

PARTNERS IN PROTECTION – ŌHĀKĪ

*Support us and ensure that
Aotearoa New Zealand's open
spaces are forever protected*



QEII NATIONAL TRUST
Ngā Kairauhi Papa Forever protected

LEADERS IN CONSERVATION



"The time to leave a lasting legacy is now."

– Bruce Wills ONZM

ABOVE:
Bruce Wills ONZM, Chair of the QEII Board of Directors

COVER:
Anne Woodward with her granddaughter.

Bruce Wills ONZM, Chair

As a covenantor, I've experienced first-hand the incredible support of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust – Ngā Kairauhī Papa (QEII) and sense of pride and enjoyment in knowing my land is protected in perpetuity.

QEII is highly respected with an independent and reliable track record of success. We're good at covenanting – it's what we do.

For many landowners, it's in our DNA to protect the special qualities on our properties, and it also brings practical benefits to allow biodiversity to flourish in its natural state.

But protection costs.

We've added three or four covenants every week since 1978. With greater numbers comes a larger workload, and ever-increasing maintenance and monitoring requirements. It's a lot of work to support landowners in the management of these covenants and, unfortunately, it's even more difficult to focus on creating new covenants while also supporting an ever-growing number of existing ones.

Landowners are already leaving a legacy by protecting their land with QEII, and you can ensure this commitment is encouraged and grown by joining our community of supporters.

We need your help.

We've reached a stage where we need to take control of our destiny and have certainty of our own existence.

We've got a proven recipe, and there's an urgent need to grow our programme of protection.

Whether farmer or city-dweller, you have the opportunity to invest in something you know will be around to benefit future generations.

JOIN US ON THE FRONTLINES OF CONSERVATION

Our donors play a vital role in making QEII National Trust the respected charity it is today, allowing us to protect our shared natural heritage in partnership with landowners.

Your support is critical to our success as a country in ensuring our unique biodiversity and cultural heritage is not lost.

Making a financial contribution to support QEII's work is one of the best ways you can help preserve Aotearoa New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage.

Every dollar you give will help grow the network of private land protected in New Zealand in perpetuity.

Get involved and help ensure that biodiversity in New Zealand remains intact and safeguarded for generations to come.



WHAT WE DO

We work in partnership with private landowners to identify areas of land suitable for protection, assess them, fence them, survey them, and place legal protection on the land (called a covenant).

Once registered, QEII has the responsibility as the perpetual trustee to monitor and defend open space covenants on an ongoing basis.

Our QEII regional representatives (known as 'reps') play a crucial role on the front line in engaging with landowners and exercising their technical expertise across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Reps work with landowners to help them to succeed in their protection and enhancement endeavours by providing them with the advice, skill and confidence they need.

We take the long view and think about what a covenant could look like in 100 years, once fencing is in place and pest species like stoats and possums, invasive weeds or exotic pine trees are controlled.

What is a QEII Covenant?

A covenant is an agreement between QEII and a landowner to protect land forever. The landowner continues to own and manage the protected land, and the covenant and protection stays on the land, even when the property is sold to a new owner.

How do we define 'Open Space'?

The QEII National Trust 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.

“ We visit every covenant every few years to ensure the land is being well cared for. ”

Our Strategic Objectives

1 Area of high-value land under robust protection increases

2 Values within protected areas are enhanced

3 QEII's work is part of large-scale projects

4 People are inspired to connect with QEII-protected places



A PROVEN PARTNERSHIP



Dan Coup, Chief Executive

Almost 70% of Aotearoa New Zealand is in private ownership, which is why protecting biodiversity and heritage on private land is critical to reversing the decline of indigenous species and preserving our cultural heritage and landmarks of our natural history forever.

Our Vision

Inspiring conservation on private land.

Our Mission

We inspire private landowners to protect and enhance open spaces of ecological and cultural significance.

Our partnerships have created an ever-growing network of nearly

5,000

protected areas throughout Aotearoa



Chief Executive Dan Coup at a site visit.

Our partnerships have created an ever-growing network of nearly **5,000** protected areas throughout Aotearoa, ranging from small backyard patches to huge swathes of the high country.

These covenants protect more than **180,000** hectares of private land and play a critical role as a refuge for some of New Zealand's rarest and most endangered biodiversity and ecosystems.

