



QEII National Trust
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Focus on Wairarapa | Podocarps | Awards | Protecting waterways

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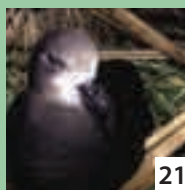
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Helping you protect the special nature of your land



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kairauhi Papa

QEII Trust helps landowners to protect significant natural and cultural features on their land. Features include:

- Landscapes
- Wetlands
- Cultural sites
- Coastlines
- Archaeological sites
- Forests and bush remnants
- Tussock grasslands
- Streams
- Geological features
- Wildlife habitats

Landowners throughout New Zealand voluntarily protect 91,000 hectares of land through QEII registered covenants (or protection agreements). QEII Trust also helps by contributing funds for covenant projects and advising landowners on managing their covenants.

QEII Trust also owns 28 properties, which collectively protect 1,608 hectares of significant habitat. Most of these have been gifted to the Trust. Effective stewardship of these properties is greatly assisted by local communities and management committees.



COVER PHOTO

Margaret McKee, QEII Chief Executive, and Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, at Pakoka River Station on Aotea Harbour in the Waikato.

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (QEII Trust) is a statutory organisation independent from Government and managed by a Board of Directors. QEII Trust is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Registration number: CC28488.

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Integrating conservation with sheep and dairy grazing in the unique coastal environment of Aotea Harbour

Along with representatives from a wide cross-section of organisations including Environment Waikato, Waipa District Council, Department of Conservation, Federated Farmers and Forest and Bird, Waikato covenantors enjoyed a visit to **Pakoka River Station** at Te Papatapu on 4 March.



Photo: Maitland Manning

Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, with Bernard Card, QEII Director, and Margaret McKee, QEII Chief Executive, at Pakoka River Station.

They were invited to the station for lunch with the QEII Board and staff and a tour of the 85ha covenant that protects coastal forest on the farm. Adjacent to the Pakoka River that is fed by the nearby Bridal Veil Falls, Pakoka River Station is a 540ha sheep and dairy grazing property with magnificent views of Aotea Harbour and Mt Karioi. **Bill and June Allen and Ray and Jean Peel** have owned the station since 2005.

At a gathering in the woolshed, QEII Chairperson Sir Brian Lochore acknowledged the generosity of landowners who have protected native vegetation with covenants. 'Waikato covenantors now protect 16,000 hectares with over 500 QEII covenants,' he said. 'It is wonderful to meet these inspired people who are protecting our special areas for future generations.'

Rex Webby, QEII Waikato Regional Representative, said forest remnants,

kanuka and manuka shrubland, wetlands and landscapes are just some of the areas covenanted. Distinctive Waikato features such as historic stands of oak trees and pā sites are also protected.

On behalf of the owners, Bill Allen explained the philosophy for managing the farm. 'We love the property and are looking for a partner or better still, a group of families, to buy one or more of the titles to the station,' he said. 'This would give them the opportunity to share in a genuine working farm and have a small income.'

'There are more bush blocks that could be protected by QEII. We also have an enormous list of improvements we'd like to make including more wetland development and even more vigorous pest control.'

'Selling some of the titles may make it easier and more affordable to put covenants in place so New Zealanders can continue to enjoy our beautiful bush and coastal views.'



Photo: Rex Webby

The outstanding views over the Aotea and Kawhia Harbours and the Tasman Sea from the top of the Pakoka River Station covenant.



Photos: Margaret McKee

Waikato covenantors took the opportunity to discuss the management of their covenants with Sir Brian Lochore and other QEII directors and staff.



Photo: Margaret McKee



Photo: Maitland Manning



Photo: Maitland Manning

Far left, top: Long-time covenantor, Arthur Cowan from Otorohanga, with Bill Allen, one of the owners of Pakoka River Station.

Far left, bottom: Following lunch, Bill Allen took the guests on a tour of the covenant.

Left: Stewart Wadey, Waikato Federated Farmers President, looking over the protected coastal bush block with Bill Allen.

Production and protection go hand in hand on Cape Foulwind

Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, recognised West Coast landowners who protect natural features with QEII covenants on 13 May at Cape Foulwind Station.

The covenantors, along with representatives from the West Coast Regional Council and Buller and Grey District Councils and staff from Landcorp and the Department of Conservation, took the opportunity to meet the QEII Board and visit bush protected by Landcorp on the station.

Landcorp Farming Limited has eleven registered and approved QEII covenants on the West Coast protecting over 1,100 hectares of bush and wetlands.

The Totara and Tram Road Dairy Units have been developed on pakihi land on the Cape Foulwind Plain. Each farm runs over 1,000 cows. On Totara Dairy Unit, eight blocks of semi-coastal primary forest and riparian margins are being protected with a 30ha covenant. In March 2009, the QEII Board approved a covenant for two blocks totalling 75ha on Tram Road Dairy Unit.



Photo: Loralee Hyde

Hon Jim Sutton, Landcorp Chairman, and Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson, opened the new QEII covenants on Cape Foulwind Station.



Photo: Loralee Hyde



Photo: Loralee Hyde



Photo: Michael Orchard



Photo: Loralee Hyde

‘Landcorp is doing an impressive job of protecting natural areas on their farms,’ said Sir Brian. ‘Their work is a prime example of combining production and protection for the benefit of New Zealanders.’

‘I keep emphasising that covenants give up a lot for the people of New Zealand. Private landowners on the West Coast now protect over 2,200 hectares with 55 covenants. They are doing a great job and I cannot thank them enough for what they have achieved.’

Buller Mayor, Pat McManus, welcomed the QEII directors and staff to the region and congratulated QEII and Landcorp for being involved with the protection of bush and wetlands on the West Coast.

Hon Jim Sutton, Landcorp Chairman, acknowledged the people of Landcorp, saying they can be proud of what they have achieved. ‘We see a responsibility to be a good citizen and to lead the way,’ he said. ‘Since July 2008, Landcorp has had an additional 21 covenants approved throughout the country. No other organisation surpasses the work QEII does with private landowners.’

Mike Copeland, QEII West Coast Regional Representative, said forest remnants, wetlands, pakihi shrubland, threatened species habitat and historic gold workings are just some of the features protected locally with covenants.

Mike explained that it’s worthwhile protecting lowland forest and wetland remnants on the West Coast as they have a diverse range of species and birdlife compared to the more homogeneous upland forest in the public conservation land.

‘Protecting the remnants that remain in our lowland environments with QEII covenants helps to both enhance production on our farms and retain our unique ecology,’ he said.

Top left: West Coast QEII covenants and others involved with the Trust gathered at the Totara Dairy Unit calf shed on Cape Foulwind Station to meet Sir Brian Lochore and other QEII directors and staff.

Top right: On the left, Jane Marshall, Department of Conservation West Coast Conservancy Botanist, and Mike Copeland, QEII West Coast Regional Representative, explained the biodiversity of the approved Tram Road Dairy Unit covenant.

Above left: QEII covenants and other guests enjoyed a walk on the dairy farm to see the blocks of rimu, miro, beech, southern rata and yellow silver pine protected by the covenant.

Above right: From left, Hon Jim Sutton, Landcorp Chairman; Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson; Mary Traves, West Coast Regional Council; Chris Kelly, Landcorp Chief Executive; Margaret McKee, QEII Chief Executive; and Gerry Soanes, Landcorp National Manager Property.

Rich podocarp and beech forest on the Mokihinui River



Photo: Lorealee Hyde

North of Westport at the Rough and Tumble Bush Lodge, QEII directors, regional representatives and staff assessed the proposed 38ha Burke Creek covenant in May 2009. The landowners, **Marion 'Weasel' Boatwright and Susan Cook**, recounted the history of the area and described the diverse flora and fauna of the lowland primary forest located at the mouth of the spectacular Mokihinui River Gorge.



Photo: Lorealee Hyde. Inset: Maitland Manning



Photo: Lorealee Hyde

Above: The block of primary forest is bordered by the Mokihinui and its Burke Creek tributary. Tītī-pounamu (South Island rifleman) and Western weka (both declining) inhabit the forest and there have been sightings of whio (blue duck, nationally vulnerable) on the Mokihinui. Inset: *Entoloma hochstetteri*

Left: Ancient rimu, kahikatea, miro, hard beech, kamahi and various rata species dominate the forest canopy.

Unique Millerton large land snail

In 2003, residents of Millerton contacted the Department of Conservation about their discovery of a local large land snail. Known only from this one area in the country, *Powelliphanta lignaria* "millertoni" is one of our rarest land snails.

With ongoing rat predation and habitat loss, the snail population is very low. Its threat category is classified as nationally critical, the same category as the kakapo. In 2008, the Department of Conservation implemented a rat trapping and monitoring regime in the area to assist the recovery of the snail.

To help protect the snail, a QEII covenant has been approved on an area of snail habitat.



Photo: Lorealee Hyde

In May, Julie Geritzlehner, Department of Conservation Biodiversity Ranger, described the characteristics of the rare Millerton snail and the rat control programme to QEII directors, regional representatives and staff.



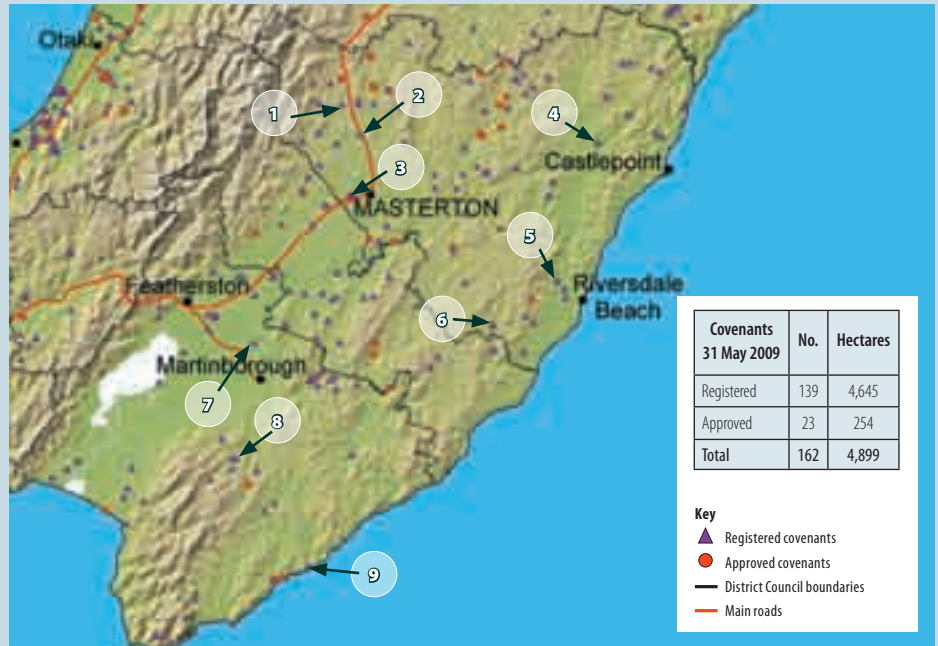
Photo: Department of Conservation

A live *Powelliphanta lignaria* "millertoni" snail with rat damage.

