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CANOPY

Newsletter of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust

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www.nznfrt.org.nz

The Passing of our Patron



With the whole of New Zealand, the Restoration Trust was saddened to learn of the death, in January this year, of our Patron, Sir Edmund Hillary.

Sir Edmund had been our patron from our foundation in 1980 and took a keen interest in our activities, writing endorsements for many of our appeal brochures. Trustee and former chairperson Brian Davis, having held an ice axe at Sir Ed's marriage in 1953, was invited to form part of the guard of honour at Sir Ed's funeral at St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell.

It is timely to recall our Patron's message on the occasion of the Trust's 10th Birthday Celebrations in 1990. Sir Edmund's words and those of our Honorary Trustee, David Bellamy, are reprinted here from CANOPY #2.

MESSAGES IN 1990 - from our Patron, Sir Edmund Hillary, KBE

"The Restoration Trust has made a really worthwhile contribution to the health of our forests in its first ten years. I know that the Trust will be able in its second decade to restore still more forests, and improve the health of others that are threatened in some way. The Trust deserves the full support of all New Zealanders."

And from our Honorary Trustee, Professor David Bellamy

"The restoration of the world's native forests is the only hope for the future of mankind and the plants and animals with which we must learn to share this earth. A decade of hard work behind us, now begins the decade of reconstruction."

Aroha Island becomes a Charitable Trust

Aroha Island is a 12 hectare sanctuary in the Kerikeri Inlet of the Bay of Islands, rich in cultural and natural history, host to some very special flora and fauna including the brown kiwi and banded rail, and protected by an Open Space Covenant. From 1991 the QEII National Trust has owned and managed the property, while seeking to develop it as an ecological centre and educational resource. With altered circumstances, and after considerable debate, fresh arrangements facilitated by the NZ Kiwi Foundation took effect in late 2007 whereby a locally backed group secured a lease to assume the necessary custodial and security roles. A dedicated entity - the Aroha Island Charitable Trust - was promptly formed and incorporated with specific objectives to preserve and enhance the values of the sanctuary, while ensuring public access for present and future generations.

The Aroha Island Trust has since completed deferred repairs and begun work on ground maintenance and to renew the information centre and accommodation facilities - thanks to many hours of

voluntary labour, with enthusiastic support from local private and business communities and backed by the Far North District Council.

The official Opening was performed on 16 December by Dr Colin Little, who as the owner of Aroha for twenty years from 1971, was carrying on the tradition of his grandfather Edward Selby Little, one of the founders of modern Kerikeri. With his wife Margaret, and using his knowledge of plant science gained from an Oxford Doctorate and his international career in agriculture, Dr Little had set out to restore and develop the island's vegetation. His long-term aim for Aroha to be preserved and maintained as an important open space for public benefit is now well on the way to realisation. The Native Forests Restoration Trust was represented at the opening ceremony, and we extend our congratulations and best wishes to everyone concerned with the Aroha Island project. For more information visit the website: www.aroha.net.nz

Grateful thanks to our retiring Auditor, Mark Nee

The Restoration Trust wishes to record heartfelt thanks to Mark Nee who has audited the NZ NFRT accounts over a number of years. The Trust has purchased restoration properties at a rate of more than one per year since our inception and substantial grants and large sums of money have been involved. We have appreciated the careful attention given to our financial reports and recognise that Mr Nee's onerous task has been performed with a strong element of commitment to assisting the aims of the Trust.

For more information about the Trust, visit our website: www.nznfrt.org.nz

Honorary Rangers

Honorary Rangers play a crucial role in caring for the Trust's reserves. We are delighted to welcome the three new rangers who are introduced below.

Ian Pickering, Opoutama Reserve, Mahia Peninsula, Gisborne

I was born in Gisborne in 1952 and spent most of my childhood in the Bay of Plenty before leaving school to work on a large cattle and sheep station north of Gisborne for six years. Then in the early 70s I moved to Wairoa to work on a farm and was involved in capturing deer out of the Urewera Ranges with my employer and Peter Wills. There I met and married Jane, Peter Wills' daughter, and we had our three children (all girls). Now we also have two grandsons to our older daughter who lives in Napier. We shifted to Mahia 12 years ago to lease the family farm on which we are currently running just under 900 deer on 300 acres.