Our method for conservation, where we work in partnership with private landowners to identify and protect open spaces, is pragmatic and it works.

For over 40 years, we have been able to protect critically endangered ecosystems, iconic landscapes, and the huge diversity of flora and fauna that inhabits them, by creating perpetual covenants on private land.

When you support QEII, you help us ensure our unique environment is forever protected. We invite you to help us protect our precious natural taonga.

More than

180,000

hectares of private land protected

DRIVEN BY A PASSION FOR BIODIVERSITY



Malcolm Rutherford, QEII regional rep for Gisborne

Born and bred on a Southland farm, Malcolm is a qualified zoologist and botanist and has been involved in environmental education for conservation organisations here and overseas. He has worked on species recovery programmes and been involved in numerous pest control programmes.

"Looking at aerial photos now of the farm I grew up on in Southland, you can see that most of the gullies, tussocks, nesting birds and interesting elements of biodiversity have been cleared and turned into dairy farm paddocks. There's little left of the place that first inspired my interest in the natural world.

We, as people of Aotearoa New Zealand, have the opportunity now to decide what our country will look like in the future.

In QEII-covenanted areas we see young native trees and plants thriving. It's not rocket science that putting the protections in place now means the effects of stock and pest damage can be prevented, and even reversed, to provide habitats for what are in some instances incredibly rare species.

There are species that exist in certain places that you just won't find elsewhere and it's critical to preserve them to prevent local or even total extinction.

We all know farmers work insane hours and it takes a lot of time and money to keep up with problems like weed control, which is highly specialised work. Weeds such as Japanese honeysuckle and old man's beard can totally destroy a covenant over time. We simply don't currently have enough resources to support these landowners.

With secure ongoing funding within our organisation we could ensure that the gains we've made in weed and pest control don't get lost.

Someone has to do the work to ensure these species survive, and we need to do that work now.

We want to do what we aspire to do, as well as we possibly can – to carry on protecting important areas on private land and enhance what's already protected."

LEFT:
Gisborne rep Malcolm
Rutherford with local
covenantors



BALANCING FARMING AND CONSERVATION

Tucked away from the rest of the world, Simon Beamish and his wife Josi farm in a valley between the Kaweka and Ruahine ranges in Hawke's Bay, on land that has been in the family for five generations. Simon's passion for preserving and enhancing the land is a trait that has been passed down the generations.

When the farm was sold to Simon's great great grandfather Nathaniel Beamish in 1886, Princess Airini Donnelly made it a condition of the sale that an area known as Henry's Bush would never be cut down. It became the first of five areas of open space totalling 22 ha that Simon has covenanted with QEII since 1994.

"I remember growing up on the farm and how difficult it was mustering cattle through large 50 hectare paddocks. Getting the cattle out of the bush was a nightmare and there was no chance of bush regeneration with stock in there.

I was right on board with covenanting the land, and ultimately inspired by the experience.

As a farmer, I was a bit ashamed of how ignorant I was to variety of the species on the property. I had never come across anyone as knowledgeable as our QEII rep Tim Suckling – talk about passion! Troy Duncan is our current rep and he's really good value, to the point where he appears to be as enthusiastic as I am about deer fencing and enhancing what we already have.

We are lucky and have quite a few remnants of the past with the native bush here. The backdrop



Simon Beamish is the fifth generation of his family farming at Awapai.

to the farm looking west to the ranges is covered in regenerating indigenous plants – that’s a real connection with what New Zealand used to be like.

Preventing the damage from possums and deer is critical to the regeneration of the understorey and is an ongoing effort. One of the real pleasures we get from doing this work is the bird life. There are significant areas where birds can move around and inhabit and we’ve been able to see it grow and evolve.

Last September, with a lot of kōwhai flowering in the main bush, it looked like a yellow hue over the area. The tūi were like a pot of boiling water on the stove,

bubbling out of the bush. There were thousands of them. If there were no predators, New Zealand would be an unbelievable sight.

We know there are so many demands on funding, but with private funding, landowners and QEII could protect and enhance to a greater extent. How exciting is that!

It’s a really good example to future generations. Our kids bring their friends from the city down to explore Henry’s Bush and it’s an important experience for them. It’s special and it’s worth protecting.”

