Conservation also has a mandate for the protection of cultural heritage, under the Conservation Act, though it puts emphasis on conservation of natural heritage. Each conservancy has a technical specialist in historic resource conservation and a Maori perspectives manager. The department manages a spectrum of culturally significant sites and heritage landscapes, mostly on public land.

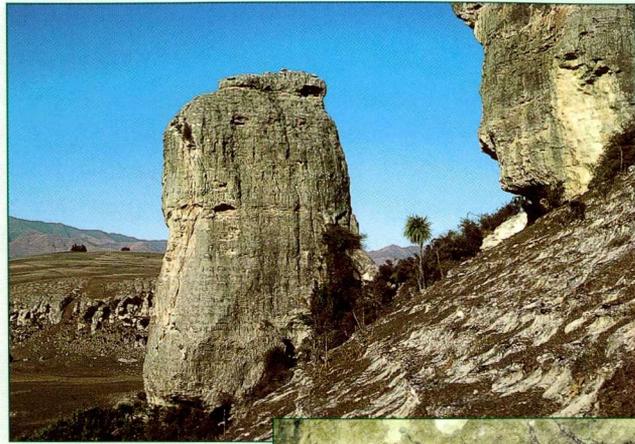
The Resource Management Act gives local authorities the responsibility to protect heritage landscape features. They can do this through the use of rules, regulations, incentives and practical management.

The New Zealand Archaeological Association has a network of regional file keepers covering the whole country. They compile and maintain files of local archaeological sites and features.

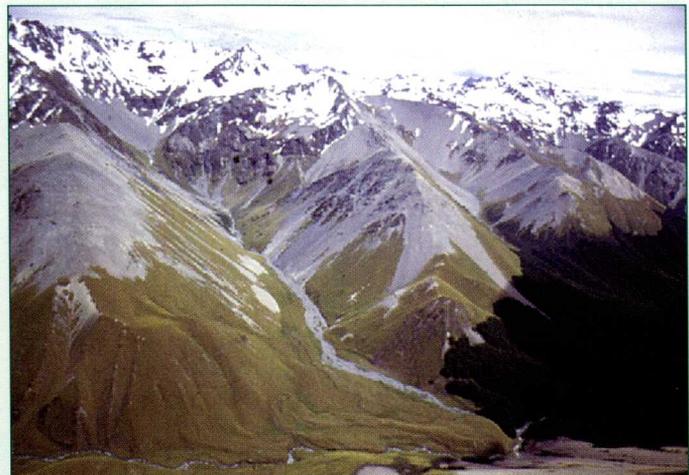


Ngapuriri Farm Bush, Waikato. A covenant protects lowland podocarp forest and distinctive 'Lord of the Rings' limestone features on the Snodgrass family farm.

The QE II National Trust offers a pre-eminent service to landholders for the conservation of heritage in the landscape. It has a practical mechanism for the recognition, legal protection and management of cultural and natural features of all types on private land. Wider use of this mechanism, working in conjunction, where appropriate, with the other agencies, will help ensure New Zealand's heritage is not lost. In these times of rapid farm intensification and conversion, and of coastal and high country development frenzies, this is crucial. It is how our grandchildren will still be able to go to dramatic places that are not overcome by intensive settlement. It is how they will get to see the rua, the rock art, the bridle path and the remains of the old campsite we have safeguarded.



Craigmore, South Canterbury. Sir Peter and Lady Fiona Elworthy have three QE II National Trust covenants on their property protecting natural and cultural features within a dramatic geological landscape.



Lake Ohau Station, Maitland Valley, Mackenzie Country. A covenant protects 1,679 hectares of mountain beech forest, snow and blue tussock grassland and rock scree on the Weatherall family freehold station.

Open Space welcomes contributions from our readers.

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

email smcelrea@qe2.org.nz

Focus on: Canterbury

Only 6% of the Canterbury Region has retained its cover of indigenous forest. This is the smallest proportion of indigenous forest cover remaining in any region of New Zealand. It is important for landowners to recognise the value of even the smallest remnants. Within the Canterbury Region, 3,358 ha is protected by 120 open space covenants.

The QE II Canterbury Rep is Miles Giller. Dr Brian Molloy, covers the South Island's High Country covenants, including those in Canterbury.

Miles Giller fits in his QE II role along with running a native plant nursery (Broadleaf Nursery) with his wife Gillian. Together they also look after their large native garden. For inquiries regarding covenants in Canterbury, Miles can be contacted on (03) 313 5315.

Threatened Penguin Habitat Protected

There are now four covenants on the **Helps** farm at Flea Bay on the southern side of Banks Peninsula. The Trust registered two new covenants in 2002, one on Francis and Shireen Helps' property, the other adding to the areas already protected by Francis and his brother Stephen. Three of these covenants, covering 30 ha, are adjacent to the foreshore and protect prime penguin habitat. The penguin habitat consists of open exotic grassland, and native shrubland and scrub. About 320 pairs of white-flipped penguins (*Eudyptula minor albosignata*) roost and breed on the covenanted land. White-flipped penguins are endemic to Motunau Island and Banks Peninsula. The white-flipped penguin is considered *Endangered* (IUCN), and has been reduced to a population of around 2,100 pairs on Banks Peninsula, 34% of which frequent and breed at Flea Bay. Francis and Shireen undertake extensive predator control, which is enhancing the survival rates of these penguins.

Flea Bay is also host to Yellow-eyed penguin (*Megadyptes antipodes*), ranked as *Nationally Vulnerable*. Three pairs of Yellow-eyed penguins used the area last year, one pair successfully raising young.

The Banks Peninsula Track (which starts at Onuku, just out of Akaroa, and finishes at Mt Vernon Lodge, 35 km later) traverses through parts of the forest covenant, which covers two tributaries of a stream that flows into Flea Bay, and includes waterfalls. The foreshore covenant includes several sites of archaeological value, such as middens and earthworks.



The Helps' covenants protect important habitat for the white-flipped penguin, as seen here climbing rocks at Flea Bay.

Photo courtesy of DoC.

Word of Mouth

Many people cross the Conway River as they drive south from Kaikoura, but few get to see the natural beauty just downstream, at the river's mouth. The thin strip of coastal terrace is cut by several deep gullies, each supporting

its own remnant of coastal vegetation. Several of these have progressively been protected by way of QE II covenants, providing a clear demonstration of how one landowner's foresight can eventually inspire a whole community. The most

recent addition to this cluster of covenants is a coastal scarp owned by **WH Holdings Ltd**. Kanuka and maheo are now giving way to titoki and kaikomako, and kawakawa is flourishing in the understorey, reflecting the area's coastal influences.

Protection for Akaroa Skyline and Forest

Jane Chetwynd and Heather Chapman's three covenants (totalling 16 ha) add to the protected area of skyline above Akaroa township. Together with Hinewai Reserve and DoC's Ellangowan Scenic Reserve, these covenants form an almost continuous band of protected land along this portion of the summit. The geology of the covenanted area includes several basaltic rock outcrops.

The most recent covenant, approved in November 2002, protects 3 ha of montane tussock grassland and associated natural vegetation, including the local endemic *Heliohebe lavaudiana*. An old quarry site within the covenant is being restored.



The QE II Board recently visited Jane Chetwynd and Heather Chapman at Cloud Farm and gathered at the "Banquet Area" overlooking Otanerito Bay.

Recently Registered Covenants in Canterbury



Riverbridge Wetlands Protected

It is amazing what one man's enthusiasm, vision and effort can achieve, in turning a couple of former paddocks into a unique wetland area on the Canterbury Plains. **Russell Langdon** began establishing the Riverbridge Wetlands area in 2000, which is now an 8.3 ha protected haven for a large variety of birdlife including pied stilt, marsh crake, black teal, white faced heron,

Russell Langdon (right) outlines his Riverbridge Wetlands area to QE II Representative Miles Giller.

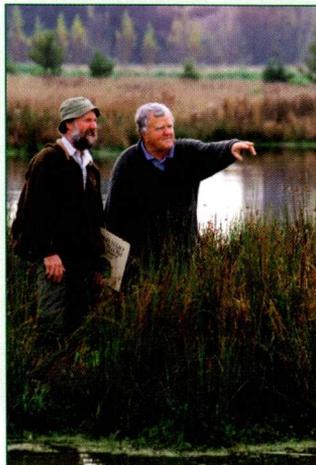


Photo courtesy of Ashburton Guardian

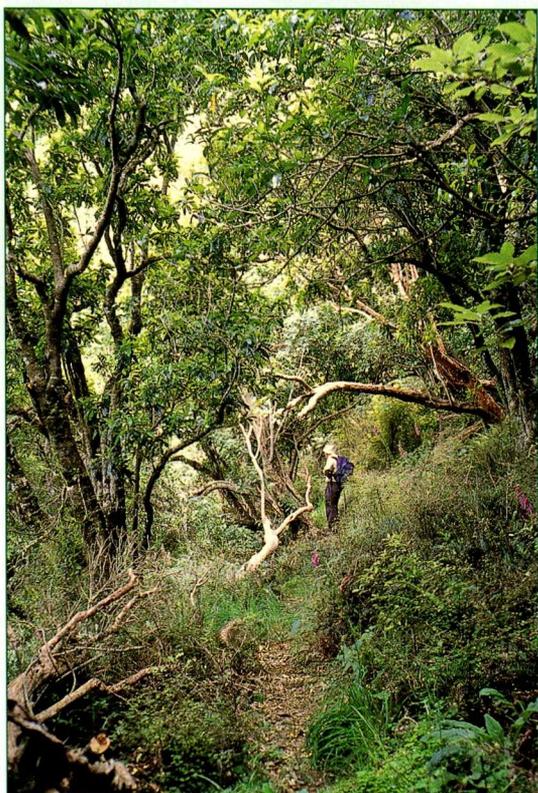
cormorant, grey teal, sandpiper, scaup, shoveler, paradise duck, oyster catcher, and a number of vagrants. Canterbury mudfish were liberated in February 2002, with the support of DoC and local iwi, and are already breeding. Mr Langdon's efforts with this artificially restored wetland have been formally recognised, as he is the recipient of a Green Ribbon Award (Biodiversity section) from the Ministry for the Environment (2001), and an Environment Canterbury Resource Management Award (2000).

Linking Summit to Suburb

Back in the early 1900s Harry Ell had a vision for the Port Hills, recognising their potential as a place for Christchurch residents to enjoy both rural and natural qualities only a short distance from the city centre. Dozens of volunteers are still working to turn Harry's vision into reality, not least the enthusiasts of the **Summit Road Society**. Already, the Society has protected 138 hectares of regenerating forest just below the summit of the Port hills overlooking Governors



Gordon Kirk stands on O'Farrell's Track with the Summit Road Society's covenant behind him.