Wairarapa

'I am continually struck by the determination of landowners, who are mainly farmers, to preserve what remains of our native ecosystems and to enhance these remnants,' says **Trevor Thompson**, QEII Regional Representative. 'Wairarapa covenants range from beech and podocarp forest on the Tararua and Rimutaka foothills, to kahikatea forest and wetlands on the plains, to kanuka forest and shrubland in the dry eastern hill country, to podocarp forest in the south and to coastal flora and fauna on our rugged shoreline.'

'Most of our covenants are in the eastern hill country, in areas that weren't cleared for farming or timber because of the steep terrain. Good land management practices encouraged by the Greater Wellington Regional Council have seen many new hill country covenants in recent years. We also have rare turf communities at Lake Wairarapa protected and recently new coastal covenants have been approved.'



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1. Ian and Isabel Campbell
Riparian forest and wetland</p> <p>2. Duncan and Kathy Stuart
Kahikatea forest and flax wetland</p> <p>3. Masterton A & P Association
Lowland podocarp-broadleaf forest</p> | <p>4. Tinui Forest Park Limited
Lowland regenerating forest</p> <p>5. Roger and Sylvia Scott
Regenerating lowland forest, manuka and wetland</p> <p>6. Jenny Nicholson
Yellow mistletoe habitat</p> | <p>7 & 8. Richard and Karen Kershaw
Titoki-totara treeland
Black beech and kanuka forest</p> <p>9. Hiwi Trust
Coastal cliff faces and karaka grove (see page 21)</p> |
|--|--|--|



Photo: Trevor Thompson

Mosaic of native vegetation protected on the plains

Wetlands on the Wairarapa plains were extensive prior to clearances for farming. Five riparian forest and wetland remnants featuring characteristic plains vegetation ranging from podocarp forest to swamp forest, manuka, and *Carex* wetland were protected in 2007 with a 10.5ha covenant by **Ian and Isabel Campbell** on their sheep and beef farm at Awarua north-west of Masterton.

The property has been farmed by the Campbell family since 1862. 'My great-grandmother had the block at the confluence of the Waipoua River and Kiriwhakapapa Stream in her name as her dowry,' explains Ian. 'She was determined the trees would not be cleared. Having very good financial help for fencing from QEII and the Greater Wellington Regional Council has helped us to protect her legacy for the future.'

Left: The Awarua Bridge podocarp remnant now protected by the Campbells' covenant has never been cleared although it was damaged by fire in the early 1900s. Several large totara and matai survived and this block was fenced off in 1975.

Right: The kahikatea wetland is likely to contain the threatened brown mudfish *Neochanna apoda* and will be surveyed in the near future.

Kahikatea and flax preserved in an intensively farmed landscape

On SH2 north of Masterton, **Duncan and Kathy Stuart** protected a kahikatea remnant and flax wetland on their 156ha sheep and beef farm with the 4.7ha Springlea Bush and Wetland covenant in March 2008. The flax is a rare remnant of the type of vegetation that once was extensive in this area of spring fed streams.

‘It’s a good feeling that the trees and flax are protected forever,’ says Duncan. ‘It means that no-one can remove the trees or destroy the wetland in the future.’

A 9-wire (1 electric) fence constructed in 2007 with contributions from QEII, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the landowners now excludes stock from the covenant. The native vegetation is already recovering with small seedlings appearing under the kahikatea.

Right: Visible from SH2, the kahikatea remnant and flax wetland protected by Duncan and Kathy Stuart’s covenant form attractive natural features in the intensively farmed landscape.



Photo: Lawrie Cairns and Sinclair Knight Merz



Photo: Trevor Thompson

Only known habitat for yellow mistletoe in the lower North Island

Mature black beech protected with covenants in April 2009 by **Jenny Nicholson** along the Kaiwhata River in eastern Wairarapa are hosts for the threatened yellow mistletoe *Alepis flavida*, previously thought to be extinct in the lower North Island.

With Biodiversity Condition Funding, Trevor Thompson, QEII Regional Representative, is managing a mistletoe restoration project including constructing new fencing, undertaking pest control, revegetating with local species, transplanting beech seedlings to increase the number of host trees and planting mistletoe seeds.

‘Plants grown from seeds collected from native species remaining in the covenants are being used to restore the vegetation,’ says Trevor. ‘Since 2007, we have collected *Alepis flavida* seeds every year and planted them on existing host trees in the covenants. Beech seedlings have been transplanted from local areas to provide future host trees that are safe from floods.’

‘We collected five hundred mistletoe seeds in 2009. All suitable hosts in the covenants have been saturated with seeds and in a nearby reserve we have seeded other hosts to establish a third population as insurance. Each seed is individually marked so we can analyse the ability of the seeds to remain attached to the host, the germination rate and the viability of the seed.’

Top: *Alepis flavida* flowers in February 2009.

Bottom: Trevor Thompson checking the germination of mistletoe seeds. The bands on the beech indicate where seeds have been planted.



Photo: Trevor Thompson



Photo: Kerri Lukis

A 'stepping stone' for birds

Regenerating lowland forest on a 300ha hill country grazing and forestry property that stretches from the Masterton-Castlepoint Road to the steep eastern slopes of the hill known locally as Tinui Taipo was protected by **Tinui Forest Park Limited** with a 7.6ha covenant in September 2008.

Allan Levett, one of the landowners, says the kanuka in the gully provides a good linkage for birds between other nearby regenerating remnants and areas on the property being replanted with native species. 'It would have been wasteful to clear this natural growth,' explains Allan. 'It's good to protect the vegetation on this unstable country. We now have to keep the rats at bay so the bellbirds and tui will flourish.'



Photo: Trevor Thompson

Totara and mahoe seedlings are regenerating in the healthy understorey under kanuka in Levett's Bush. The pine in the background has been ringbarked as part of weed control in the covenant.



Photo: Lawrie Cairns and Sinclair Knight Merz

The 7-wire and wooden post covenant fence was constructed with contributions from QEII, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the landowner. The Council has also contributed to controlling hawthorn and wilding pines in the covenant.

Outstanding commitment to saving coastal landscape from development

To safeguard the natural character of the landscape at their property near Riversdale Beach, **Roger and Sylvia Scott** have protected all of their land with two QEII covenants totalling 94ha.

'We wanted this beautiful natural land to be left for future generations to enjoy,' says Sylvia. 'We felt a need to protect it with QEII as a record of the farming history and to protect the landscape and the views to the coast.'

With the open space values now protected from subdivision, the only sounds to be heard are from the abundant native birdlife including bellbirds, tui, moreporks, whiteheads, New Zealand falcons, tomtits, riflemen, fantails, shining cuckoos, harriers, silvereyes and kereru.

'The birdlife is wonderful,' Sylvia explains. 'We really do wake up to a dawn chorus each day.'



With spectacular views to the Wairarapa coast, Roger and Sylvia Scott's Waireka covenants protect the natural landscape values of their whole property.

The covenants protect regenerating lowland kanuka and totara forest and areas of manuka and sedgeland.



The new fence that excludes stock from the regenerating vegetation was constructed with contributions from QEII, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the landowners.



Photo: Trevor Thompson

Forest remnant in Masterton safeguarded

Typical of the podocarp-broadleaf forest that once covered the alluvial Wairarapa plains, the Solway Showgrounds Bush just three kilometres from central Masterton was protected by the **Masterton A & P Association** with a 3ha covenant in 2006. 'It is unusual to have a lowland forest remnant in an urban setting,' says Ally O'Neill, Manager of the Association. 'We protected it with QEII to safeguard it for the future.'

QEII, Greater Wellington Regional Council, New Zealand Lottery Grants Board and the Association have contributed to constructing the 8-wire post and batten fence around the remnant and to eradicating weeds. Ivy, sycamore, tradescantia, Old Man's Beard, elderberry and bamboo are threats and the Association is seeking more funding to continue the control.

'This year we'll also target the reintroduction of the threatened mistletoe *Tupeia antarctica*,' says Trevor Thompson, QEII Regional Representative. 'It was lost recently when its host tree just outside the covenant was blown over.'

Below: With tall totara, kahikatea, pukatea, titoki and tawa, the forest remnant protected by the Masterton A & P Association has a high ecological value as little of this type of forest now remains. Being so close to town, it also has significant value as an educational resource.



Photo: Trevor Thompson



Photo: Trevor Thompson

Returning birdsong along Wairarapa rivers

Richard and Karen Kershaw, winners of the Ballance Farm Environment Wellington Supreme Award in 2004, now have three QEII covenants. On their property south of Martinborough, they initially protected black beech and podocarp forest on the limestone bluffs and slopes above the Ruakokoputuna River with a 16ha covenant in 1993. In late 2007, a further block of beech and kanuka was protected with a 5.7ha covenant.

On their Moiki farm north-west of Martinborough, the Kershaws protected a 4.5ha titoki-totara treeland on a terrace of the Ruamahanga River with a 4.5ha covenant in 2005. Typical of the forest that once covered the river terraces, this is one of the few remaining remnants left in the area.

'We believe you should leave things better than the way you found them,' says Richard. 'Fencing off the remnants helps with the regeneration and bringing the birds back. The number of kereru at the northern farm is unbelievable now!'

Right: Heavily modified by grazing in the past, titoki seedlings are starting to regenerate in the protected titoki-totara treeland on a terrace of the Ruamahanga River. QEII, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the landowners contributed to the cost of the new 8-wire fence.

Above and below: Richard and Karen Kershaw's covenants along the Ruakokoputuna River are helping to protect this major waterway as well as the black beech and podocarp forest.