Mark Frederikson, Tui Glen Reserve, Waitomo

I was born in Te Kuiti in 1963. My parents owned our farm at Waitomo Caves and I was brought up there and educated at Waitomo Caves Primary School, then New Plymouth Boys' High where I passed UE exams before taking up an automotive engineering apprenticeship. After seven years I attained the position of service manager at Ingham Honda in Otorohanga.

I married Mary in 1985 and we both travelled to Great Britain where we stayed for three years. I worked on two different estates as a hunting guide, fishing guide and gamekeeper which gave me an extensive knowledge of wildlife and pest control. My family have always been active conservationists and interested in the flora and fauna of their beautiful surroundings.

As time went on we purchased our home property from my parents and subsequently made available the 100+ hectares of land for purchase by the Trust. This land was marginal for farming and it's been a pleasure to see it go to such a worthy new owner for future protection.



Tree planting with the Motuora Restoration Society

Motuora in the Hauraki Gulf between Kawau Island and Whangaparaoa Peninsula is a recreation reserve administered by DoC and is a pest-free sanctuary for wildlife which has a special role as a kiwi creche. The challenge and opportunity is to re-establish native vegetation. Over half of the island has been covered with approx. 235,000 plants and the conversion of pasture to shrub land is almost complete. The nursery is brimming and the 2008 goal is to put in a further 23,000 trees. After that the focus will move to canopy and understory plant species.

NFR Trust supporters are cordially invited to see the progress so far by joining members of the Motuora Restoration Society in their trips to the island for tree planting and other tasks over the coming months. Tree planting Sundays during the next three months are 27 April, 25 May, 15 & 29 June. Dates of further visits for planting and general tasks from July to November will be given in the next issue of Canopy. The ferry departs from Sandspit at 8.00 am and returns at 4.00 pm. Fares are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children aged 5-15. A sausage sizzle lunch is provided. For bookings (essential) and details of what to bring, call Robin Gardner-Gee 09 378 9548 or Eilene Lamb 09 427 8911.

Come and stay at **Mangarakau Wetland Field Centre, NW Nelson**

Attractive 10 bed lodge situated amid wonderful scenery with walking tracks around the swamp. Close to outstanding natural wilderness areas with access to Kahurangi National Park, Farewell Spit and Te Tai Tapu Marine Reserve. Bring own bedding and food. For more information and Lodge Bookings: Ph/fax Jo-Anne Vaughan (03) 524 8072, Email: javn@xtra.co.nz

Since its inception we have been keen and active members of the Waitomo Catchment Group, whose sole purpose is to improve land and water quality in the catchment. Large areas of once farmed and marginal areas have been retired on our own farm and also neighbouring land. Land that perhaps should never have been cleared?

I am still a keen hunter and enjoy the bush whenever I can find spare time. We hope to remain here for the long term and look forward to working with the Trust and with the 'Tui Glen Block' in the future.

Peter March, Deputy Honorary Ranger, Pigeon Bush Reserve, Wairarapa

As a resident of Featherston for 16 years I have really enjoyed the outdoors of the Wairarapa compared to the previous thirty years in Wellington. I was born in Gisborne (in 1945) where my parents were frequent visitors to the many reserves in and around the area. These set a strong scene for me - especially the two that have waterfalls - and I had also regularly visited the YMCA camp in Opoutama while Dad was the regional secretary. Moving to Palmerston North in 1954 the family continued its interest in local reserves, especially the Pohangina Reserve, again YMCA connected. I even hiked out there to camp when I was 11 - quite an experience!

A couple of years ago I chanced to meet David Burson, honorary ranger for the Pigeon Bush Reserve and he invited me to visit the property. I haven't looked back since then, spending many Wednesdays helping with planting, watering, spraying and guiding. Living in Featherston has let me pop over to water the new plants during the extremely dry conditions down our way this summer. I have spoken about the reserve to many older local residents and they have talked about their hunting experiences in the area years ago, with pigs and deer being the main targets. They are keen to revisit the area with its 1157 hectares, most of which they have tramped over.