“ We have four amazing kahikatea surrounded by native bush, which could be 1,000 years old or more. One of these kahikatea measures 5.7 metres around the base. They’re pretty incredible trees and gosh, they’re worth protecting! Things like that make it really special; to know you’ve put the protection in place to preserve them.

PARTNERS IN PROTECTION – ŌHĀKĪ

You can help us to continue our vital conservation work with private landowners, as we strive to inspire and support New Zealanders to protect and enhance open spaces of ecological and cultural significance.

You can decide how you would like to target your support.

Trust us to use your contribution where it will be the most beneficial, by giving to our general fund, or select one of the key priorities that we are focussed on. We can work together to make your contribution have the greatest impact.

Whatever you choose, your support will help to create a legacy for all New Zealanders that will last forever.

Inspiring Protection – Kaitiaki The General Fund

Donate to our general purposes and provide us with the flexibility to respond where the need is greatest in each given year. Support our exceptional, specialists to do their work with confidence and focus their energy where it is most urgently needed.



The Stephenson Fund

Grow our covenant enhancement programme

Named after QEII founders Gordon and Celia Stephenson, The Stephenson Fund provides landowners with matched grants ranging from \$2,000-\$20,000 towards vital covenant enhancement projects, such as deer-proof fencing, tackling major pest or weed problems, responding to natural disasters, improved public access, or revegetation.



The Rapid Response Fund

Assist landowners affected by extreme weather events

Help us to proactively support landowners when natural disasters threaten the protection of their covenant. When an emergency happens, you can be part of the team of supporters who help landowners recover when their need is greatest.



The New Covenant Fund

Increase efforts to secure protection of high value habitat

We're seeing an increase in enquiries from landowners who want to covenant their land. With additional financial resources, the number of covenants could grow significantly and, in turn, more open spaces could be protected and enhanced.



The Critically Threatened Species Regeneration Fund

Protecting critically threatened species by enhancing environments

Some of New Zealand's most rare and threatened native plants and animals are now only found on private land. These environments require intensive and specialised care, and QEII reps can support landowners by creating a management plan and care programme to ensure they are given the best opportunity to flourish.



The Fence Fund

Good fencing is at the heart of our conservation work

It may not be the most glamorous part of our work, but solid, well-maintained fencing is crucial to the success of QEII covenants. Allowing land to regenerate without the impact of livestock like cattle and pests like deer is the most cost-effective way for native plants to rebound. It also protects regenerative planting and gives it the best chance of success.



QEII Public Properties Fund

Increase public enjoyment of QEII-protected areas

The places we care for and protect provide physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing benefits, as well as being an important component to New Zealanders' national identity. QEII encourages people to experience these benefits through promoting public access wherever possible on covenanted open spaces, including the 26 properties owned by QEII.



The Regional Support Fund

Increase our regional support and engagement programmes

QEII's regional reps are conservation experts. They are at the heart of what QEII does, and with more of these passionate people on the ground, we would be able to engage more often and more deeply with our existing covenantors, and better support newcomers on their covenanting journey.



The Legal Defence Fund

Legal defence and advocacy

QEII is widely regarded as the strongest protector of private land in New Zealand. To defend covenants against challenges and advocate for protected places we require funds to pay legal costs. Our modern covenants are considered watertight, but we still need to enforce them rigorously if they are threatened by future developments or third party processes. **11**

INSPIRED TO ACT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Born in Melbourne and descended from botanists, retired veterinarian and QEII supporter Catherine Smith ONZM says that, despite her urban origins, the passion for conservation is in her bones. Catherine and her research scientist husband Barry are committed to conservation. Right from an early age they raised their three sons in New Zealand with an appreciation of the natural environment.

"I've always had an interest in conservation but meeting with QEII founders Gordon and Celia Stephenson in the 2000s well and truly opened my eyes. They and Arthur Cowan were my inspiration!

I can see Gordon and Celia so clearly and I remember sitting in their lounge as Gordon told us of his dream of protecting the land and, in particular, Maungatautari.

I could see their vision, their perseverance, and practical approach as farmers. I became a donor to QEII and have continued to volunteer for many conservation organisations since.