Photo: Lawrie Cairns and Sinclair Knight Merz



Photo: Lawrie Cairns and Sinclair Knight Merz

Discover New Zealand's Big Five

Those looking for adventure travel to Africa to see the Big Five – elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard. In New Zealand, we have our own Big Five to discover – the great trees from the podocarp family: totara, rimu, kahikatea, matai and miro.



Photos: John Williamson



At Rangiwahia in the far north of the Manawatu, this magnificent stand of rimu, kahikatea, matai, miro and black maire is protected by a 5.5ha QEII covenant on **Bob and Prue Wakelin's** sheep and beef farm.

With the largest trees being over 500 years old, this was one of the first areas approved for a covenant, initiated by the late **Bruce Pemberton** in November 1978 and personally inspected by the first QEII Chairperson, Sir Thaddeus McCarthy, and the first QEII Trust Manager, Lloyd White.

Our podocarps tower over other trees in the forest. Many were logged in the past for timber or cleared for farming and human settlement. The specimens below are fine survivors of the logging.



Photo: Tom Steinh



Photo: Robyn Smith



Photo: Loralee Hyde

Left: This giant rimu is protected by **Pat and Helen Williams'** Nowanden covenant in the Marlborough Sounds.

Middle: Matai with rata climbing up their distinctive bark in a **Kapiti Coast District Council** QEII covenant north of Wellington.

Right: Tall miro are protected in **Judy Bugo's** 77ha covenant in South Westland along with alluvial kahikatea, rimu and *waihoensis* totara.

Find out more in the following pages about podocarps recently protected with QEII covenants throughout the country.

New Zealand conifers

There are four conifer families in New Zealand:

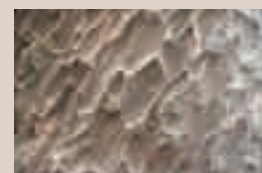
Araucariaceae: our sole species is kauri, *Agathis australis*

Phyllocladaceae: celery pine family, three species

Cupressaceae: cypress family, two species

Podocarpaceae: podocarp family, our largest conifer family with seven genera and 15 species. Podocarp comes from the Greek *Podocarpus* which means seed with a foot.

See page 14 for the characteristics of totara, kahikatea, matai, miro and rimu. The bark of each of these is also distinctive and is an excellent way of identifying the species.



Matai bark

Photo: Karlene Hill

Focus on our big podocarps

'Stepping stones' for Taranua birdlife

On his sheep and beef farm east of Dannevirke, **Brian Ward** protected two blocks of bush with a 2.4ha covenant in August 2008. In an area where few remnants remain, the bush is a rare example of the podocarp–broadleaf forest that once covered the district. 'My daughter was instrumental in getting the bush protected,' says Brian. 'One block has been fenced for 50 years and Jo convinced me to fence the other one. She has been planting the gaps in that block and it's surprising what's coming through already as natural regeneration.'

Jo says she has always enjoyed the bush on the farm and a friend suggested protecting it with a covenant. 'It's good to know the bush is going to be there forever,' she says. 'It was so easy to protect it with QEII.'

Top: Stock have been excluded for 50 years from this podocarp–broadleaf forest block now protected by Brian Ward's covenant. With a canopy of kahikatea, matai, totara, tawa and titoki, it is highly representative of the forest that once covered the district.

Middle: The new 7-wire post and batten fence around these totara in the second block was constructed with contributions from QEII, Horizons Regional Council and the landowner.

Bottom: Jo Emslie provides the perspective for these large kahikatea in her father's covenant.

Nearby on their 271 ha sheep and beef farm, **Stuart and Joan Wright** protected a podocarp–broadleaf remnant with the 3.7ha Pukehou Bush covenant in 2007. This block has been fenced off for over 30 years.

'There is only one original kahikatea left as the rest of the podocarps were logged,' says Stuart. 'Since then, the forest has slowly regenerated and now we have a regular possum poisoning programme in place the regeneration is stronger. We are near the end of our farming career and the bush is too valuable to get rid of. The QEII covenant will protect it from being stocked or cleared.'

Bill Wallace, QEII Taranua Regional Representative, says that in an area where there is little indigenous cover left, these covenants form protected 'stepping stones' between nearby unprotected remnants and the Mangatoro Scenic Reserve. 'They are good habitat for birdlife such as tui, kereru and bellbirds and good seed sources which will assist with the regeneration of our large podocarps,' he explains.



Photo: Bill Wallace

Left: Stuart and Joan Wright in front of their protected bush. The canopy consists of totara, kahikatea, matai and tawa. With stock excluded for over 30 years, there is a wide diversity of groundcover and understorey species.

Over the ridge in the distance are the tops of the trees in Brian Ward's covenant.



Photo: Bill Wallace



Photo: Brian Ward



Photo: Bill Wallace

Original species regenerating in Franklin remnant

South-west of Waiuku, **Edith Whittaker** protected a remnant of lowland podocarp-broadleaf forest with her 0.76ha Whakaruru Hau covenant in February 2009. 'I recognised the value of the remnant when I moved here 14 years ago,' says Edith. 'It has an amazing variety of species from the type of forest that used to cover this district.'

'Totara and rimu would have been logged from this forest in the past. There would have been kahikatea in the swampy areas before they were drained. Since the fencing was finished five years ago, I've noticed regrowth of taraire and pukatea. I have always supported the work of QEII and protecting this special remnant will encourage the podocarps to regenerate as well.'



Photo: Supplied by Edith Whittaker



Photo: Lynda Fleming

Left: Lynda Fleming, QEII South Auckland Regional Representative, and Owen Lewis, New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust, join Edith Whittaker at a celebration to mark her new QEII covenant.

Right: The canopy in Edith's covenant is dominated by puriri and taraire along with tawa, kahikatea, totara, miro and rimu.

Nelson City gully significant for totara and kahikatea regeneration

A podocarp-broadleaf forest remnant protected with a 0.73ha covenant in 2008 by **Michael North and Keryn Squires** is ecologically significant for totara and kahikatea regeneration in Nelson City. Lowland totara has been identified by Shannel Courtney at the Department of Conservation as being at risk of extinction in the Nelson City Council area due to regeneration failure. In the covenant, there is abundant totara regeneration with a full range of ages through to mature trees. The site is therefore of significance for the future survival of totara in the city.

Michael, an ecologist, surveyed 74 sites for the council's Significant Natural Areas (SNA) programme. Forest with a significant kahikatea canopy presence was noted at only five sites, none of which was gully forest. In the covenant, which was not included in the survey, there are five large kahikatea along with prolific young regeneration.



This totara regenerated after the clearance of the original forest, developing multiple stems as there is no competition for light in the open habitat.



All photos: Michael North

Stock were removed from the covenant site 10 years ago. Under the canopy of totara, pukatea and kahikatea there is now lush regeneration of kawakawa with mahoe, kaikomako, totara and putaputaweta saplings.

Marlborough giants protected

Representative of the coastal forest that used to cover the hills at Waitaria Bay in the Marlborough Sounds before they were cleared for farming or timber, the 10ha Nowanden covenant was protected by **Pat and Helen Williams** in November 2008. The forest has a healthy range of species with hard beech on the spurs, some big rimu and matai that escaped the clearances, and broadleaved trees including tawa, pukatea and kamahi in the gullies.



All photos: Tom Stein

Pat Williams named this rimu Te tahi ora (the lucky one) as it was fortunate to survive the logging.



Rimu emerging in the forest will eventually replace the logged podocarps. Western weka are common in the covenant.

Focus on our big podocarps

Banker suggests saving Southland landscape feature

Podocarp-broadleaf forest once covered the Southland Plains. Now only scattered patches remain. **Owen and Dorothy Horton** have protected two remnants on their intensive sheep farm north-east of Invercargill. Their first 2.2ha covenant on the Makarewa River flats was put in place in 1989. Owen says the oldest kahikatea and matai were destroyed in the big frost of 1996. 'The frost took the tops out of them,' he explains. 'However, small shrubs and trees are now coming up.'

The new 0.9ha covenant was registered in February 2009. 'When I was purchasing more land in the 1980s, I looked over the bush with my bank manager,' says Owen. 'I mentioned clearing it and he said I'd be better off leaving it as it was. So we've called it Bank Manager's Bush.'



Owen Horton with Bank Manager's Bush beyond. Gay Munro, QEII Southland Regional Representative, says one thing that stands out is the evenness and health of the kahikatea stand, estimated at about 150 years old.



The kahikatea canopy and pittosporum understorey are now safeguarded forever by the QEII covenant.



Totara *Podocarpus totara*
Stringy red-brown bark. Round red berries.



Matai (black pine) *Prumnopitys taxifolia*
Hammer-marked bark that flakes off in chunks leaving red scars. Straight leaves with whitish undersides. Blue-black seeds.



Kahikatea (white pine) *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*
Grey bark, large buttressed roots. Round orange berry with black foot.

Rimu (red pine) *Dacrydium cupressinum*
Dark brown bark which scales off in large flakes leaving a contoured pattern. Red-orange berry with the same colour foot.



Miro (brown pine) *Prumnopitys ferruginea*
Bark is similar to matai but the hammer-mark is not as distinct. Curved leaves with green undersides. Large red fleshy seeds.

Landmark trees in Kaikoura

A variable term covenant called *Life of the Trees* can be put in place where individual trees occur in a situation where they may not be self-generating. North of Kaikoura near Hapuku Reserve, **Kathy Thompson and Michael Coates** protected two totara with a *Life of the Trees* covenant in October 2008. They also protected a 0.5ha remnant of podocarp-broadleaf forest adjoining the reserve with an open space covenant in perpetuity.

Kathy says the totara form a prominent feature in the view towards the sea from their home. 'Miles Giller, the QEII North Canterbury Regional Representative, explained the covenanting process to us and what is involved in having a covenant,' she recalls. 'We love having birds like tui, kereru and the occasional falcon around. It made sense to protect the trees and the piece of bush so no-one can clear them in the future.'



These two totara on SH1 just south of the Hapuku River Bridge form a fine landmark. The protection for their lifetime is significant as few podocarps are now visible along SH1 in Canterbury and Marlborough.

For more about our Big Five podocarps, see *Nature Guide to the New Zealand Forest*, John Dawson and Rob Lucas, reprinted 2007.

Partnerships between farmers, councils and QEII help to protect waterways as well as bush remnants

Protecting natural features with QEII covenants makes good farm management sense. When covenanting an area, fencing is usually required to exclude stock from the protected vegetation. This prevents animals trampling the land and allows native vegetation to regenerate.