Bay (see Open Space #34 and #53). This new covenant adds a further 10 hectares of regenerating forest and shrubland, but just as important, it links the existing covenants right down to Governors Bay township, so that walkers can now access the area from above or below.

This area has long been a place for appreciation of nature and spiritual renewal. In 1922 James Cowan wrote of the area "Deep down in these twisting gullies below the straight cut harbour facing cliffs there lingers still a certain quality of primitiveness and a suggestion of the ancient adventure... deep in the sudden valleys still may you, though so near the city, breathe the mind refreshing fragrance of the grand out of doors, hold healthy commune with all the still-eyed soul that broods in wind whispering solitudes". The endeavours of Summit Road Society members have made it possible for all to experience these feelings.

The exclusion of livestock has allowed for the rapid regeneration of the forest in the Summit Road Society's covenant.



Overview of the Omya covenant at Kakahu Bush.

Another Addition to Kakahu Bush

Omya New Zealand Limited have recently covenanted 8ha of secondary forest - the most recent large piece of Kakahu Bush to be protected. Located 15 km south-west of Geraldine, it is surrounded on three sides by existing covenants. Kakahu bush is utilised by foraging long-tailed bats. Conodont fossils dated to be over 280 million years old (being of the Upper Carboniferous age) have been found in the Kakahu marble on this property. The Kakahu Walkway passes through Omya's open space covenant.

Good Things Take Time

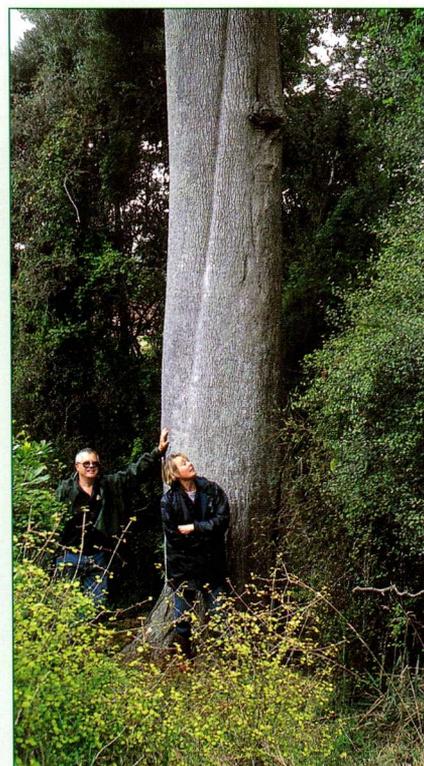
Back in 1982, the then Canterbury QE II rep Ian Blair first discussed the prospect of an open space covenant with Parimanui landowner **Robin Elworthy**, but for various reasons, nothing was finalised. Fifteen years later regional representative David Webster joined Robin and his wife Jessica to again view the dramatic limestone cliffs and forest remnant, and the rest, as they say, is history. Set high atop the limestone ridge overlooking Craigmore Valley (inland from Timaru), the covenant is most impressive for the clean white arc of limestone set above a verdant green patch of regenerating hardwood forest. At least one old-man Matai tree was recently found, hopefully there are others to produce viable seeds from which these podocarps may rise to once again look down over the Pareora River below. Parimanui (meaning 'a long white cliff') is now farmed by Robin in partnership with his son Simon.



The limestone cliffs are a special feature of the Elworthy's covenant.

Pokaka Protected in French Farm Valley

Bryan and Nancy Tichborne's covenant is nestled in lower French Farm Valley on the western side of Akaroa Harbour. Nancy Tichborne is a well-recognised water-colour artist, and has a studio on the property. They have an open space covenant which protects a 1 ha remnant of semi-coastal secondary podocarp/hardwood forest, which is extremely under-represented in this region.



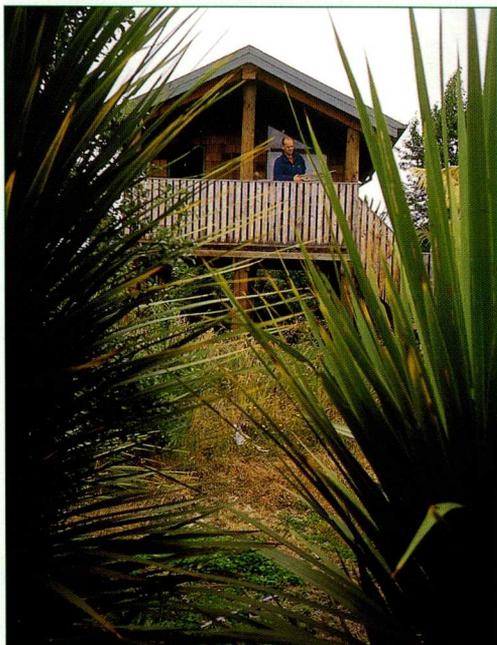
Bryan and Nancy Tichborne admire their magnificent specimen of Pokaka.

Te Waimangu Stream ('little brown stream') flows through part of the covenant and this riparian section has a canopy of kanuka, kowhai and ngaio. The covenant is home to one of the largest pokaka trees on Banks Peninsula, as well as the Banks Peninsula endemic *Hebe strictissima* and the nationally uncommon *Brachyglottis sciadophila*.

Community Initiative Bears Fruit

In 1993 two neighbours in the Christchurch suburb of Addington agreed to combine parts of their gardens. Soon, other neighbours wanted to join in, with the result that a communal area now supports a tiny recreation of the forest that once stood tall on the same site. Known locally as Eel Creek Reserve, the area is now owned and developed by the **Addington Bush Society Incorporated**.

The tree-house offers a great vantage point from which to view the progress being made by the Addington Bush society.



Mike Peters on the pathway that winds through Addington Bush.

Whilst the area's modest 809 square meters may never provide enough space to accommodate fully grown examples of the giant totara that once stood there, many former species are thriving, and already provide a retreat of tranquillity and beauty that is evocative of the great outdoors.

In Harmony with the Bush



Graham Horne admires the rich understorey in his beech forest.

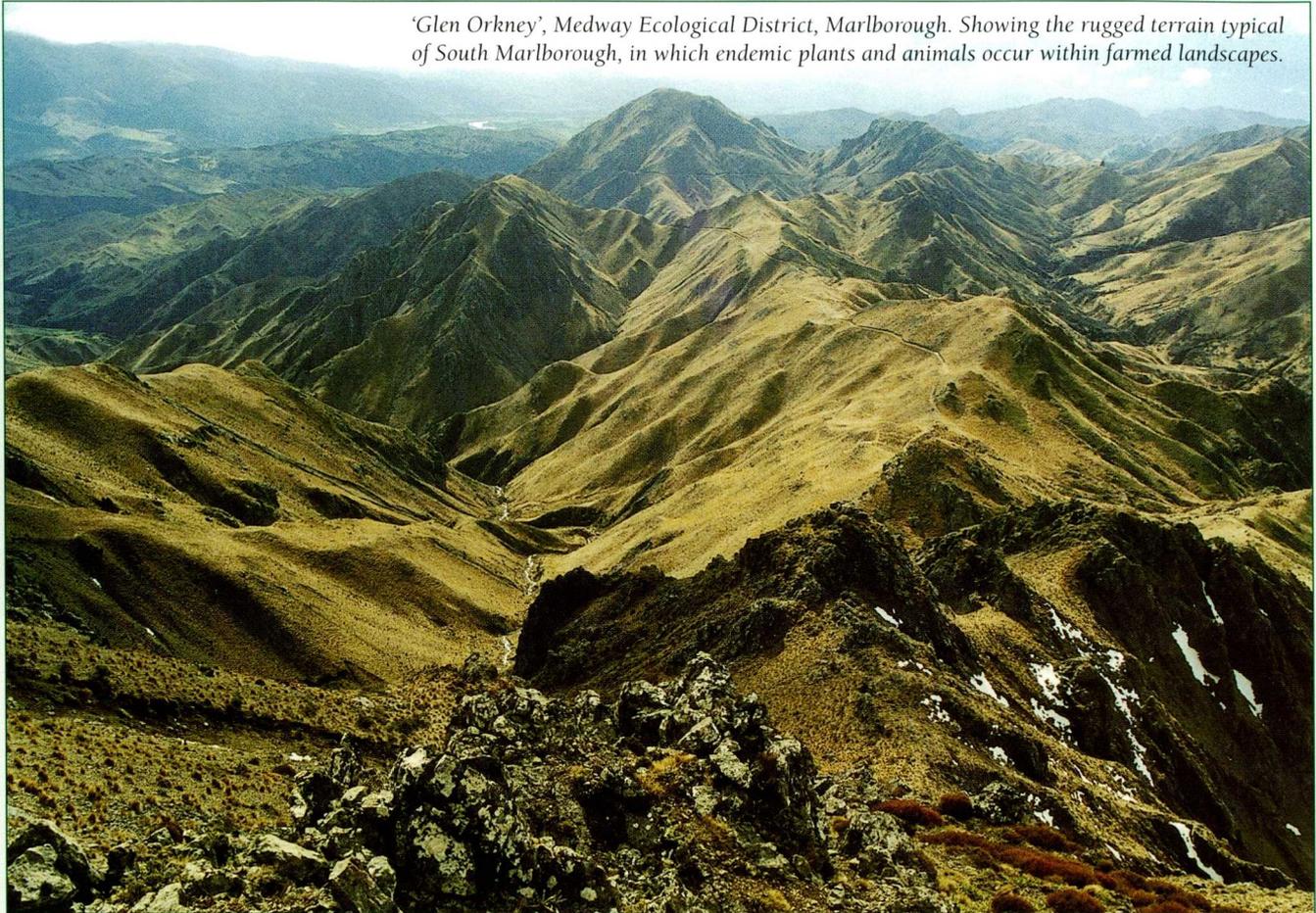
When asked why he wanted his area of beech forest to be protected by way of a QE II covenant, **Graham Horne** replied quite simply "To be in harmony with the bush". Like so many New Zealanders, Graham had spent countless hours in his younger days tramping the hills and forests, and appreciated just how important his remnant really was. Graham's covenant lies on the south-eastern flanks of Mount Grey, and was surveyed as a '20 acre' timber block back in 1897, but proved too inaccessible for the red, black and mountain beech to ever be exploited. Charcoal deposits indicate that early fires licked its margins, but the moist southern aspect probably saved the forest from destruction. Being on a steep mountain, there is an interesting altitudinal sequence, from lowland forest up to a smattering of subalpine shrubs and grassland. Visible to all who drive through North Canterbury, Graham's foresight means that the rich flora is now protected for future generations to enjoy.