We went to the celebration of the 1,000th QEII covenant at Waitomo and I'm amazed to see the ongoing commitment of everyone involved so that there's now nearly 5,000 covenants across New Zealand.

As a conservation volunteer, I spend many hours at the Waikato Ecological Restoration Nursery based at the Mystery Creek Fielddays site. The Nursery supplies eco-sourced plants to local gullies, wetlands and to private property owners, several of whom are QEII covenantors.

We need to do even more as New Zealanders and it's really urgent that we continue on this track with QEII, to restore the balance between productivity and protection.

The scientific potential of our biodiversity is incredible to think about. What does the forest hold for us that we don't even know about? Some of these covenants hold rare species and if farmers don't know what they've got, something may be removed by mistake that can't be replaced.

Farmers are facing climate change issues and wild weather. There's a lot of pressure and a lot of debt. It's worrying to think about what happens in times of low returns.

It's important to connect children, in particular, with our native bush and educate them about what a QEII covenant is.

We need to stop and think about the biodiversity we've lost so we can make sure we secure a rich future for them."

RIGHT:

Catherine Smith plants a kauri for her granddaughter.

“ I'd love to see more people in the farming community as well as city folk walking the path of conservation. There are all sorts of things people can do without too much effort, whether that's volunteering time and energy or through donating. I get a great deal of joy from it.





Southland rep Jesse Bythell takes notes during a site visit.

KAITIAKITANGA IS A TEAM EFFORT

Jesse Bythell, QEII regional rep for Southland

Former city girl Jesse moved from Christchurch to Southland in 2005 and has never looked back. Before joining QEII, she assisted Environment Southland with its Biological Control of Weeds Programme and carried out threatened plant surveys and monitoring work for the Department of Conservation.

"Farming is a slow-moving beast and ecosystem restoration is slow moving too.

Protecting and restoring these special places doesn't just happen in the lifespan of one person. It's over time and with many individuals that the impact becomes incredible.

Every time a new covenant is registered it's pretty special. It can take around two years from the start of the journey to the time when the land is all fenced, surveyed, and registered. You get to know the landowners pretty well and develop great relationships.

A lot of landowners are humble and don't want to make a fuss about their conservation actions. It's a running joke between me and my covenantors, I say "I'm going to brag on your behalf about this amazing thing you have done, if you let me!"

QEII helps facilitate and uphold the kaitiakitanga, stewardship, of the land with the landowner. There's a high degree of trust involved in these partnerships where farmers are used to solving their own problems.

Some issues, like managing wild goats and feral deer, are bigger than any one landowner, no matter how hard they work. It's like David and Goliath – it's not fair to burden the landowner to solve. It can be really stressful when you know you have 50% of the population of a threatened species on your property but you don't have the specialised skills or resources to protect it.

It's a true partnership and it takes a team effort to preserve the special and beautiful places we have in our country. It's about us all pitching in together to make a difference."

“ *At the end of the covenanting process many landowners feel like they've done something really significant that they've had 'on the list' for decades – to leave a lasting legacy.* ”



OUR HISTORY – DOING THE RIGHT THING

James Guild (pictured above) was Chair of the QEII Board of Trustees from 2011 to 2020. He has registered many covenants on his own properties and inspired many others to do the same. This is an updated excerpt from his introduction to Forever Protected, a history written by Shona McCahon to mark QEII's 40th anniversary.

"QEII was established by visionary and courageous individuals who socialised an idea that became an institution. They changed forever the way farmers and private landowners saw their responsibility to preserve the natural environment within their enterprises.

We owe a huge debt to those pioneers and all those who have contributed to the Trust since. In forty years, QEII has gone from an ambitious and untested concept to a highly successful and venerable nationwide institution. QEII's approach to private land protection is now a proven formula of cooperative conservation.

When averaged over the last four decades, this approach has seen a precious part of New Zealand's natural heritage registered as a new open space covenant every 3-4 days. The cumulative statistics are impressive – close to 5,000 covenants where thousands of kaitiaki (guardians) are exercising practical stewardship over 180,000 ha – over 1% of New Zealand's private land in permanent protection.



“ ***Our history is a story of common passion and the evolution of an organisation that has harnessed the energy of thousands of people investing in a permanent legacy.*** ”

QEII founders Gordon and Celia Stephenson had the vision and drive to establish a model for conservation that works for landowners.