When covenants are alongside streams, an added benefit resulting from the fencing is the improvement of water quality in catchment areas.

Excluding stock reduces the likelihood of banks collapsing and adding silt to the channels. Pollution is controlled as the vegetation intercepts sediment and nutrient runoff from adjacent paddocks. Direct fouling of water by stock is also prevented.

Landowners who protect bush or wetlands on their farms with covenants may be eligible for assistance from QEII for partial fencing costs. Councils may also contribute to fencing.

Farmers in Taranaki and Hawke's Bay explain why they have retired land alongside waterways and protected the areas with QEII covenants.



Photo: Marie Taylor. Inset: Mark Dean

On Raumati, Kynan and Nicola Thomsen's farm at Patoka north-west of Napier, the fencing along this deep kanuka gully excludes stock from the gorge, helping to improve the water quality in the Wai-iti Stream catchment.

Taranaki: Stabilising the banks of the Waikoukou Stream

South of Takapau, **Murray Alderson** protected a black beech and kowhai-tarata forest remnant along the steeply incised Waikoukou Stream with a 4.6ha covenant in November 2008. Beech occurs in Puketoi Ecological District only very locally on the steep sides of streams in the northern corner of the district.

Bill Wallace, QEII Taranaki Regional Representative, says forest remnants along the Waikoukou and Waikopiro Streams and the upper Manawatu River are the only indigenous habitat left in the area. 'As well as helping to improve the water quality, these remnants form excellent corridors for birdlife including kereru, tui and bellbirds,' he explains.

Murray is a keen trumper and loves the bush. 'This forest is now preserved forever,' he says. 'It will continue to provide food for the birds as they go from one area to another and will help to encourage even more birdlife.'



Right: To complete the fencing around the long narrow black beech remnant, this 8-wire (2 electric) fence was constructed with contributions from Horizons Regional Council, QEII and the landowner.

Revegetation planting and natural regeneration will help to stabilise the steep sides of the stream.

Left: Murray Alderson by Waikoukou Stream which flows through the centre of the QEII covenant on his 220ha sheep and beef farm.



All Photos: Bill Wallace

Tararua: Maintaining the excellent health of Makatote Stream

On her remote 800ha sheep and beef farm near Mara south-east of Pongaroa, **Janette Walker** protected a significant block of regenerating kanuka forest with a 36ha covenant in July 2008.

With a prominent greywacke razorback ridge descending to the Makatote Stream, the covenant is adjacent to a larger area of forest on Owahanga Station.

Janette says there are a number of benefits in protecting the block. 'There are eels and freshwater flounder in the stream,' she explains. 'Retiring the land will keep it healthy.'

'The area was difficult to muster. I couldn't have fenced it myself so the contributions from QEII and the Greater Wellington Regional Council helped with retiring this unprofitable piece of land.'

'The berries on the totara and karaka and kowhai and rewarewa flowers draw lots of kereru, tui and bellbirds which is a highlight for me.'

'And then the back corner of the block is on the boundary with the reserve so it really made sense to protect it.'

Fencing the steep hill country block had its challenges. Janette's organisational skills were a major factor in doing the job in the most economical way possible.

'The fencer used a bulldozer with a rammer on it as it couldn't have been done any other way,' says Janette. 'The fence is over two kilometres long and it took nearly seventy hours of bulldozing to do the work. Dynamite was also used in a couple of places to blow the tops.'

'All the materials were put onto numbered pallets,' she says. 'A helicopter then dropped them off at specified points along the line. It took only two hours to do this whereas it would have been almost impossible to take the materials in by bike.'

Once an approved covenant is fenced, the area needs to be surveyed before a covenant can be registered on the title to the land. Terry James from The Surveying Company in Hawke's Bay surveyed Janette's covenant.

'The steepness was a challenge,' says Terry. 'There were lots of high points along the line and I had to climb a bit like a mountain goat.'

'It's almost impossible to put a fence line in such difficult country and it's a credit to Janette's co-ordination that this one was built so well. Having the lines cleared with a bulldozer does make it easier for us.'

'As well as enjoying farmers' hospitality such as Janette's fantastic scones, we certainly see the best of everything when we are out in such remote country surveying covenants for QEII.'

Right: Monitoring by the Greater Wellington Regional Council shows streams in this area have excellent water quality and ecosystem health resulting from the low intensity farming and significant kanuka and forest cover.



Middle: Janette Walker by the new 8-wire post and batten fence constructed with contributions from the Greater Wellington Regional Council, QEII and the landowner.

Bottom: With Janette Walker's covenant in place, this steep country along the Makatote Stream has now been retired which will help to maintain the health of the stream.

All Photos: Bill Wallace

Hawke's Bay: Extending the network of protected water catchments at Patoka

A deeply incised stream system that makes up the headwaters of the Wai-iti Stream at Patoka north-west of Napier was protected with the 49ha Gorges Bush covenant by **John Kamp** in August 2008.

In this remarkable limestone landscape of bluffs, stalagmites, stalactites and columns, there were major practical and financial issues to consider before fencing the long finger-like gullies.

As excluding stock would improve downstream water quality, preserve significant remnant vegetation along the waterways and reduce the risk of bank erosion, fencing the covenant was considered worthwhile.

The cost of constructing the new fencing and refurbishing existing fences, a total of over 10km in length, was funded by QEII, the Biodiversity Condition Fund, Hawke's

Bay Regional Council and the landowner. With the exceptionally complicated boundaries, the survey comprised over 200 separate lines.

John says the covenant is a terrific win-win as the gullies were difficult to farm. 'Marie Taylor, the QEII Hawke's Bay Regional Representative at the time, was fantastic with pushing the project along and getting funding for the fencing,' he explains.

'The fencing has taken out the obstacles, allowing the farm to be reorganised and it's now more efficient to manage.

'Being able to direct energy into the more productive land has made the place.'

The Gorges Bush covenant is now owned by John's neighbours, **Kynan and Nicola Thomsen**, who have two other covenants in the same catchment. The first 49ha covenant was originally put in place by **Michael and Helen Halliday** in 1992. To increase the area under protection, another covenant was approved in 2008.

Kynan also believes covenanting is a win-win. 'It adds value to the farm and the flora and fauna is protected,' he says. 'Managing the stock is easier and they are safe with the gullies fenced off.

'We really appreciate the work Marie and QEII did to get this gorge network protected.'



Photo: Marie Taylor. Inset: Troy Duncan

Above: The gully system protected by the Gorges Bush covenant is now fully fenced, mainly with 8-9 wire fences (1-3 electric wires depending on the location).

Right: On Raumati, their property near Patoka, the Thomsens recently upgraded the fencing along the kanuka gully that has been protected with a QEII covenant since 1992.



Photo: Courtesy of Country-Wide

John Kamp beside the spectacular Gorges Bush covenant. Rewarewa and putaputaweta (marble leaf) forest is regenerating in the gully heads.



Photo: Mark Dean

For more about other inspired landowners protecting water catchments at Patoka, see *Open Space* Issue 62, November 2004 or visit [www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant Stories](http://www.openspace.org.nz/Covenants/Covenant%20Stories)

Shingle beaches: Significant rare ecosystems

An update from the Landcare Research *Sustaining and restoring biodiversity programme* funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology.



Landcare Research
Manaaki Whenua

New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity is often concentrated in ecosystems that are historically rare. Ecosystems such as ephemeral wetlands, bluffs, karst, geothermal vents and coastal turfs, may collectively contain half of our nationally threatened plant species. Unfortunately, many historically rare ecosystems are poorly understood, and at the same time are small and vulnerable and often highly threatened.

Maintaining threatened rare ecosystems is an eight-year research programme led by Susan Wisser from Landcare Research. In New Zealand, there is a diverse array of small, rare ecosystems that tend to occur in extreme, typically treeless, environments. They have been rare since before humans arrived, which is the rationale for the term *historically rare* (also known as *originally rare* or *naturally rare*).

The objectives of the research are to identify historically rare ecosystems nationally, describe their flora and fauna, determine major threats, and develop a framework to ensure their effective conservation management.

Susan says the first goal for the researchers was to identify historically rare ecosystems in New Zealand. 'This resulted in a structured list that defines 72 types,' Susan explains. 'We then selected four systems to look at more intensively. These are shingle beaches, gumlands in Northland, granite sand plains, and granite gravel fields.'

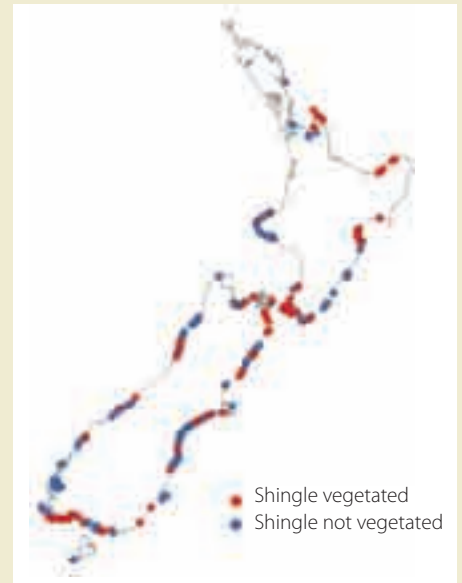
'Shingle beaches are widespread around New Zealand, had never been surveyed nationally for plants or invertebrates, are highly threatened by urbanisation, weeds, adjacent agriculture and introduced animals, and contain both threatened plants and fauna and endemic plants.'

Top: Rowan Buxton assessing gravel size on a sampling plot at Gore Bay in North Canterbury.

Shingle beaches: Geomorphology and ecology

Shingle beaches are a mixture of sand, water-smoothed gravel and cobbles. They occur where rivers deliver large quantities of shingle to the coast or where nearby coastal cliffs containing gravel are being eroded.

These beaches are particularly common on the east and south coasts, for example, between Christchurch and Dunedin. They also occur on the Taranaki and Wellington coasts. The highest-quality shingle beaches are in Fiordland.



Shore convolvulus *Calystegia soldanella* (left) and knobby club rush *Isolepis nodosa* (right) were the most frequent native plants found on shingle beaches.

All Photos: Susan Wisser



From left, rare plants observed on shingle beaches included *Raoulia* aff. *hookeri* (declining), *Euphorbia glauca* (declining) and *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides* (declining).

The research studied those shingle beaches where at least 50% of the top substrate was gravel and where vegetation was supported above the high tide line.