Looking east over the tussock grassland of Mt Grey and down to the Canterbury Plains.

Marlborough's Significance

'Glen Orkney', Medway Ecological District, Marlborough. Showing the rugged terrain typical of South Marlborough, in which endemic plants and animals occur within farmed landscapes.



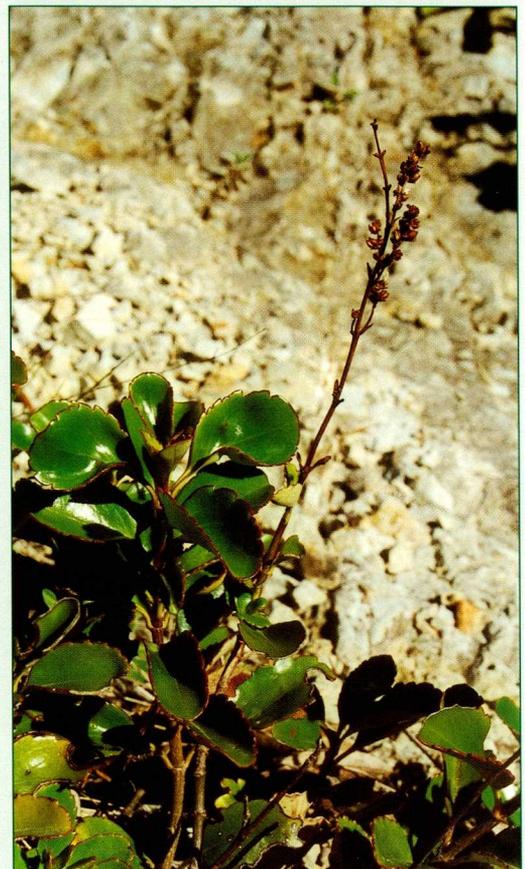
While it is not new for councils to be involved in Significant Natural Area (SNAs) surveys and use of the survey information, Marlborough's experience has been most successful and provides an excellent model.

The Marlborough District Council set out with a clear aim to 'encourage and support landowners to voluntarily protect significant natural sites identified' on their land. The whole project was designed and is overseen by a Working Group of Councillors, landowners, Federated Farmers, Council staff, DOC staff and field ecologists, available for any landowner enquiries.

Marlborough District Council covers a major part of New Zealand but is not a 'wealthy' council, having a small rating base and therefore limited resources. However, much of effort has been invested in the project which is co-ordinated by planner Nicky Eade.

Marlborough is outstanding in terms of biodiversity. The region experiences extremes of climate and has a complex geology, resulting in a wide range of habitats and therefore specially adapted flora. There is a high degree of endemism (plants and animals found nowhere else) including the Marlborough rock daisies (*Pachystegia* spp.), the pink brooms (*Carmichaelia* spp.), NZ lilac (*Heliohebe hulkeana*), Marlborough green gecko (*Naultinus manukanus*), Kaikouras gecko (*Hoplodactylus* "Kaikouras") and Hutton's shearwater (a burrowing seabird that breeds only in the Seaward Kaikoura Range).

Many species have their northern geographic limit in Marlborough, and others generally thought of as North Island species have a southern limit in Marlborough (and Nelson). In South Marlborough alone there are over 80 plant species that are considered regionally threatened; some of which are endemic to this region.



NZ Lilac (*Heliohebe hulkeana*), Waima River, South Marlborough.

The region, and especially in the drier eastern parts, has had a long history of disturbance. The small remnants of forest left have survived not just the last 150 years of pastoralism, but maybe hundreds of years of intermittent fire. The smaller shrubs, many of which are divaricating, herbs and grasses were better adapted to that disturbance and have inherited the landscape.

However, despite this important and varied biodiversity, very little land has been formally protected for conservation. The survival of much of what is left might be attributed to the relatively low intensity farming required by the generally dry climate and rugged nature of the country.

The Council field surveys, of whole individual properties, are done by independent ecologists, including Geoff Walls a QE II Director. Landowners are personally approached prior to the surveys to establish their willingness to participate and access arrangements. An important feature of the resulting field survey report is that it is specific to their own property and is confidential to the owner and Council. Contact is then made following the survey to establish if landowners are interested in assistance to protect areas.

Some 200 sites of significance have been identified in South Marlborough already, and survey work is proceeding into North Marlborough and the Sounds. Already landowners have volunteered to protect some of these, either through an open space covenant with the Trust, or through an agreement with the Council. As well as protection, the Council continues to encourage and assist landowners to include ecological considerations in all their land management operations.



Marlborough rock daisy Pachystegia insignis, Kekerenga coast, South Marlborough



Bushes of the rare shrub Muehlenbeckia astonii at Mussel Point, South Marlborough.

Ballance Farm Environment

– a show case i

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards was established with the purpose of demonstrating that sustainable farming is practical, achievable and profitable. Key objectives are to show farmers they need not compromise economic productivity for environmental enhancement and, in the best examples, can restore environmental values. The awards showcase New Zealand ingenuity at its best and recognise increased benefits for New Zealand agriculture with more farmers practising better management.

The five regional programmes this year attracted nearly 150 entries across a broad range of farming disciplines.

QE II covenantors feature among the participants and the award winners.



Photo courtesy of Southland Times

Dr Sue Bennett and John Whitehead combine environmental aspirations and good business practices to make a top operation.

Southland Supreme Award Winners 2003.

Having formed a business partnership in 1994, their mission statement is “to farm our property productively, profitably and in an environmentally sustainable manner while animal health and welfare are our main priority.” The production and profits of the property on Wilderness Road near Te Anau show their success, while the covenanted area totals 12% of the farm, a good indication of their dedication to the environment. The farm has an effective area of 275 ha, with 55 ha non-productive. It includes 36 ha of land protected by QE II covenants, 15 ha of farm forestry and 4 ha of riparian

protection and amenity plantings as well as integrated shelter belts around the farm. It carries 1660 MA ewes (Coopworth/East Friesian cross), 540 two tooth, 600 hoggets, 32 rams and 21 cattle. In 2000 the lambing performance was 141%, in 2001 148% and 136% on the MA ewes in 2002.

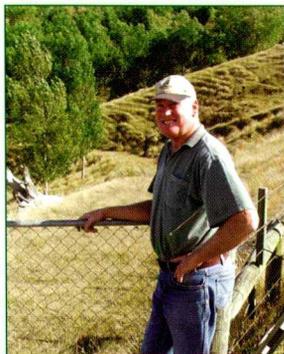
The partnership is a merger of John’s practical experience and Sue’s scientific approach that has enabled them to make better decisions based on scientific data such as matching soil types to botanical species. Sue is a director of the QE II National Trust.

Environment Awards

in NZ ingenuity

David and Valmai Holmes, Pakaraka, Masterton, received the Best Livestock Farm Award.

For nearly quarter of a century they have maintained their commitment to trees of all kinds on their 480 ha sheep and beef farm. David and Valmai take a lot pleasure in seeing the increase in bird life and the contented stock even in extreme weather. A hardwood/podocarp native bush remnant has been protected in perpetuity with a QE II covenant. There are 21 ha of exotic timber woodlots and about 10,000 poplars growing throughout the property providing a network of stabilisation for the hills and all important animal shade.



David Holmes

Ken and Rebecca Haywood, Te Kuiti, won an innovation award. Ken describes fencing bush and wetland areas as “the icing on the cake, after dealing with the farm’s inherent instability.” He has two blocks of QE II covenanted bush, both of which are on less productive parts of the farm. Ken believes the covenants have enabled farm intensification. He has been able to use the fences around bush to run subdivision fences off, allowing better grazing management. He also believes it is easier to farm, as he no longer has the hassle of mustering stock out of the bush.

Robert and Deborah Joblin, Te Awa at Bideford north of Masterton won an agri nutrient award. The 2300 ha sheep farm and beef station was described by the judges as hard property to farm: ‘windy and hard country’. Areas “not worth farming”, particularly the steep gorges, were systematically being taken out of production allowing the remaining areas to be farmed more intensively with excellent results.



Bush and river course, Te Awa farm, Bideford, Masterton.

Te Awa is a young farm with over half of it being broken in the last 20 years. Already 50 ha are covenanted with QE II with another 100 ha fenced off. There is over 10 kms of river fenced of and more is planned. Robert takes seriously the responsibility of owning a property in the headwaters and is committed to farming sustainably. The judges described Robert as an innovative and up and coming farmer. Other points commended were: his combination of clear vision and hard work, regard for habitat protection and a willingness to share ideas and learn from others.

John and Catherine Ford of Highlands Station, Rotorua, won an innovation award and were acknowledged for their native plantings and management of the land beside the Wairua Stream. The judges noted the strong partnership between husband and wife and their commitment to achieve high productivity from a sustainable farming approach which looks after the environment. The Fords have a 142 ha covenant protecting a hardwood/podocarp forest remnant.



Highlands Station, with Lake Rotorua in background.

Other award winners amongst our covenants were:

- **Graham and Heather Milligan** won the Harvest award in Southland. They have covenanted a 10 ha beech forest remnant on their Dipton property.
- **Frans and Jantje Venekamp**, Tuatapere, won an innovation award for their wide spaced grass riparian strips. They have covenanted 16 ha of kahikatea/totara forest.
- **The Burt family**, Whakatane, won an innovation award. They have protected a 53 ha hardwood forest remnant with a QE II open space covenant.
- **Aubin Lempiere**, Te Puke, won a merit award for excellence in shelter, gully, embankment and sidling management. Aubin has 22 ha of forest remnant protected by a QE II covenant.
- **Godfrey and Margaret Mackersey**, Whakamarama, won a merit award for excellence in protection of native forest. Open space covenants protect 2 remnants of riparian forest on their property.
- **Rick and Jane Burke**, Katikati, won a merit award for excellence in stream protection and for the presentation and enhancement of the native bushland.