Over \$1.5 billion of private resources have gone towards protecting rare and threatened native biodiversity and other natural, historic and cultural heritage in the national interest.

All this has been achieved without inducements but rather, in the words of the first covenantor Gordon Stephenson, “because it’s the right thing to do”.

The private contribution to the public good is not widely understood and appreciated, and we should acknowledge the quiet revolution that has been taking place across the land for four decades.

Our history is a record of heroes – the collective efforts of visionary pioneers; the directors and leaders who steered QEII through the tough times; the dedicated executives, office staff, and regional representatives; the kindred spirits in national and local government; a parade of Ministers of Parliament; the myriad of groups and organisations that support the objectives of the Trust; the generous benefactors and donors; and above all, the

thousands of private citizens who chose to make a permanent, living contribution to New Zealand’s natural heritage.

That huge “QEII family” is an unsung national treasure with a proud past and exciting future. Today, we find our little island nation facing unprecedented threats to our unique natural heritage from climate change, native species decline, biosecurity incursions, invasive weeds and pest animals, and competing land issues.

We need champions like QEII to promote citizen-led initiatives and bring together people in rural and urban areas alike to combat these threats.

With the first forty years of spectacular accomplishments to build on, QEII is uniquely placed to play an important role in the future. We have the proven history, the specialist skills, the upsurge of support and the relentless enthusiasm to help protect our open spaces into the future.

OUR OBJECTIVES

QEII has proven its expertise time and again in the last 40 years, protecting and enhancing hundreds of thousands of hectares of open space.

Our conservation approach works, thanks to the landowners who have the vision to protect land that they are the guardians of now, so that it is protected in perpetuity.

However, there is more demand now than ever, and a pressing need to act quickly.

We need to increase our capacity to service the demand.

For some covenant owners, the cost and effort to maintain their covenant's natural values can be simply overwhelming.

We need to support covenant owners with advice and expertise to assist them to manage their covenant in a sustainable way.

We receive generous core funding from Government, but it is not enough.

One of the best things everyday kiwis can do for our landscape is to protect what is already there, before it's gone.

Join us on the frontlines of conservation. Help us to conserve and enhance the special qualities that make New Zealand the unique taonga it is for all who inhabit it.

On average, it costs **\$22,000** to complete the registration process for each new covenant (around 38 ha in size).

40% of this cost is for field work, ecological assessments, and the legal and processing costs required to approve and register the covenant

37% of this cost is QEII's contribution to fencing, which generally matches the landowner dollar-for-dollar



23% of this cost is for surveying

Get involved

Support us and ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand's open spaces are forever protected.

We've made giving easy and effective so that your contribution goes directly where it is needed.

Contact Us

We are always here to talk to you about your support or answer any questions about how to donate.

Please feel free to contact our Fundraising Manager, Bryna O'Brien

DDI: 04 471 4196

Mobile: 027 295 5369

Email: bobrien@qeii.org.nz



Inspiring Protection – Kaitiaki

Make a Donation

Inspire protection by supporting our day-to-day activity with a donation.

1. Donate securely online via qeiiationaltrust.org.nz/donate
2. Donate via Internet Banking (this is the best method for larger donations) – The QEII National Trust bank account is 02-0536-0347192-00.

Please put your name and 'donation' in the reference fields and email us to let us know you have made a donation.

3. Phone 04 471 4196 to make a secure phone donation using your credit card

QEII is a registered charitable trust (registration number CC28488). Individuals can claim a 33% tax credit against donations over \$5 from the Inland Revenue Department.

Partners in Protection – Ōhākī

Leave a Gift in your Will

The QEII Partners in Protection programme has been set up to honour the generosity of individuals and families who plan to leave gifts in their will or through their family trust, or who make a major donation to QEII.

Let us thank you in your lifetime and share our mutual passion for protection, enhancement and preservation of New Zealand's open spaces.

1. Find the guidance you need for your lawyer or legal advisor at qeiiationaltrust.org.nz/partners-in-protection
2. Contact our Fundraising Manager for an information pack.
3. Please note that we are only able to receive property as a gift in will in exceptional cases and gifts of property must be discussed with QEII.



QEII NATIONAL TRUST

Ngā Kairauhī Papa Forever protected

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