The researchers visited most of the shingle beaches around the country. 'We set up random sampling systems at 61 beaches,' says Susan. 'At each beach we recorded the plants, determined the nature of the substrate, focused on the characteristics of adjacent vegetation, and collected invertebrates.'

'Of the 463 plant species found, 50% were exotic. The most frequent exotics were the grass *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire fog), the perennial herbs *Hypochaeris radicata* (catsear) and *Plantago lanceolata* (narrow-leaved plantain), and the annual herbs *Sonchus oleraceus* (sow thistle) and *Anagallis arvensis* (pimpernel).

'Drier, warmer sites with more gravel than sand had more exotics, whereas the rare native species were found in all geographic areas but not on the most gravelly sites.'

Susan adds that there were several notable finds in the many hundreds of invertebrate specimens collected. 'The rare egg-laying velvet worm (peripatus) *Ooperipatellus viridimaculatus* was discovered on one of the few shingle beaches on the West Coast of the South Island. Additionally, several specimens of *Maaminga marrisi*, one of only two endemic species belonging to the newly discovered wasp family, Maamingidae, were found at two shingle

beach sites. The exotic ant, *Hypoponera confinis*, is new to New Zealand and is known only from one shingle beach locality.

'There is now a need to explore the relationships between shingle beaches and other communities such as coastal turfs,' explains Susan. 'A lot of these systems are interrelated but we don't know how the relationships work. For example, *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides* is found in riverbeds and behind dunes as well as on shingle beaches. Finding out the affinities between the systems will give us a better understanding of them.'

Threats to shingle beaches

Shingle beaches are prone to invasion by numerous exotic herbs, grasses and shrubs, especially when near urban or agricultural areas.

'A lot of the sites are incredibly weedy,' says Susan. 'Lupin and gorse are major invaders and near settlements, garden plants including gazanias, South African ice plants and succulents are encroaching. On drier east coast beaches such as those at Kaikoura, *Centranthus ruber* (red valerian) will easily take off.'

'One aspect we need to explore is how weeds change the structure of the ecosystems. The native species produce little leaf litter but the invasive species produce a lot more which stabilises the

systems. By understanding the distribution and abundance of exotics and how they change the ecosystems, we can work out which sites can be restored and which ones are lost.'

Other threats to shingle beaches are 4WD vehicles damaging the vegetation and the impact of rabbits and hares. Coastal development is an ongoing threat.

Covenants help to retain rare coastal ecosystems

With the rapid rise in coastal development, covenanting can help to preserve New Zealand's rare shingle beaches. 'These areas have a unique combination of species,' says Susan. 'Protecting coastal ecosystems saves them from development and the weed and pest control associated with covenanting helps to retain our distinctive biodiversity.'

'Such small and vulnerable areas are an ideal focus for local conservation management. Private landowners can protect natural features on land they own adjacent to the coast with QEII covenants. Protecting the land between a beach and a cultivated area would act as a buffer, allowing us to continue to appreciate these rare systems.'

For more details of the research visit <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/ecosystems/rare/>

Covenants on the coast

Coastal ecosystems typically occur within 100–200m of the shoreline. Their flora and fauna and physical environments are strongly influenced by salt, wind and exposure. These ecosystems are at risk of being severely degraded by human activities and feral animals, resulting in weed invasion and erosion. Coastal development remains an ongoing threat.

Sand dunes, dune hollows, shell barrier beaches, coastal turfs, coastal cliffs and saltmarsh and estuarine areas are just some of the coastal ecosystems protected by QEII covenants. These four recently registered covenants reflect the wide array of biodiversity and landscapes that open space covenants help to preserve.

Restoring sand dunes in the Far North

Coastal sand dunes are one of New Zealand's most endangered habitats. Most of our dune systems have been modified by coastal development, vehicles and foot traffic, grazing animals and pests, and the invasion of weeds. Introduced plants including marram grass, lupins and gorse have replaced native sand-binding plants such as pingao.

On the Karikari Peninsula north-east of Kaitaia, a foredune and a block of manuka shrubland were protected by **MBR Developments Limited** with an 18.5ha covenant in November 2008. A revegetation project is transforming the degraded coastal landscape back to what it may have been like originally. Julia Best, a planning consultant for the site, says 28,000 native plants are being planted this year.

'The site was covered with gorse and tobacco weed so we started with a blank slate,' she explains. 'We retained the manuka and kanuka that was there and started a nursery employing three people from the local iwi to supply eco-sourced plants including pohutukawa, flaxes, karo, sedges, toetoe and cabbage trees.

'Along the foreshore there is a geranium infestation and we are clearing that to allow native species to re-establish. Our aims are to protect every area on the site that isn't a subdivided lot so that there can be no further development and to recreate the native vegetation to attract native birds back to the area.'



Photo: Greg Blunden

Above left: The regenerating shrubland and foreshore covenant at Karikari with Mt Puheke in the background.

Above right: Clearing invasive species from the foredune will help to restore the habitat for native vegetation such as sand daphne *Pimelea arenaria* (declining). Endemic to the North Island and the Chatham Islands, this plant has two distinct forms, one of which is restricted to Northland.

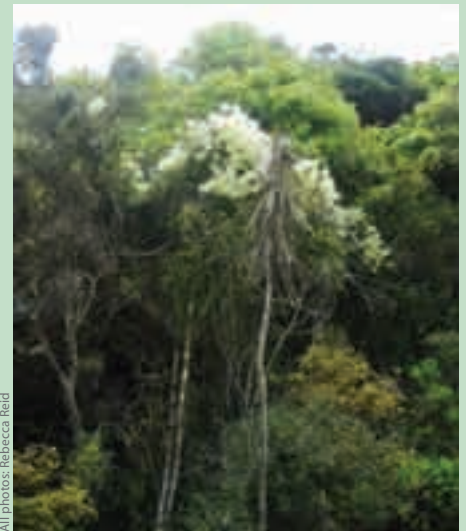
It is threatened by competition from marram grass, browsing and trampling by animals, browsing of seedlings by possums, seed destruction by rodents, vehicle damage and fire.



Uncommon coastal forest in South Otago



South of Taieri Mouth, **Peter and Jeanine Basquin** protected a coastal forest remnant bordering Akatore Creek with a 6.4ha covenant in 2006. The forest extends right to the tidal area with clear transition zones from dense dry shrub to lacebark-podocarp forest to a variety of small-leaved plants along the estuary margin.



All photos: Rebecca Reid

A number of rare species are protected by the covenant including *Coprosma obconica* (declining), *Melicytus flexuosus* (declining), fragrant tree daisy *Olearia fragrantissima* (declining), and fierce lancewood *Pseudopanax ferox* (naturally uncommon). The native *Clematis foetida* and mistletoes *Ileostylus micranthus* and *Korthalsella lindsayi* also feature. Reflecting the interesting flora, a wide variety of native moth species inhabit the forest.



Photo: Neil Phillips



Photo: Barry Hartley

Taranaki community protects grey-faced petrel breeding site

Rats, cats, stoats and ferrets have destroyed most mainland colonies of grey-faced petrels. In Taranaki, the birds survive on offshore islands and at several small sites on the northern coast. On coastal cliffs near Tongaporutu north of New Plymouth, an Xcluder predator proof fence was built around a grey-faced petrel breeding site in 2003 with funding from Shell (Petroleum Mining Company) Ltd. In 2007, the landowners, **Evan Lobb and Emma O'Sullivan**, protected the area with the 1.5ha Rapanui covenant.

The Rapanui Grey-Faced Petrel Trust assists with the management, conservation and monitoring of the petrel colony. With funding from Taranaki Regional Council, Taranaki Tree Trust and the Biodiversity Condition Fund, the Trust has trapped predators, planted native species and undertaken weed control.

Margaret Molloy, Chairperson of the Trust, says funding has just been obtained from the TSB Community Trust to construct a boardwalk from the gate to the lookout point. 'This will protect the burrows from trampling,' she explains. 'We are also slowly replacing the exotic vegetation with native coastal plants such as the threatened *Hebe speciosa*.'

Hugh Cargill has been involved with Rapanui since his days with Shell, collecting eco-sourced seed for growing on and then planting out the native species in the covenant. Hugh and his partner Sally Hikaka have their own covenant protecting a 1.7ha semi-coastal kohekohe forest remnant near Oakura.

'It's very rewarding all round being involved with these projects,' says Hugh. 'It's been a great experience getting support from QEII and working with Neil Phillips, the QEII Taranaki Regional Representative.'

Protecting coastal areas

With unique and often rare biodiversity, coastal areas on private land, no matter what the size, are high value prospects for protecting with QEII covenants.

See page 31 to find out how to protect your special area or visit www.openspace.org.nz



Photos: Hugh Cargill

Above left: Surrounded by a predator proof fence, the Rapanui covenant on the northern Taranaki coast protects grey-faced petrels from predators.

Above right: A grey-faced petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* on the ground after landing near its burrow after dark. Barry Hartley, representing the Ornithological Society on the Rapanui Grey-Faced Petrel Trust, says it's mind-blowing watching the birds land at night.

Above: By late 2007, native species planted in the Rapanui covenant were establishing well in the once heavily grazed area. Inset: Volunteers from Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd planting inside the predator proof fence in July 2003.

Coastal cliff faces and karaka grove in the Wairarapa

Small pockets of karaka are scattered along the Wairarapa coast. Food sources for Māori, these groves were usually planted around camp sites or pā.

On the 670ha Hiwikirikiri Station at Tora, a karaka grove and coastal cliff faces were

protected with a 13ha covenant by the **Hiwi Trust** in 2008. The steep hill slopes have typical coastal plant associations including flax and *Muehlenbeckia complexa*.

'The grove is a relatively small area but it's an opportunity to start the process of getting pockets of revegetated areas protected,' says Doug Harris, a spokesperson for the Hiwi Trust.

'Once the karaka was fenced off there was an immediate response with seedlings regenerating. We will use the seedlings to revegetate and extend the grove.'



Photo: Trevor Thompson

Ballance Farm Environment Awards: Promoting Sustainable Profitable Farming

With an overall objective of promoting sustainable land management on farms, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards find and celebrate role models who show how an environmentally sensitive approach can be part of a profitable farm business and who can inspire and motivate others by example. We congratulate these winning QEII covenantors.