In 2004 the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is running in 7 regions throughout New Zealand. They are Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu/Wanganui, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland. Entries will be available from the 1st of October 2003. For more information please phone the National Co-ordinator, Chris Keeping, on 04 3854488 or visit www.ballance.co.nz/fea

Recently registered covenants

A brief summary of covenants registered between 13th January 2003 and 4th July 2003 that have not been reported in Open Space

Covenantor	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Baldwin & Waterworth	8	Lowland podocarp forest remnants	Central Hawke's Bay
Ball	61	Lowland broadleaved forest and scrub	Far North
Bartlett	1	Coastal kamahi forest	Southland
Baskett	1	Semi-coastal secondary kanuka forest	North Shore
Bell	3	Lowland podocarp forest	Kaipara
Berry	2	Lowland wetland	Tararua
Blueberry Country Ltd	4	Lowland wetland	Southland
Bushey Park (Otago) Ltd	4	Coastal sand dune and archaeological site	Waitaki
Carey	25	Lowland forest remnant	Waitomo
Chetwynd	5	Montane tussockland and rockland	Banks Peninsula
Corcoran & McDonald	2	Lowland kanuka-kowhai forest	Carterton
Cornelius	3	Lowland riparian forest	Far North
Delaney & Girdlestone	14	Semi-coastal forest	Kapiti Coast
Duckett	1	Coastal lowland saltmarsh/estuarine herb field	Dunedin
Erson Holdings Ltd	255	Altitudinal sequence of forest types	Thames-Coromandel
Fife	9	Coastal broadleaved forest	Far North
Fiordland Farms Ltd	30	Lowland wetland	Southland
Geange	2	Lowland forest over landscape	Waitomo
Hadley	27	Semi-coastal podocarp/broadleaved forest	Whakatane
Hare	13	Lowland broadleaved forest	Manawatu
Harrison	1	Coastal secondary forest.	Auckland
Harty	9	Semi-coastal broadleaved forest and grassland	Central Hawke's Bay
Helps	20	Coastal secondary shrubland wildlife habitat	Banks Peninsula
Hensley	91	Lowland forest and tussock grasslands	Dunedin
Henwood	2	Lowland broadleaved forest	New Plymouth
Hunt	29	Scrub/forest and landscape feature	Gisborne
Jagre Holdings	147	Coastal grassland broadleaved forest	Gisborne
Jennison	6	Lowland beech forest remnant	Greymouth
Johnson	7	Lowland wetland and forest remnant	Ruapehu
Keane	12	Lowland podocarp forest with scrub	Masterton
Lawton	40	Semi-coastal forest	Whangarei
Mahoney	13	Lowland broadleaved forest	Far North
Manning	5	Montane treeland landscape	Central Otago
McNeil	5	Lowland podocarp and beech forest remnant	Wairoa
Mt Dasher Ltd	1001	Montane/sub-alpine tussock grassland	Waitaki
Nowak	21	Lowland wetland and podocarp forest	Southland
Nutting	5	Podocarp-broadleaved treeland	Masterton
NZ Forest Products Ltd	48	Lowland forest and scrubland	Waitomo
NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust	6	Lowland podocarp forest	Waitomo
NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust	68	Coastal wetland and scrub	Wairoa
NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust	145	Semi-coastal wetland and manuka forest	Nelson
Omarama Station Ltd	1285	Subalpine and montane tussockland	Waitaki
Omya New Zealand Ltd	8	Lowland forest with geological, historical features	Timaru
Otago Tramping & Mountaineering Club	45	Coastal forest and historical sites	Dunedin
Palmer	7	Lowland podocarp/broadleaved forest remnants	Whangarei
Patrick	16	Lowland podocarp-broadleaved forest	Whangarei
Petrie Holdings Ltd	2	Podocarp and broadleaved forest remnants	Masterton
Phibbs	2	Semi-coastal landscape and revegetation area	Rodney
Porritt	81	Lowland broadleaved forest	Ruapehu
Proudlock	1	Lowland broadleaved forest remnant	Western Bay of Plenty
Puriri Downs Ltd	28	Secondary forest	Kaipara
Renalls Ltd	7	Lowland wetland	Carterton
Ritchie	3	Lowland podocarp and broadleaved forest	Franklin
Robertson	45	Lowland secondary hardwood forest	Central Hawke's Bay
Rowan, Corcoran & Joslin	1	Semi-coastal broadleaved forest	Kapiti Coast
Shepherd	3	Lowland swamp forest	New Plymouth
Snodgrass	39	Lowland podocarp/broadleaved forest	Franklin
Stanley	8	Lowland swamp forest	New Plymouth
Te Kairanga Wines Ltd	5	Lowland riparian totara-kanuka forest	South Wairarapa
Thwaites	18	Lowland swamp wetland	Southland
Tichborne	1	Semi-coastal podocarp/broadleaved forest remnant	Banks Peninsula
Tulloch	6	Semi-coastal swamp forest	New Plymouth
Van Bernevelde	3	Lowland wetland	Carterton
Waipoua Forest Trust	4	Lowland revegetation project	Kaipara
Whitehead & Bennett	29	Lowland wetland	Southland
Wynne-Lewis	4	Beech forest and scrub.	Central Hawke's Bay
Youard	2	Lowland broadleaved forest remnant	Western Bay of Plenty
Zabell Farms Ltd	5	Lowland forest and wetlands	Carterton

Harmful hedgehogs

– a threat to our native fauna

Hedgehogs have traditionally been regarded with a benign indifference by most New Zealanders. The appealing, snuffling little creatures that munch on garden and pasture pests and who feature in children's stories ranging from Enid Blyton to Bob the Builder hardly compare with the voracious mustelids and possums that the term "pest" brings immediately to mind – or do they?

European hedgehogs were deliberately introduced into New Zealand in the late 19th century and are now widespread throughout New Zealand. Whilst their main diet consists

of invertebrates, there is plenty of evidence of their predation on a range of other fauna including the eggs and chicks of ground-nesting birds. For example, in the 2000-01 season, hedgehogs were responsible for an average of 78% of all predation events recorded on video at banded dotterel and black-fronted tern nests in a braided riverbed system in the Mackenzie Basin.

Other studies have identified hedgehogs as a potentially serious threat to endangered native skinks and invertebrates. The potential threats



Young hedgehogs, no more than a few days old.

posed by hedgehogs to native ecosystems fall into three main types: direct predation, competition with native insectivores and the removal of significant volumes of invertebrate biomass.

Chris Jones, of Landcare Research, is currently investigating a number of aspects of hedgehog foraging behaviour. In a braided riverbed system of the Mackenzie Basin Chris attached spools of thread to a sample of radio-tagged hedgehogs and followed the foraging paths revealed by the thread. These paths were recorded using GPS and will be overlain onto satellite images to produce maps of where each animal foraged, showing how hedgehogs use different habitat types. Initial results indicate that control measures to protect the endangered birds would be most effective if focused on the immediate surrounds of the breeding areas. The thread traces revealed the ease with which hedgehogs can traverse apparent barriers such as ponds. By collecting samples of hedgehog faeces from a group of radio-tagged animals, Chris is also able to investigate individual variations in skink and invertebrate consumption, and compare this with the relative availabilities of these food items to produce a measure of dietary preference.

Whilst the potential threats posed by hedgehogs to our native wildlife are becoming more widely recognised, there are still large gaps in our knowledge of the basic ecology of this species in New Zealand. Chris has plans for further work to increase our understanding of the threats posed by this prickly pest and guidance on how best to manage them.

Source: Landcare Research New Zealand Limited



Photos courtesy of Chris Jones.

Removing a radio transmitter from a hedgehog. Hedgehogs are killing our native birds, skinks and insects.

Covenants Update

As at 20 August 2003, there were 1,762 registered open space covenants totalling over 64,000 hectares. The regional breakdown, based on Regional Council boundaries, is as follows:

Region	No. of Covenants	Area Protected (ha)
Auckland	145	1 362
Bay of Plenty	115	8 447
Canterbury	128	8 640
Gisborne	63	2 251
Hawke's Bay	94	7 332
Marlborough	19	733
Manawatu-Wanganui	182	3 670
Nelson	6	393
Northland	250	5 211
Otago	68	6 261
Southland	102	2 124
Taranaki	81	1 426
Tasman	62	1 463
Waikato	291	9 538
Wellington	141	4 640
West Coast	15	562
TOTAL:	1,762	64, 053

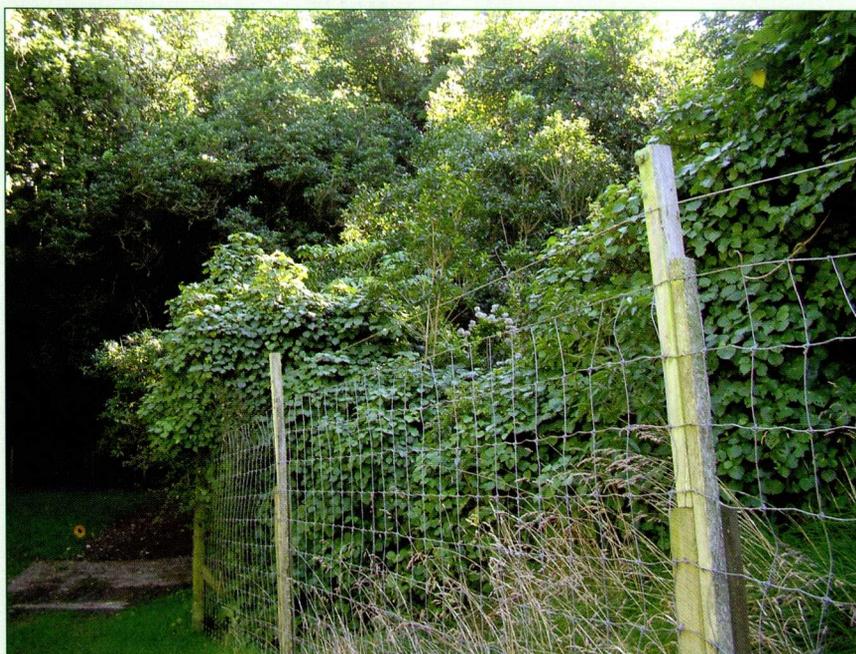
Bill and Gerry's fencing tips.

Fencing a natural area as part of the covenant process is the single most important capital and ecological investment that a new Covenantor faces. Studies on the impact of stock intrusion into bush fragments by Landcare Research on the AgResearch Study Farm at Whatawhata are overwhelmingly conclusive regarding the impacts stock cause on seedling regeneration, species diversity, canopy cover and tree roots. Dr. Bruce Burns of Landcare Research concludes that "the outlook is bleak for grazed fragments."

Building and maintaining fences is not cheap. Without careful planning, a poorly placed and designed fence can cause considerable grief with ongoing maintenance and repair.

Gerry Kessels, an ecologist, has been the QE II Rep in the Waikato for the last 4 years. He claims he has heard almost as many opinions on what is the ideal fence design around a natural area as there are covenants. Factors influencing the type and location of a covenant fence is dependent on many things including, the stocking regime, topography, location of adjacent natural areas and the budget. For example, for a dairy farm on flat country, 3 electric wires and 8m spaced posts may be perfectly adequate, whereas for steep hill country fragment at the back of a large station, a 7-9 wire post and batten fence is probably desirable.

Bill and Sue Garland farm on the slopes of Maungatautari. Bill is a second generation covenantor, his father originally protecting the first lowland hardwood bush fragment on their property in 1983. The farm now has 15km of fenceline around bush margins and another 5km around woodlots.



Healthy regeneration behind a long established fence protecting the covenant on the Nielsen property, Hawke's Bay.

With 40 years of fencing experience Bill offers the following advice.

- Bulldoze fence lines. Bulldozing the line where possible ensures a more robust fence that stands up better to stock pressure. Fence repair and replacement is also much easier. Soil build-up on a hand dug line can be a problem where a fence is on a hill slope.
- Where fence follows land contours consider putting in more angles rather than bulldozing straight lines. On Bill's farm, the bush line fences have, on average, 1 angle every 40 metres. It works out cheaper to use No.2 eight-foot strainers as angles and put in a faceplate rather than stay each angle. On sharper angles tiebacks or stays may be necessary.
- Space posts a maximum of 3.8m apart. Place round side to the wire. This makes it much stronger and easier to drive straight and reduces corrosion of the wire as there is less contact with the post.
- No batten fences. It is far easier to maintain a fence without battens around a bush margin. Where a tree or branch may break wires on a conventional battened fence, plain wires tend not to break, and can be re-stapled and tweaked up easily, especially if permanent wire-strainers are used. When not using battens, electric wires are essential if cattle pressure is likely to be high. While the odd lamb hopping through a fence is not a problem, cattle will put pressure on an unbattened fence unless it has at least one hot wire. Using a 4-wire, all electric, fence will not save a lot in cost. Bill estimates there is only a 28cent/metre/wire saving over an 8-wire (2 hot) unbattened fence. This type of fence is totally dependent on electricity and has only a 3 percent saving in construction costs.
- When crossing a creek or boggy area, where practical, put in a crossing / culvert rather than span the wires across. Posts can be driven into a firm base which makes servicing easier (check with your regional council if you need resource consents for culverts first -generally a 300mm diameter pipe does not need a consent, but this can depend on the upstream catchment size).
- Driving a fence line is significantly cheaper than hand-digging post holes. Driven tie backs are cheaper and quicker than conventional stays.



A landscape view of the Garland farm, on the slopes of Maungatautari, Cambridge. The farm has 15 km of fence around bush margins.

- Try and avoid building a fence through bush and stick to the margins where possible. A fence on the margin is much less prone to windfall damage than one within bush. Bush margin vegetation is less wind prone as vulnerable species have usually already fallen. There is also only one side from which a tree can fall, whereas within the bush trees can fall from any direction.
- Price and quality variations. Shop around for prices as variations are huge. Bulk orders can get substantial discounts. Always use good quality wire and posts.
- Get quotes from several local fencing contractors
- Estimate the length of the fenceline correctly
- Do it once and do it right first time round.



An Example

Given that a hand dug 7-8 wire post and batten fence using No 1 round posts will cost around \$12/m incl. labour and laying material:

- Using No. 1 quarter rounds, no battens and 2 hot wires will save 20% (\$2.50/m) of that cost.
- By bulldozing the line and driving (ramming) posts, you can expect another 10% savings in cost.

Some indicative costs for different fence types

These examples show practical cost effective fencing for bush margins. Costs include labour, material and laying the line but exclude GST. Costs will vary depending on terrain and cost of materials.

Dairy and beef / Flat country

1-wire electric (2.3mm wire, No 2 round posts, 8m spacing)	\$1.60 per m
Each additional wire	\$0.28 per m

Sheep and beef / Hill country

8-wire post & batten (2.5mm wire, No 1 round posts, 4.5m spacing)	\$12.00 per m
8-wire, no battens (2.3mm wire, 1 wire electric, No 1 round posts, 4m spacing, bulldoze line and driven)	\$9.50 per m
5-wire (3 electric), no battens	\$4.78 per m

Improving the health and condition of covenants.

Monitoring covenants is an important function of the Trust. Visits occur regularly, usually once every two years. The Trust offers management advice and support. Reports detail the ecological condition, trends and any threats and ensure covenant objectives are being met.

This information leads to better management practices and helps improvements in the overall condition of the biodiversity protected.

The following graphs show the national results from data collected from 786 covenant visits, between 1/7/2002 and 30/6/2003

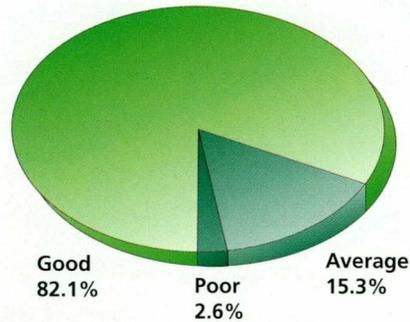
Adherence

Adherence is assessed with respect to how well the agreed covenant terms and conditions are being met.

Good: Exceeds the terms and conditions.

Average: Satisfies the terms and conditions.

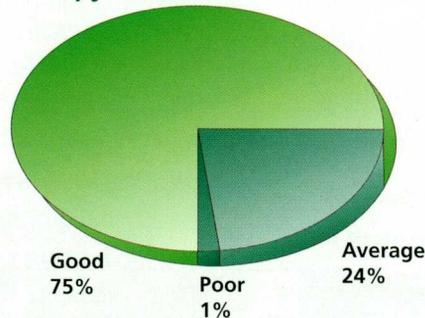
Poor: Remedial action is required to maintain the integrity of the covenant, and to ensure that the terms and conditions are met.



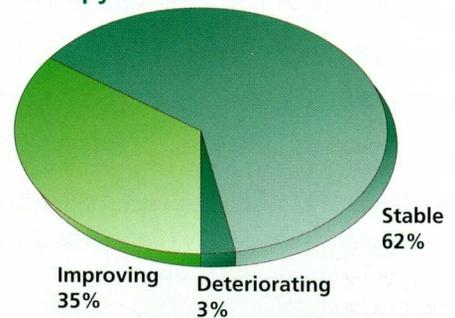
Indicators of a healthy forest canopy include:

- A closed, dense canopy with no canopy gaps.
- A lack of dieback.
- Healthy foliage – a lack of tell-tale signs of possum browse and insect damage on canopy species, particularly palatable species such as pohutukawa, rata, kohekohe, titoki, kamahi, five-finger and fuchsia.

Canopy condition



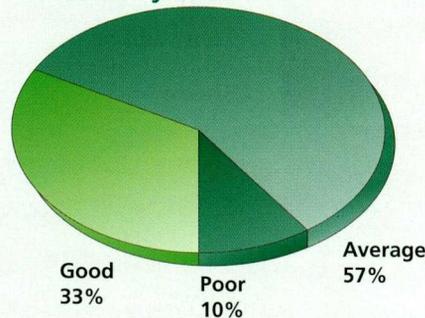
Canopy trend



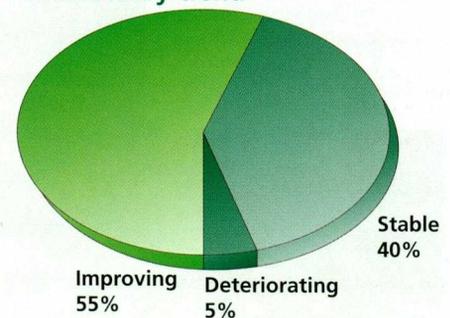
Indicators of healthy forest understorey and groundcover include:

- The presence of seedlings and saplings of canopy species.
- The presence of palatable species including, hen and chicken fern, wineberry, fuchsia, large-leaved coprosmas, pate and *Pseudopanax* species.

Understorey condition



Understorey trend



Following fencing there can be an initial increase in weeds due to the removal of stock and prior to the establishment of native flora.

- Healthy foliage – a lack of tell-tale signs of possum browse and insect damage.
- The absence of faecal droppings from possums, pigs, goats, deer, stock etc.
- A lack of weed species.

The importance of edges.

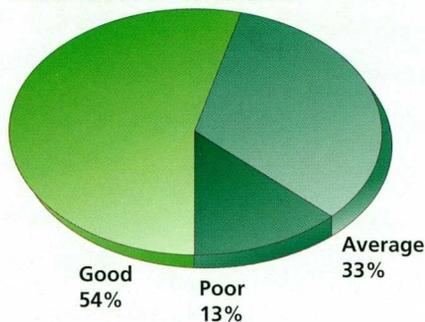
Forest remnants often have an abrupt edge between farmland and forest. Edges often have different microclimates and plant species composition in comparison to the interior of a remnant. Increased wind, light, and temperature extremes with more competition from weed species all have an effect. Studies show that edge effects often penetrate 50-100 m into a remnant. The amount and type of edge effects depend on the remnant's size, shape and adjoining land use. It is important for the health of the forest to have an effective buffer around the remnant to limit edge effects. For small and irregularly-shaped covenants, planting native species to buffer edges may enhance the forest interior.

Tips on measuring wildlife:

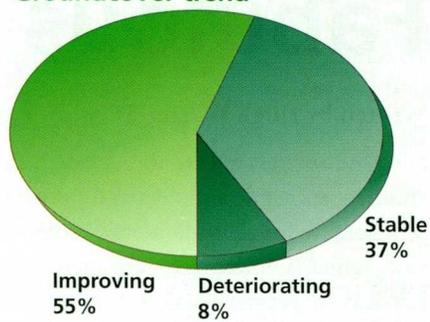
Ideally assessments of birdlife should be undertaken on still dry days in the early morning or late afternoon when birds are generally more active and conspicuous. 5 minute bird counts are one quick way to gain an insight into bird diversity and abundance – methodologies will be reviewed in the next issue of *Open Space*.

For some wetland species, such as spotless crane and marsh crane, their presence may only be detected by playing a sound recording of the bird's call, and by waiting for a response - it is very rewarding when you have a bird responding to your tape player!