Photo: Elaine Fisher and Bay of Plenty BFE Awards

Long term covenantors

Godfrey and Margaret Mackersey, winners of an Environment Bay of Plenty Environmental Award, have protected more than 100ha of primary forest with covenants on their 250ha sheep, cattle and deer farm at Whakamarama west of Tauranga. Their first covenant was registered in 1984. Environment Bay of Plenty is contributing to the costs of fencing off the bush and weed and pest control.

Godfrey Mackersey with forest protected by a covenant. Tawa and rewarewa dominate the canopy with scattered rimu, mangeao, pigeonwood, puriri and pukatea.

Carrying on grandfather's vision for the land

Neil Heather, a third generation farmer on the family's 320ha sheep and beef farm on the slopes of Mt Ngongotaha near Rotorua, won an Environment Bay of Plenty Environmental Award for his custodianship of the land and waterways. Neil's grandfather was a great tree planter and Neil is carrying on his vision by planting hundreds of trees. A covenant has also been approved on a block of



Photo: Stephen Hall, Inset: Bay of Plenty BFE Awards

lowland forest on the farm.

Adjoining the Mt Ngongotaha Scenic Reserve, the approved covenant has a canopy of tawa, rewarewa, rimu, kahikatea and totara. Inset: Neil Heather.

Early adopters of environmental programmes

Matata sheep and beef farmers, **Paul and Louise Burt and John and Linda Burt**, won the Bay of Plenty New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust Habitat Improvement Award. Their 53ha covenant has protected a significant remnant of coastal forest since 1995. In partnership with Environment Bay of Plenty and QEII, steep gullies have been fenced to preserve the bush and to make stock management easier and safer.



Photo: Bay of Plenty BFE Awards, Inset: Paul Burt

Paul and John Burt on their farm. Inset: Bush in the covenant damaged by slips during the extreme 'weather bomb' in Matata in May 2005 is now regenerating.

Restoring waterways on dairy farm

Winners of the Waikato PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award, **Keith and Margaret Ormsby** have an approved covenant on four blocks of bush and a riparian area on their 250ha dairy farm on the foothills of Mt Pirongia. In a joint initiative with Environment Waikato to restore waterways, they planted 3,000 native plants last year with help from Ngutunui School students. 'We're going to plant another 3,000 this year,' says Keith.

Revegetation plantings along the Ongarara Stream in the approved open space covenant. Inset: Keith and Margaret Ormsby.



Photo: Malcolm Macdonald, Inset: Waikato BFE Awards

Retiring steep and erosion-prone land

On Holly Farm, their stud sheep property north of Marton in Rangitikei, **David, Maureen and Cameron Smith** won the Horizons Silver Fern Farms Livestock and the Gallagher Innovation Awards. The Smiths' first covenant in 1994 protected a 3ha remnant of titoki, tawa, rimu, kahikatea and rata. In keeping with their policy of retiring steeper and erosion-prone land, their second 13ha covenant protecting regenerating bush has just been registered.

Photo: John Williamson. Inset: Lawrie Cairns and Sinclair Knight Merz



The Smiths' second covenant protects this steep gully system. QEII, Horizons Regional Council and the landowners funded the new covenant fence.

Enhancing the environment and farming sustainably

At Conway Flat in North Canterbury, **Frank and Tim Wilding** have 70ha of semi-coastal forest remnants on their properties protected with covenants. Further covenants have been approved. **John Harrington** who manages the Te Mania Angus cattle stud, won the Canterbury New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust Habitat Improvement Award. The judges commented that Te Mania is an excellent example of integrating farming operations with protected native areas to reduce effects on the environment.

Photo: Miles Giller. Inset: Canterbury BFE Awards



This riparian podocarp-hardwood forest remnant is protected with a 2.2ha covenant on Te Mania. Inset: John Harrington, Tim Wilding and his father Frank Wilding.

Horizons Supreme Award

On Glenelg, their 231ha sheep, beef and deer farm at Pukeokahu east of Taihape, **Andy and Claire Law** won the Horizons Supreme Award for their farming approach that combines sustainability with a willingness to look outside established practice. 'They are passionate about what they are doing,' the judges noted. 'They have an overall enthusiasm for farming, the farming community and the rural way of life.'

The Laws protected a block of podocarp-broadleaf forest with a 24ha covenant in 2000. In a deep river gorge at an altitude of 625m, the remnant has a canopy of totara, kahikatea, miro, rimu, matai, mountain beech, tawa and titoki. Three years ago the Laws discovered earthstar fungi on the forest floor. They had not been found previously this far south or at this altitude.

Left: Andy and Claire Law with their family.

Below left: Kahikatea had a good fruiting season in 2009.

Below right: The canopy with numerous emergents in the Laws' QEII forest covenant.

Photo: Horizons BFE Awards



Photos: John Williamson



Award winners

Organic innovations on coastal sheep and beef farm

Winners of the Otago Regional Council Sustainable Resource Management and Gallagher Innovation Awards, **Bruce, Denise and Cara McGill** have two covenants on Te Taunga, their organic farm at Owaka in the Catlins. The judges were impressed with their innovative use of QEII covenants to protect water quality on the farm and the integration of the protected areas with Cara's horse trekking business. The McGills' farming approach featured on *Country Calendar* in April.



Photo: Rebecca Reid. Inset: Otago BFE Awards

Seven podocarp-broadleaf forest remnants and a wetland, a total of 61ha, are protected by the McGills' covenants. Inset: Cara, Bruce and Denise McGill. For more details about their farm visit www.catlinshorseriding.co.nz

Showcasing Landcorp's goal of sustainable agriculture

Winning the Southland New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust Habitat Improvement Award, **Landcorp's Eweburn Station** at Te Anau has been managed by **Ray Tibbles** since 1992. So far, ten covenants protect 300ha of wetlands, manuka shrubland and beech forest on the 3,869ha property. The judges noted this is the best example they have seen of a Landcorp farm manager buying into Landcorp's vision for sustainable farming. As a tribute to Ray, a 52ha covenant is named Tibbles Wetland.



Photo: Mark Sutton. Inset: Southland BFE

The Sue's Garden covenant protects 155ha of manuka shrubland and rushland on Eweburn Station. Inset: Ray Tibbles, Eweburn Station Manager.

For more on the winners of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, visit www.nzfeatrust.org.nz

Marlborough Environment Awards: Tui Nature Reserve

In the outer reaches of Pelorus Sound, the Plaisier family is setting an outstanding example of preserving native vegetation. When **Brian and Ellen Plaisier** purchased their property 15 years ago, the vegetation was devastated by possums, rats, pigs and stoats.

After years of intensive pest and weed control, the regenerating forest is now lush with native species including tawa, hinau, kohekohe, matai, rimu and beech and alive with birdlife.

Winning the Marlborough Habitat Enhancement and Supreme Awards, the Plaisiers are now enhancing their rat control programme with Biodiversity Condition Funding and a Marlborough District Council grant.

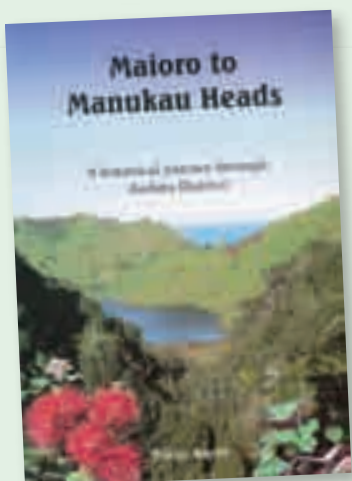
Top: Ellen, Liam, Leona and Brian Plaisier with baby Esmae. Their 37ha coastal forest covenant has been in place since 1998.

Right: Visitors enjoyed an open day at Tui Nature Reserve in May. For more about the Plaisiers' work visit www.tuinaturereserve.co.nz



All Photos: Tui Nature Reserve





Tricia Aspin, a Franklin covenantor, has produced *Maioiro to Manukau Heads*, an illustrated account of botanical life in the Awhitu District. Features local QEII covenants including Tricia and Wayne Aspin's wetlands. \$45 plus \$5.50 p&p. Send cheque to P A Aspin, 195 Hatton Rd, RD 4, Waiuku 2684. Phone: 09 235 1074 Email: aspin@ps.gen.nz

Kaikoura Biodiversity Bonanza

Together with Environment Canterbury and the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy, the Kaikoura District Council ran a biodiversity awareness event in March. On a visit to **Ken and Margaret Hamilton's** podocarp-hardwood covenant, **Miles Giller**, QEII Regional Representative, demonstrated how to identify different *Coprosma* species by touching leaf surfaces with the tip of the tongue.



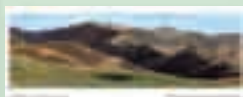
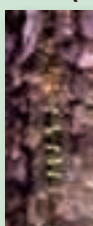
Things to buy

QEII Swandri® Vest

A high-quality merino wool vest, embroidered with the QEII logo.

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

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



QEII Greeting cards

Pack of 10 cards in two designs with envelopes. Inside of card is blank.

Price: \$30 including GST and postage

Property for sale with covenant

For more details of this property, visit www.openspace.org.nz

Ruapuke, south of Raglan, Waikato



24.7ha bush block protected by QEII covenant at Ruapuke, 10 kilometres west of Te Mata between Mt Kariori and the coast. Part of a deceased estate.