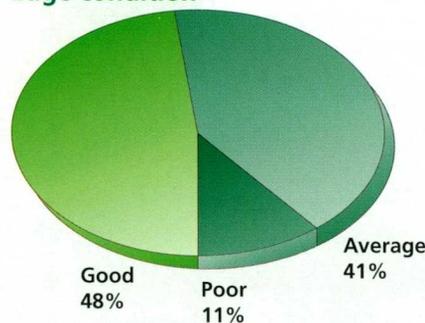
Groundcover condition



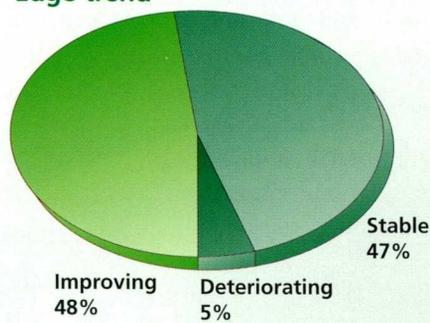
Groundcover trend



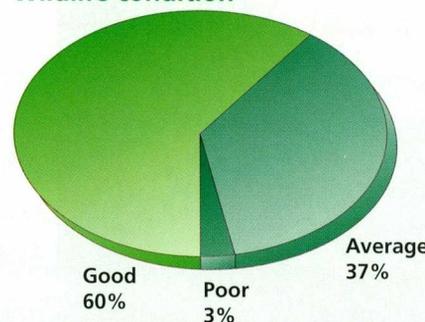
Edge condition



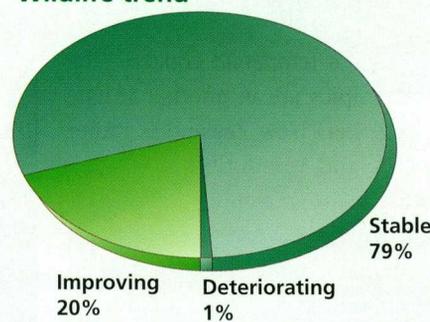
Edge trend



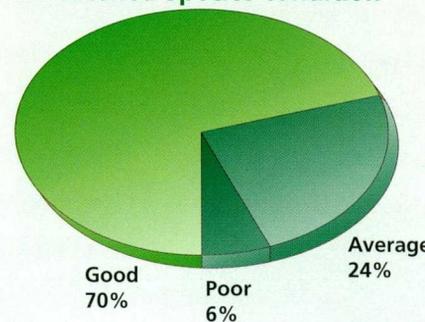
Wildlife condition



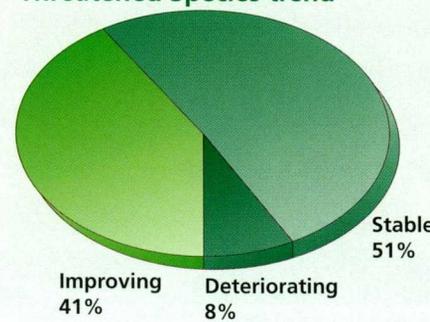
Wildlife trend



Threatened Species condition



Threatened Species trend



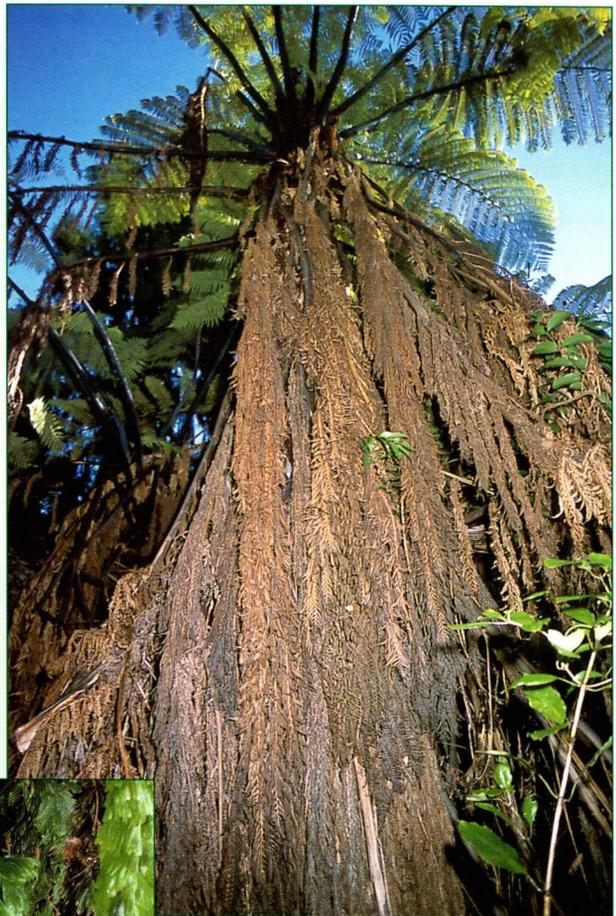
Fabulous Ferns

Written by Hugh Wilson, Hinewai Reserve, Banks Peninsula.

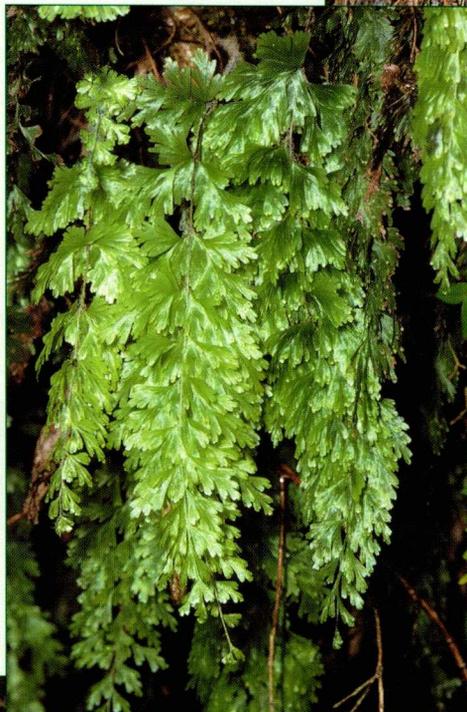
One obvious reward for fencing off a bit of native bush from sheep, goats, cattle and deer, is to watch the marvellous recovery of a healthy forest understorey. Some understorey plants, it is true, remain common or even increase under grazing pressure: hot-leaved pepperwood, totara and small-leaved Coprosma bushes (mikimiki) are examples. But many others are highly palatable to grazing animals; they can be eliminated altogether by grazing or at best only just hang in there. Palatable, vulnerable species include regenerating tall trees such as kahikatea, diverse canopy and subcanopy hardwoods such as mahoe (whiteywood), fivefinger, sevenfinger, lemonwood, kawakawa (pepper tree), ngaio, and titoki, and ferns. Indeed, it is the ferns perhaps more than any other group of plants, that draw people's attention and wonder when they visit a protected and cared for native forest.

Ferns are a fascinating group of plants, attracting an enthusiastic following among plants people. This is out of proportion really to the number of species and their importance in forming vegetation, but easily understandable in terms of their special beauty and diversity. To botanists, ferns are very interesting indeed. Modern ferns, and "fern allies" such as clubmosses and chain-ferns, are directly related to ancient plants which preceded the now-dominant flowering plants and conifers by several hundred million years!

For a temperate country (the wet tropics are in another league altogether) New Zealand is rather richly and wonderfully endowed with ferns; we have about 165 native species, some 78 of them endemic (found naturally only in the country).



Above: *Cyathea medullaris*.



Left: *Hymenophyllum flabellatum*.



Asplenium polyodon

At first glance Banks Peninsula might not seem a likely place for ferns. An enthusiast would do better, surely, to explore the wet forests of the West Coast or Stewart Island, rather than our open, grassy, drought-prone hills. That makes it all the more startling, then, that my latest tally of ferns native to Banks Peninsula totals 84 species. (Another three truly wild species are naturalised here from Europe). Hinewai Reserve alone has 55 species, its modest 1050 hectares supporting more fern biodiversity than the whole of Britain's 25 million hectares!

Not all of Banks Peninsula's ferns grow in damp, ungrazed native forests. Indeed there are four oddball species that actually insist on living in the driest possible places here. And bracken is a native fern – heartily disliked by farmers for invading pasture, but on ungrazed, unburnt conservation land eventually it is replaced by native shrubs and trees that regenerate through it.



Above: *Anarthropteris lanceolata*

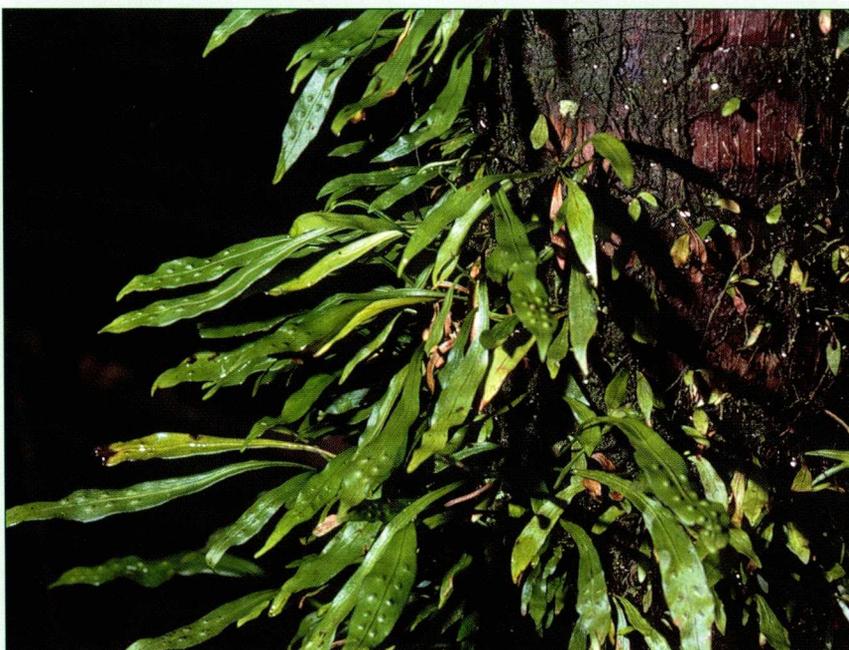
Ferns certainly reach their greatest luxuriance and abundance in ungrazed forest interiors, however. No fewer than six species of tree fern grow here (admittedly the mountain tree fern, *Cyathea colensoi*, hardly ever develops an erect trunk like the others). Three of these tree ferns (soft tree fern, wheki and silver fern or ponga) are still quite common. The huge mamaku, and the fibrous tree fern or wheki – ponga, are rare and local. All six are virtually eliminated by grazing. Numerous fern species grow on the forest floor or perch on trees or tree fern trunks. Three large genera (*Hymenophyllum*, *Asplenium* and *Blechnum*) each have 10 or more species living here.

In size, Banks Peninsula ferns range from the magnificent mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*) up to 20 metres tall with fronds up to 5 metres long, down to



Above: *Cyathea medullaris*.

Below: *Anarthropteris lanceolata*



Photos courtesy of Jeremy Rolfe.

the smallest filmy fern (*Hymenophyllum minimum*, nicely named!) which only a botanist would insist on distinguishing from a minute clump of moss. It is amazing to realise that both the huge tree fern and the tiny filmy fern start life as a spore no bigger than a speck of dust, produced in minuscule spore capsules on the back of fronds. The number of these spores is staggering. A single mamaku tree fern, for example, produces something in the order of 800 million spores each year. Obviously only a few manage to give rise to a new tree fern. On Banks Peninsula, the total known population of mamaku is about 100 adults.

Mamaku is not the rarest fern on the Peninsula, however. Sickle spleenwort (*Asplenium polyodon*) is known from only one clump, between Little Akaloa and Okains Bay. Lance fern (*Anarthropteris lanceolata*) is known from a few dwarfed plants at about four sites in bush gullies near Paua and Fishermans Bays (now protected by the farmers there). The good news is that fern spores are so numerous, and so readily carried in the wind like dust, that they can quite easily recolonise suitable places.

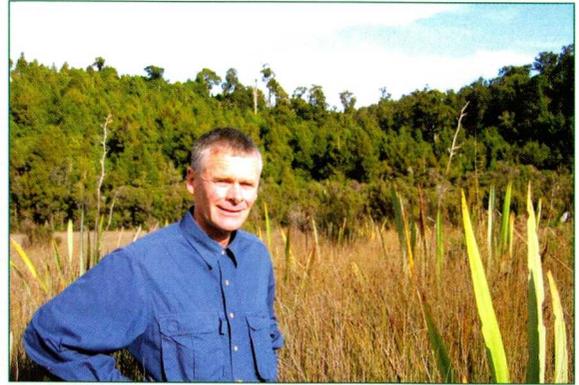
Nature will obligingly reintroduce the whole range of suitable ferns, including the tree ferns, into a depleted bit of bush that has had farm animals excluded. Don't be discouraged if it happens more slowly on some sites than on others – just be a little more patient on the drier places. It is a rewarding process to watch.

West Coast progress

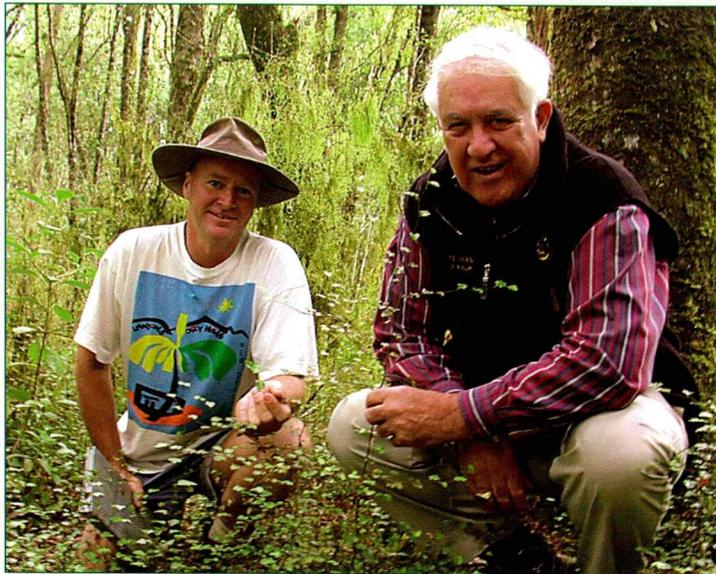
Ian James, a West Coast forestry and eco-tourism identity has been appointed as the West Coast Representative for the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.

Ian James is delighted to be appointed to the role. "I am a new member of the Trust and fully support its biodiversity aims and objectives. I have spent much of my career on native forest issues and am keen to help West Coasters retain the natural character and beauty of their land."

Ian's career has spanned a range of forestry and conservation organisations, including the Forest Research Institute, Timberlands



Ian James, QE II representative, West Coast.



Ahaura farmer Warren Smith examines the regenerating beech with Sir Paul Reeves, in one of the areas on his farm fenced off and protected by a QE II covenant. There are currently 11 covenants protecting 270 hectares on the West Coast.

and the Department of Conservation. With his partner, Debbie McLachlan, they own a successful eco-tourism business based at Okarito.

The West Coast is of special interest to the Trust. Most landowners realise that the farmland along the main river valleys once had extensive wetlands and great forests of kahikatea, totara and matai. It is less well known that remnants of these forests and wetlands have a unique biodiversity quite different from that of the rimu and beech forest that dominate the conservation estate.

Ian firmly believes farmers should not feel threatened by a wider recognition of these values. Properly managed natural areas can add significant value to their farm as well as contributing to the West Coast landscape.

Landcorp's Eweburn Farm near Te Anau received a corporate award for achieving a balance between productivity and environmental practice.

Eweburn covers 3800 hectares. Stock numbers include 6000 Perendale ewes and 1800 hoggets, 450 breeding cows and 3800 red hind deer and 100 sire stags. The deer performed particularly well achieving an average of 91% fawning rate. Deer were excluded from sensitive areas and waterways. It is the Landcorp farming policy to protect conservation areas during development. They aim to ensure that water leaving the property is clear and cleaner than when it entered the property.

Eweburn's numerous protected areas include a 60 ha peat wetland protected by a QE II open space covenant.

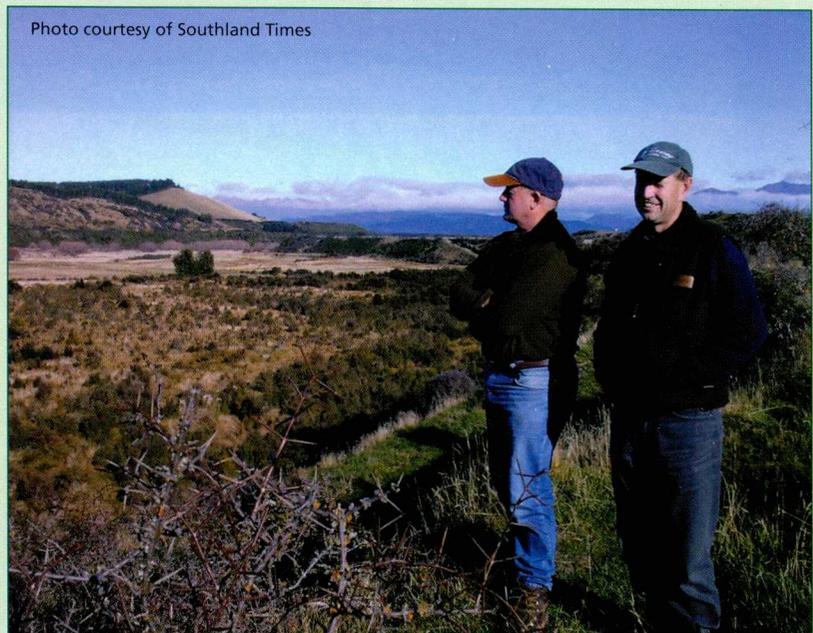


Photo courtesy of Southland Times

Landcorp's Eweburn farm manager Ray Tibbles and Waiau Fisheries Trust field officer Mark Sutton look down on the a protected wetland area. Eweburn Farm received the award at the Environment Southland annual environmental awards.

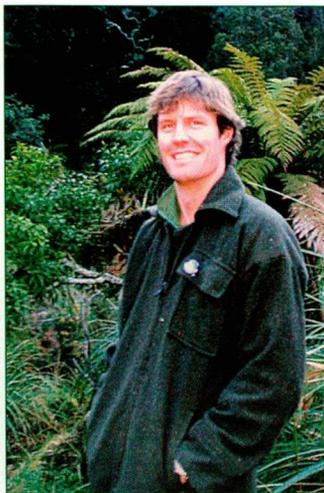
Bay of Plenty

Stephen Hall replaces Stephen Parr who retires after representing QE II in the Bay of Plenty for over 10 years.

Stephen Hall has previously worked as an ecologist for Wildland Consultants, based in Rotorua, on restoration projects which involved restoring and managing modified natural areas. He has an extensive working knowledge of the region having also worked for Environment Bay of Plenty as a Biodiversity Co-ordinator. Other work experience includes working as an arborist and a nursery assistant in the United Kingdom.

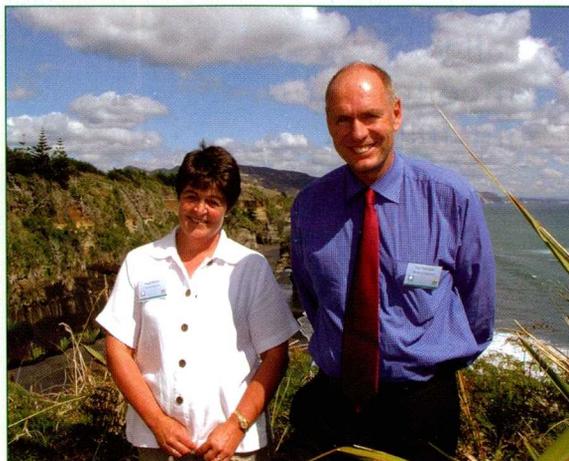
Stephen is born and bred in the Bay of Plenty and has spent much of his youth on the East Coast including a stint working on Te Kumi Station, East Cape. Stephen has a strong and active interest in the outdoors which includes tramping, hunting and diving.

Stephen has a Bachelor of Applied Science – Natural Resource Management from Massey University.



Stephen Hall, the new QE II rep for Bay of Plenty and Taupo.

Maggie's back!



Maggie Bayfield pictured with the Minister of Conservation, Chris Carter, at the recent closing of the predator fence protecting a breeding colony of grey faced petrels on the coast at Rapanui, Taranaki.

Maggie Bayfield, former director and chairperson, returns to the Trust to work on a special project to further develop the Trust's working partnerships with local government. Almost 40% of new covenant proposals approved over the last year have had financial contributions from regional or district councils. Maggie will visit regional councils and selected district councils around the country over the next 3-4 months. The project is endorsed and supported by Local Government NZ.

Maggie was recently honoured with a Queen's Service Medal for Public Service. The award acknowledges her significant contributions to the environment in Taranaki and nationally. This has included active involvement in Forest and Bird, Taranaki/Wanganui Conservation Board, NZ Conservation Authority, The Taranaki Tree Trust and QE II National Trust.

Funds for landowners

Private landowners interested in improving indigenous biodiversity on their properties can seek financial assistance from the government in the latest round of the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds. The fund was set up to help improve and maintain local conditions to allow indigenous vegetation and species to flourish. Projects can include activities such as fencing and pest control.

Covenantors please contact your local QE II rep to ensure that the best co-ordination of this funding is undertaken.

In the last round QE II was successful in receiving \$252,000 for weed and pest control on a broad range of covenants.

Closing date is 29 September. Application forms are available at:

www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/land/condition.html

Attention All Artists: A QE II Christmas Card Competition

We are currently searching for that perfect image or collection of images from covenanted areas to feature on our Christmas cards! Do you have the winning touch?!

Please send in a copy of your favourite photo(s) or your artwork (e.g. painting, sketch), with a caption, and your contact details (including name, address, and phone number) to: Photo Competition, QE II National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington. Entries close 1 November 2003.

The willing entrant(s) will receive a QE II Swandri Vest (as seen on page 26). A selection of the images will be published in an issue of *Open Space*, and the winning image(s) will feature on our Christmas cards.