Contact Robyn Miles, Ellice Tanner Law Firm, phone 07 838 3333 or email robyn@ellicetanner.co.nz

ORDER FORM

Prices include GST and postage

Name _____

Address (for courier delivery) _____

Telephone _____

Please send a receipt

Vest size(s) _____ x \$165.00 each = \$ _____

Greeting cards (packs of 10 only) _____ x \$30/pack = \$ _____

Donation (optional) _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Method of payment Cheque MasterCard Visa

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Number: _____

Cardholder name _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____

Please post your order form to QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140 or fax to 04 472 5578 or phone 04 472 6626

Fencing Contractors Association NZ (FCANZ)



Phone 0508 4 FCANZ (0508 4 32269) www.fencingcontractors.co.nz

Recently registered covenants

A summary of covenants registered from 1 February to 31 May 2009

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Flynn & Weber	18.5	F	Far North
Shepherd	17.0	F	Far North
Adventure Specialties Trust	7.4	F,W	Whangarei
Gregson & Hewitt	3.3	A,F	Whangarei
Northland Fish and Game Council	53.1	F,W	Whangarei
Nyhuis	1.9	A,F	Whangarei
Clee	5.3	F,W	Rodney
H.I.S. Company Limited	8.3	F	Rodney
O'Connor	1.3	F	Franklin
Whittaker	0.8	F	Franklin
Rushforth & Maenulein	2.8	F	Thames-Coromandel
Brennan & Wren	4.0	F	Waipa
Taylor & Calvert	17.6	A,F	Waipa
Singh & Singh Lidher	5.6	F	Western Bay of Plenty
Dempsey	19.3	F	Ruapehu
Steele	119.1	F	Ruapehu
Burwell, Shearer & Koch	1.7	F	New Plymouth
Dobbs	2.4	F	New Plymouth
New Plymouth District Council	1.0	F	New Plymouth
Oakura Farms Limited	0.2	F	New Plymouth
Phillips	1.4	F,W	New Plymouth
Rumball	12.2	F	New Plymouth
Coull	0.2	F	Stratford
Harrison	2.0	R,W	Stratford
Jensen	0.8	A,T	Stratford
Moana Breeze Incorporation Limited	8.3	A,F,W	South Taranaki
Mourie	2.6	F	South Taranaki
Anderson	0.9	F	Wanganui
Gower	17.1	L,S	Tararua
J & G Bolton Limited	16.6	F,R,W	Tararua

Name	Area (ha)	Open space type	District Council
Johnston & Trafford	3.3	W	Tararua
Nicholson	0.02	T	Masterton
Nicholson	0.4	T	Carterton
The Shirt Farm Limited	11.9	F,S	Marlborough
Allen	10.1	F,R,S	Tasman
Fisher	16.0	F,S	Tasman
Ward	2.3	F,S	Tasman
Landcorp Farming Limited	38.3	F,R,S	Grey
Mayfair Gardens Limited	1.7	F	Westland
Johnston	20.6	F,L,W	Kaikoura
Millton Farming Company Limited	5.0	F,W	Kaikoura
Woodgrove Farm Limited (x2)	11.9	F,T	Kaikoura
Anderson	20.8	F,S	Hurunui
Hillview Enterprises Limited	20.4	F	Hurunui
McKnight	26.3	F,S	Hurunui
Fidler	1.6	F,S	Waimakariri
Crompton	0.6	S,Tu	Selwyn
Holmes	4.5	F,Ge	Selwyn
Cawood	2.8	T,W	Waimate
Parsons	252.5	G,S,T	Central Otago
Trevathan	4.0	C	Central Otago
Landcorp Farming Limited	8.4	Tu	Dunedin
Sutherland	8.9	F	Clutha
Ayers (x2)	17.7	F	Southland
Black Pine Farm Limited	5.7	F,R	Southland
Horton & Jordan	0.9	F	Southland
King	0.9	F	Southland
Landcorp Farming Limited (x16)	540.8	F,R,S,Tu,W	Southland
MacGillivray	6.0	F	Southland
Templeton	5.1	F	Southland
Yorke	25.9	F,S	Southland

- Key:**
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| A Archaeological feature | C Cushionfield | D Duneland |
| F Forest | Fl Flaxland | G Grassland |
| Ga Garden / arboretum | Ge Geological feature | L Landscape |
| P Predator-proof area | R Rushland | S Shrubland |
| T Treeland | Tu Tussockland | W Wetland |



Christine Hughes and John Thompson have worked hard over the past 14 years to restore their bush at Coatesville north-west of Albany. In October 2008, they protected their now healthy forest of kahikatea, rimu, kauri, puriri, nikau and kanuka with a 0.7ha covenant.

'The birdlife is a highlight with kereru, tui, grey warblers, fantails and kaka,' says Christine. 'It's a very special area and we're rapt it will now stay like this forever.' For more about this covenant, see *Guardians of the Green*, NZ House & Garden, June 2007 www.nzhouseandgarden.co.nz



Thirty kilometres north of Gisborne, three areas dominated by regenerating kanuka and manuka shrubland were protected with a 39ha covenant in December 2008 by **Kia Ora Station Limited**. In an area where less than 20 percent remains in indigenous cover, the primary forest in the gullies includes titoki, pukatea, mamaku and cabbage trees.

Collaboration protects natural and cultural values of Te Kohekohe Pā

Te Kohekohe Pā lies on a prominent, narrow ridge at the southern end of Lake Pokorua on Awhitu Peninsula in South Auckland. Along with six defensive units, each fortified with ditches, banks and steepened scarps, there are over eighty kumara pits including both rectangular, raised rim pits and bell shaped rua pits. The eastern side of the ridge is covered with kanuka, taraire, karaka and puriri.

In January 2009, **John and Julie McNamara** protected the 22ha forest remnant and pā site with their third QEII covenant. 'Covenanting helps with our stock management,' says John. 'The best way to protect the site was to fence it off. There was much consultation on the management plan with the Auckland Regional Council, Franklin District Council, Historic Places Trust, QEII and Ngāti Te Ata.

'We planned the exact line of the fencing together to avoid the kumara pits and other features. As we went over the site, we learnt how to recognise where people had lived and possible water storage areas. The construction of the fencing was monitored very closely by archaeologists.

'A light to medium grazing regime is part of the management plan,' explains John. 'From a farmer's point of view, we needed to demonstrate that we are grazing in a way that avoids damage. It's also important to maintain a dense sward to avoid erosion.'

Lynda Fleming, QEII South Auckland Regional Representative, adds that this is an excellent example of multiple agencies and stakeholders working together to protect both ecological and

archaeological features while still providing for continued farming use.

Left: Julie and John McNamara.



Te Kohekohe Pā stands out on the ridgeline. A rangatira, while making his way from Taranaki to Kaipara, led his party via the Waiuku-Awaroa portage and camped near this site for several months under large kohekohe trees. The memory of their stay is perpetuated in the name of the pā.

All Photos: Lynda Fleming

Kāinga discovered in South Waikato along with threatened parasitic plant

Previously unmapped *Dactylanthus taylorii* have been discovered by Paul Cashmore from DOC and volunteer John Hobbs in the **NZ Forest Products Limited** 84ha Maroa Hill Bush covenant at Atiamuri south-east of Tokoroa. Hancock Forest Management looks after the covenant and with Biodiversity Condition Funding has placed fifty cages through the bush to protect the plants from browsing possums.

During the field work, a Māori kāinga (habitation site) with several rua pits was found. This site is now recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association database.



Dactylanthus taylorii (nationally vulnerable) is New Zealand's only fully parasitic flowering plant. Here wasps feed on the nectar of a male flower in the covenant. For more about this plant, visit <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-plants/dactylanthus/>



All Photos: Robin Black

'Protecting the *Dactylanthus taylorii* with cages is a good combined project between DOC, the Biodiversity Condition Fund, QEII and Hancock,' says Paul Cashmore from the DOC Bay of Plenty Conservancy.

For advice on the best management and protection for a particular archaeological site, please contact the Historic Places Trust or visit www.historic.org.nz



The Penguin Field Guide to New Zealand Archaeology is a comprehensive guide to more than 200 archaeological sites. For each site, details include points of interest, access details, walking routes and how to appreciate the archaeological features. To purchase, contact the author, Kevin Jones. \$45 including post and packing. Payment by cheque or bank transfer. Email: kljarchaeologist@paradise.net.nz

QEII National Trust – Board of Directors

QEII National Trust is a statutory organisation independent from Government whose core activity is to secure long term protection of natural and cultural features on private land. The Trust is managed by a Board of Directors. Four directors, including the Chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of Conservation, and two are elected by QEII Trust members.

The role of the Board is to add value to QEII through best practice governance based upon a clear view of the Trust's purpose and strategy, effective management accountability and risk management. Previous governance experience is beneficial.



Photo: Greg Martin

QEII Trust Board Meeting, Raglan, March 2009. From left: James Hunter, Director; Bernard Card, Director; Margaret McKee, Chief Executive; Sir Brian Lochore, Chairperson; Edward Ellison, Director; Yvonne Sharp, Director; and Jo Ritchie, Director.

Assessing a proposed covenant



Photo: Maitland Manning

Landowner Marion Boatwright discusses a proposed 38ha primary forest covenant on the Mokihinui River north of Westport with Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson.

Maintaining the perpetual trustee role



Photo: Maitland Manning

QEII maintains the perpetual trustee role for registered covenants. In March 2009, QEII directors and staff visited the Aotea Farms covenant overlooking Raglan that has protected a coastal forest remnant since 1988.

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Appointments to the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust – a public invitation to interested agencies and organisations from Hon Tim Groser, Minister of Conservation.

The terms of appointment of Sir Brian Lochore, chairperson, and Yvonne Sharp, director, of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Board expire on 31 August 2009. They are eligible for reappointment and it is my intention to reappoint Sir Brian for a further two years and Yvonne for a further three years.

If any interested agency or organisation wishes to nominate other persons they consider suitable for appointment instead of Sir Brian or Yvonne could they please advise me in writing no later than 10 August 2009 and I will give those nominations due consideration before making my final decision.

In making appointments to the Board I have to have due regard to environmental and conservation values, the interests of rural landowners and the interests of the Māori community.

The other directors of the Board and their terms of appointments are:

Bernard Card (Ministerial appointee)	term expires 27 June 2010
Edward Ellison (Ministerial appointee)	term expires 27 June 2010
James Hunter (elected by Trust membership)	term expires 31 March 2010
Jo Ritchie (elected by Trust membership)	term expires 31 March 2010

Tim Groser, Minister of Conservation

Dated this 17th day of June 2009

Forthcoming election for QEII directors

Preliminary notice is given that QEII Trust members will have the opportunity to vote for two directors for a three year term, effective 1 April 2010. Nominations will be called in November 2009, voting papers distributed in January 2010 and voting will close in March 2010. Financial members intending to vote must ensure subscriptions are paid by 31 December 2009.

QEII Athol Patterson Bursary

As a result of a generous bequest to QEII from the Estate of Professor Athol Patterson, a bursary has been set up to support students at Massey University interested in sustainable farming practices. Professor Patterson was a doctor of tropical medicines and taught in various universities around the world before retiring to Waverley where he had two small dairy farms.

The bursary is called the **QEII Athol Patterson Bursary** and will be awarded annually. The value of the bursary will be \$2,000 each year, and it will be awarded in May. For full details of the bursary and to download an application form visit www.openspace.org.nz or email K.Harrington@massey.ac.nz. Applications cannot be accepted before 10 December 2009.