QE II Trust does not accept responsibility for the loss of any entries. QE II Trust retains the right to use the images entered into the competition in its publications. All entries not accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope will become the property of QE II Trust unless otherwise stated.



Photo courtesy of Bay of Plenty Times.

Stephen Parr, retiring QE II Rep for the Bay of Plenty, in the Matua Saltmarsh, Otumoetai. This coastal wetland is owned by the Tauranga District Council and is protected in perpetuity by a QE II open space covenant.

FRAGMENTS

For all you ever wanted to know about 1080...

A new technical review of the vertebrate pesticide sodium monofluoroacetate (1080) is now available free of charge. This publication provides an up-to-date summary for those involved or interested in the application of 1080 baits for the management of vertebrate pests.

For a free copy, contact
Animal Health Board
PO Box 3412
Wellington
(04) 472 2858

Election Notice.

The QE II National Trust is managed by a Board of Directors. Trust members elect two directors and the other four are appointed by government to represent rural, Maori and conservation interests.

Preliminary notice is given that the members of the Trust have the opportunity to vote for two directors for a three year term effective 1 April 2004. Nominations will be called for in December, voting papers distributed in February with voting closing in March. Financial members intending to vote must ensure subscriptions are paid by 31 December 2003.

The two current directors elected by the members are Mr Bill Garland, a farmer from Cambridge, and Mr Geoff Walls, an ecologist from Christchurch. Both are eligible for re election.

Visit the National Trust's Conservation and Education Project on AROHA ISLAND



At Kerikeri Inlet in the beautiful Bay of Islands

Open most days.

Contact: The Centre Manager

Tel (09) 407 5243

Fax (09) 407 5246

Email kiwi@aroha.net.nz

Or write to Box 541 Kerikeri

QE II Swandri® Vest

If you would like to purchase a Swandri®, merino wool vest, embroidered with the QE II logo please complete the form below and post with payment to QE II National Trust, PO Box 3341 Wellington or Fax to 04 472 5578 or Phone 04 472 6626

Price: \$165 including GST and postage (Navy only)



Sizes available:	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Chest (cm)	94	99	104	114	124	134	144
Waist (cm)	80	85	90	100	110	120	130

Name.....

Address (for courier delivery).....

.....

Telephone.....

Size(s)..... Quantity:.....

Method of payment – Cheque Mastercard Visa

Total \$..... Please send a receipt

Credit card details – Number

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

Signature.....

Useful Websites:

www.bush.org.nz - the website for the New Zealand Ecological Restoration Network, a non-profit, community-driven organisation dedicated to sharing knowledge and experiences about ecological restoration.

<http://nzflora.landcareresearch.co.nz> - a gateway to a wealth of information on New Zealand plants.

www.nz-ecology.net - 'New Zealand's gateway to all things ecological'

www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/land/condition.html - For information about the Biodiversity Condition Fund and the Biodiversity Advisory Service Fund. Applications for the next round of funding open on Monday August 4 and close on Monday September 29 2003 at 5pm.

www.biodiversity.govt.nz - find out what the government is doing to halt the decline in biodiversity, and access The NZ Biodiversity Strategy online.

www.nznfrt.org.nz - the website for the New Zealand Native Forest Restoration Trust

www.ew.govt.nz/ourenvironment/water/wetlands/index.htm - is Environment Waikato's wetland site - which has great general information on wetlands, including how to restore a wetland, wetland plants and animals, and identifies threats to wetlands.

www.nzpcn.org.nz - the website of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, established in early August to prevent the loss of threatened native plant species and communities.

www.projectcrimson.org.nz - to find out about what Project Crimson is doing to protect our pohutukawa and rata trees.

www.boprc.govt.nz/weeds/weeds.asp - takes you to Environment Bay of Plenty's Weed Control Manual, which alphabetically lists weed species - and helps you to recognise and control weed species.

www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/people-and-their-issues/access - For information on the Ministerial report "Walking access in the NZ outdoors".

Steps in progressing a QE II open space covenant.

Enquiry. Landowners interested in protecting special natural features on their property should contact the Trust and arrange for a QE II representative to visit.

Evaluation. Potential covenants are evaluated on a wide range of criteria including; the sites ecological importance, biodiversity values, naturalness, sustainability, linkages to other protected areas creating ecological corridors, wildlife, special features, cultural and heritage values, landscape values, management needs, threats, landowner motivation and sources of funding available.

Approval. The Trust Board formally considers individual assessment reports for all proposed covenants. Following approval, covenant documents are prepared and forwarded to landowner to sign.

Fencing, if required, usually begins after the documents have been signed.

Survey. On completion of satisfactory fencing (where required), a covenant plan is prepared. LINZ may require a survey plan or aerial photodiagram. Once the plan is finalised and signed by the landowner, formal registration commences.

Registration. Covenants are registered on the title of the land with Land Information New Zealand. The Trust lodges the covenant document for registration with LINZ, when the legal description of the land and the area to be covenanted are complete and consent from all parties registered on the certificate of title have been obtained.

Establishing covenants in perpetuity can attract funding assistance from the Trust and/or local government towards fencing and survey costs. Covenanted land can attract rates remission under the Local Government (Rating Powers) Act 2002.

JOIN THE QE II NATIONAL TRUST

The QE II National Trust is always in need of greater financial and moral support for its work.

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

- A year's subscription to our magazine Open Space – three issues a year.
- Free entrance to properties owned or administered by the following organisations: The National Trust (UK), National Trust for Scotland, National Trust of Australia (all states), Barbados National Trust, Bermuda National Trust, National Trust for Fiji, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Gibraltar Heritage Trust, Japan National Trust, National Trust for Zimbabwe.
- Entitlement to nominate and vote for two members onto the QE II National Trust Board of Directors. The current directors elected by members are Bill Garland of Cambridge and Geoff Walls of Christchurch.
- A copy of the Trust's Annual Report.

Please fill out this membership application form and send it to QE II National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington, or simply free-phone us on 0508 732 878

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.

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Membership Type – tick appropriate category

- Individual \$30 Corporate – business (on application)
 Family \$45 Corporate – non profit organisation \$50
 Life \$550

Donation – optional (tick box):

- \$100 \$50 \$20 Other \$.....

(Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible)

Method of payment – Cheque Mastercard Visa

Credit card details – Number

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

Signature.....

Total \$..... Please send a receipt

Please send me information on:

- Making a bequest to the Trust Open space covenants

Gift Membership

Gift to: name & address

Send next year's renewal to me to the recipient

A place to visit: Jolendale Park

Jolendale Park, a protected 5 ha semi-arid woodland, is a product of two lifetimes of dedication. Developed over the past 43 years on Alexandra's Bridge Hill by Enny and Jolyon Manning, this open space covenant is a wilderness area, that is now protected from future urban development.

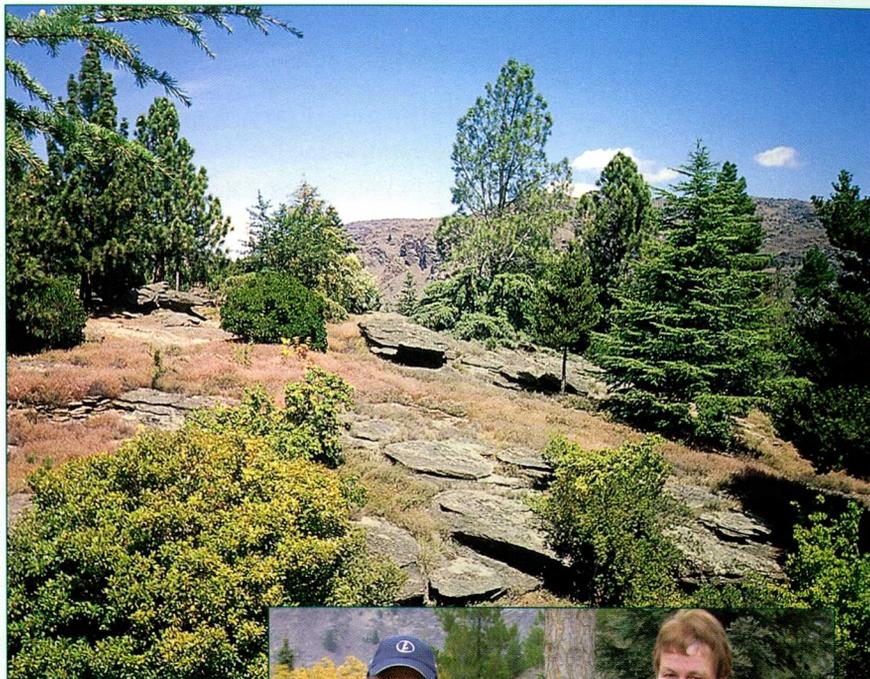
In 1960 Bridge Hill was almost devoid of trees and both it and the surrounding countryside had been ravaged by fires, sheep and rabbits. Armed with a box of plants and a crowbar, Enny and Jolyon began planting the drought-hardy tree varieties they had specially ordered in from America in the 1960s to tolerate growing in New Zealand's driest ecological district.

After decades of planting, watering, pruning and nurturing by the Mannings, Jolendale Park is of international significance with its collection of semi-arid habitat tree species from all parts of the world. Planted tree species include Spanish fir, Turkey oak, Atlas cedar and Tasmanian cider gums. A variety of species of lichen, moss and fungus grow on rocky Otago shist outcrops throughout Jolendale Park.

While being the only semi-arid woodland covenanted by QE II, Jolendale Park is one of several arboretum protected by open space covenants – including, Deepdale Arboretum near Fairlie, Ian McKean Pinetum at Rangiwahia and in the Gisborne district, Eastwoodhill Arboretum at Ngatapa, Hackfalls Arboretum at Tiniroto and Panikau Arboretum at Whangara.

At a ceremony at Jolendale Park to mark the registration of the open space covenant in late April, the 120 people in attendance heard Central Otago Mayor Malcolm Macpherson describe the park as “a genuine Central Otago treasure and a great asset for the district”.

Jolendale Park receives about 4,000 visitors per annum and has always been open for public enjoyment - a place for peace and reflection.



Bill Garland, Acting Chair of QE II (left) with Jolyon and Enny Manning at the ceremony celebrating the covenancing of Jolendale Park.

Photo courtesy of Southland Times

Location:

Aronui Road, Bridge Hill, Alexandra

When to go:

Visitors are welcome all year round.

How to get there:

Jolendale Park is situated at the top end of Aronui Road, off State Highway 8. An informal carpark area is available along Aronui Road.

Accessibility:

Suitable for walkers. Wheelchair access limited.

For more information:

Contact Enny & Jolyon Manning, ph: 03 448 9399,
email: jolenda@alexandra.net.nz