To make a bequest

When making your will, it is easy to include a bequest to QEII. Please talk about this when preparing your will with your solicitor or other adviser. To discuss any aspect of contributing to QEII by bequest or gift, please contact CEO Margaret McKee on 04 472 6626 or from outside Wellington 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 367), or email mmckee@openspace.org.nz

Below: In March, QEII directors, trustees of Professor Patterson's estate and his relatives marked the handing-over of his bequest in Wanganui. 'It's generosity like this that benefits the protection of our open space for all New Zealanders,' acknowledged Sir Brian Lochore. From left: Bernard Card, QEII Director; Margaret McKee, QEII Chief Executive; Sir Brian Lochore, QEII Chairperson; Christine Ralph, Prof. Patterson's niece; Lindsay Dunn, Prof. Patterson's nephew; Bill Hone; Glenn Brown and Paul Coe.



New Regional Representative Wellington

Peter Ettema grew up on a dairy farm in the Manawatu. He has worked for the Livestock Improvement Corporation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Conservation. He also spent a number of years in Tanzania and Bougainville with Volunteer Service Abroad. For the past two years, Peter has been a fulltime stay-at-home dad looking after his son, Theo. He enjoys getting out and about in the outdoors, hunting and fishing.

Celebration of restoration at Sherwood Forest in Southland

Biodiversity Southland, a group focused on protecting Southland's natural heritage values, has undertaken a range of management work at Sherwood Forest at Tussock Creek north-east of Invercargill since 2003. Funded by the Biodiversity Condition Fund, the work includes weed and pest control and revegetation plantings. Protected with a 34ha QEII covenant in 1991 by **Pat and the late Derek Turnbull**, the matai-dominated forest is a nationally significant ecosystem. A kowhai and ribbonwood riparian forest area in the covenant contains a number of threatened plant species including the nationally endangered *Olearia hectorii*.

At a gathering in April 2009 in Sherwood Forest, guests including local covenants celebrated the progress made with the restoration over the last six years. A *Friends of Sherwood Forest* group was also launched to enable people to assist in the long term management of the Turnbulls' special area.



From left: Gay Munro, QEII Southland Regional Representative, Stuart Collie, Environment Southland Chairperson, and Frana Cardno, Southland District Council Mayor, planting a matai in honour of the late Derek Turnbull.

Gay Munro has now retired from the position of QEII Regional Representative, having given 12 years of wonderful service in helping Southland landowners to protect special areas with open space covenants. With two peatland covenants south-east of Invercargill at Gorge Road and Mototua,

Gay and her husband Ron will continue to have links with QEII.

The new Southland Regional Representative is **Graeme Watson**, phone 03 230 4843, email gwatson@openspace.org.nz

QEII Trust: Help us to protect our natural features

Protecting natural features helps New Zealand

- Many of our plants, animals and landscapes are unique to New Zealand. This 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.
- New Zealand has a network of publicly owned conservation areas. However, 70% of land is in private ownership. Many habitats and features are found only on privately owned land and can be protected only with the goodwill and action of landowners.

Practical land management and farm productivity

- Many farmers protect natural features because it makes good land management sense.
- Bush and wetlands help to 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 allows regeneration of bush, helps to protect stream banks and water quality, and keeps stock out of hard to manage areas.
- Healthy bush and natural landscapes beautify and add economic value to farm properties.

Join QEII National Trust Membership – an ideal gift

QEII is always in need of greater financial and moral support for its work. You can help by becoming a QEII Trust member.

Your benefits as a QEII Trust member

- Three issues of *Open Space*[™] magazine a year.
- Free or discounted entrance to properties owned or administered by 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 and National Trust for Zimbabwe.
- Entitlement to nominate and vote two members onto the QEII National Trust Board of Directors.

Financial members must have a residential address in New Zealand. QEII covenantors automatically become members.

To join QEII Trust: post the membership application to QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington 6140, email info@openspace.org.nz or phone 04 472 6626, or from outside Wellington 0800 4 OPENSACE (0800 467 367).

QEII National Trust Membership Application

Title Name

Address

Postcode Phone (0) Email

Membership Type (please tick)

Individual \$30 Family \$45 Life \$550

Corporate – business \$75

Corporate – non profit organisation \$50

Subscriptions include GST. Financial members must have a residential address in New Zealand.

Donation (optional)

Donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible.

\$100 \$50 \$20 Other \$

Method of payment Cheque MasterCard Visa

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Number:

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Cardholder name Expiry date Signature

Total \$ Please send a receipt

For direct debit option, please email info@openspace.org.nz

Please send me more information on:

Making a bequest to QEII Open Space Covenants

Gift Membership

Gift to: Name & address

Send next year's gift renewal to me or to the recipient

Membership runs from 1 July to 30 June. New memberships after 31 March will come due for renewal 30 June the following year.

QEII Trust: Helping you protect the special nature of your land

What is a QEII open space covenant?

A covenant is a legally binding protection agreement which is registered on the title to the land. It is voluntary but once in place binds the current and all subsequent landowners.

Private property rights are not jeopardised – the landowner retains ownership and management of the land. Visitor access is available only with the landowner's prior permission.

Each covenant is unique. It can apply to the whole property or just part of the property. There can be different management areas within a covenant with varying applicable conditions. Conditions can be stringent where rare or vulnerable natural features or habitats are being protected.

Open space covenants are generally in perpetuity although there are variable term covenants. These include **Kawenata** on Māori land which recognises tino rangatiratanga, and **Life of the Trees** where individual trees occur in a situation where they may not be self-generating. **Landscape protection agreements** are used where the land does not have title such as roadside areas.

Summary – 31 May 2009

Protected open space	Number	Hectares
Registered covenants	3,135	90,089
Approved covenants	537	18,731
Formal agreements	26	687
Total	3,698	109,507

Managing a QEII open space covenant

QEII helps landowners with ongoing management advice and support. A management plan may be prepared with the landowner when a covenant is established, which sets out ongoing management objectives and provides guidance on aspects such as species management, pest control and restoration methods.

Each covenant is visited regularly (usually every two years) to monitor its condition and trends, identify and address any threats, and advise the owner about how to meet the covenant objectives.

How to covenant your special area

To protect a special area on your property, these steps are typically needed to gain a QEII open space covenant.

- **Enquiry** Ask your region's QEII representative (see page 2) to visit your property.
- **Evaluation** The QEII representative will evaluate your special area against a wide range of criteria including ecological and biodiversity value, naturalness, sustainability, existing or potential value as an ecological corridor, wildlife, geological features, landscape values, cultural and heritage values. There will also be practical considerations including management needs, threats to site values, your motivation and potential sources of funding.

- **Approval** The QEII Trust Board will consider the evaluation, and approve the covenant if it meets the criteria. You will then be asked to sign a covenant agreement.
- **Fencing** If required, the covenant will have to be fenced next.
- **Survey** An accurate survey plan or aerial photodiagram of the covenant area will be prepared, which you will need to check and sign.
- **Registration** The covenant will then be formally registered on the title to your land with Land Information New Zealand. QEII will lodge all the necessary documentation.

Funding assistance

Your QEII open space covenant may be non-rateable. See *QEII Covenants and Local Government Rates – Best Practice Recommendation* under *Resources/Publications* on www.openspace.org.nz

You may also be eligible for assistance with funding for items such as fencing, weed and pest control, and restoration planting. Your QEII representative will be able to advise you about possible funding sources.

Below: Yellow mistletoe *Alepis flavida* berries on host beech trees in Jenny Nicholson's covenant in eastern Wairarapa. See page 8 for more about the mistletoe restoration project being managed in this covenant.



Photo: Trevor Thompson

From the mountains to the sea

Bringing back birdlife to the east coast of Coromandel Peninsula

A coastal forest sequence from sea level to 500m at Port Charles on the Coromandel Peninsula is protected by neighbouring covenants. **Bruce and Anne Clegg's** 255ha Tangiaro Valley covenant and **Lettecia Williams and Diane Prince's** 159ha covenant connect to an approved covenant and an area with a Thames-Coromandel District Council covenant. With the second highest population density of North Island brown kiwi in the Coromandel and good populations of Archey's and Hochstetter's frogs, North Island kaka and pateke (brown teal), the forest is a biodiversity hotspot.

The covenants are in the Department of Conservation's Moehau Kiwi Sanctuary zone and have had one of the highest kiwi chick survival rates in this project. The landowners also work with DOC, Environment Waikato and the Moehau Environment Group (MEG) in trapping and baiting programmes to eliminate predators, known as MEG's *Rat Attack* project.

Lettecia Williams, MEG's chairperson, says that 2,600 rat traps have been set on 350ha over the last four years. 'With the rat control and comprehensive control of other pests, we can work towards our vision of bringing back species that have been lost locally,' she explains.



The aim of *Toutouwai – Robin's Return*, a project involving DOC, iwi, MEG and the local community, is to create a self-sustaining population of North Island robins in the area.

Volunteers and family groups have given about 600 hours to this project. On 8 April, MEG volunteers and DOC staff released sixty robins translocated from Pureora in two groups of thirty, one at Stony Bay and one at Port Charles. 'It has been great watching the robins settle into their new home,' says Lettecia. 'MEG is now working with DOC on collecting information for a sound anchoring trial being carried out by Waikato University. This will provide information about the effectiveness of using pre-recorded audio taken from the birds' home habitat to anchor the birds to their new habitat.'

Hamish Kendal, QEII Coromandel Regional Representative, adds that this project shows the benefits of a community working together to sustain pest management. 'The forest ecosystem from the mountains to the sea is recovering well, allowing threatened species to thrive,' he says.

For more about these QEII covenants, visit www.openspace.org.nz

Left: Moehau Environment Group members and Port Charles residents at the North Island robin release site in Lettecia Williams and Diane Prince's covenant. For more information about this project visit www.meg.org.nz or www.doc.govt.nz



Photo: Supplied by Lettecia Williams



Photo: Tangiaro Kiwi Retreat



Photo: Crown Copyright, Department of Conservation

Far left: Tangiaro Kiwi Retreat at dusk. 'When Anne and I first saw Tangiaro, our first thoughts were to make sure the natural beauty of the surroundings were maintained for future generations,' says Bruce Clegg. 'Later we decided we wanted to share the beauty with others and developed this retreat.' For more details visit www.kiwi retreat.co.nz

Left: North Island robin, toutouwai *Petroica australis longipes* with food in beak.