For those who have an interest in visiting the Reserve I am happy to act as guide and can be contacted on home phone 06 308-9430 or by email at petermarch@xtra.co.nz

Prunings

Tax relief on charitable donations - From 1 April 2008 the government has removed the tax rebate limit (recently \$1890) for donations by individuals and companies to charitable organisations such as NZ NFRT. A person is entitled to rebates and deductions for donations up to the level of their annual net income. While no one will be giving all their income away(!), we naturally hope that our supporters will feel able to take advantage of the new situation when contributing to the Trust's work or backing our special appeals.

New QEII website - A wealth of information on protecting private land, sustaining and restoring biodiversity, visiting places with open space covenants, managing covenanted properties and other facets of New Zealand's natural heritage is readily accessible on the QEII National Trust's easy-to-use website: www.openspace.org.nz

Recently noted in the NZ Herald's Side Swipe column were possum and merino fibre socks with labels conveying the information that in New Zealand 'the possum runs wild in

native forests.' As Claire Gummer, who was given a pair of these socks, says, "What a great euphemism for 'the possum is an introduced pest that destroys native vegetation'".

Two welcome publications

Beautiful Birds of New Zealand by Rod Morris & Alison Ballance
Here is a book that should have wide appeal. The authors celebrate the beauty and diversity of New Zealand's birdlife by presenting their own choice of 100 birds.

A Checklist to New Zealand Birds, Frogs, Reptiles, Mammals & Butterflies by Kerry-Jayne Wilson (Canterbury University Press).

This work, compiled by an experienced Lincoln University ecologist, lists in handy pocketbook form all NZ's native and introduced birds, bats, frogs, and butterflies, along with terrestrial and marine mammals and reptiles. Its worthy objective is to spread popular awareness and appreciation of this country's diversity of wildlife - like the bird book above. Both should be welcomed widely; no true naturalist's home should be without them!

Activity at Pigeon Bush

The previous CANOPY included an item about controlling weed pests at Pigeon Bush in the Wairarapa, the largest NFRT property. We are pleased to report further progress by the committed efforts of Honorary Ranger David Burson, his deputy Peter March, and a group of trampers who have a special interest in this reserve.

By mid-March, all pest weeds found by the earlier survey on or immediately adjoining Pigeon Bush had been treated. Restoration is under way. Because of the drought the planting of natives in Whare Gully has been followed up by watering by 10 litre pail from a nearby stream and further plants have been added, with flax to strengthen the windbreak. Two further small clumps of the highly undesirable Himalayan honeysuckle were found and sprayed.

There has been good work by our neighbour John Sutherland. While clearing his own land of dense blackberry he has also removed some large holly trees and cleared blackberry etc. from our right-of-way. He has cut and cleared the fenceline alongside SH2 and his sheep and neutered goats will complete the job by spring.

A Generous Bequest

A long-time supporter of the Restoration Trust, **Miss Marie Neverman**, died in early September last year naming the Trust as a major beneficiary in her will. She asked that the gift, likely to be about \$300,000, be used to purchase a block of land for the preservation of bird habitats, preferably in the Gisborne to Auckland area, parts of the country in which she had lived and worked.

Marie Neverman was a primary school teacher, clearly much loved and respected by her young charges many of whom became life-long friends. Her funeral in Mt Albert filled St Luke's church and glowing tributes

were paid to her commitment to her chosen profession and to her love of the outdoors. Speakers did note her love of two apparently irreconcilable interests, birds and cats, but both seemed to live happily in her garden. Marie's nephews and niece agreed with her that a single bequest of this nature would be of longer term benefit than one divided among some seven relatives. **The Trust greatly appreciates the family's generosity and in seeking to give it due recognition we would be interested to hear from any supporters who might know of suitable blocks of land that might fulfil her wishes.**



A fine property for a bush lover

Roy Clements, a former NFR Trustee and dedicated conservationist, is reluctantly moving from his bush property in the Waitakere Ranges to live in Auckland city. Sixteen years of Roy's devoted care have made his home and retreat at 91 Mountain Road, Henderson, into a delightful place, as many of his friends can testify. About half of the 3.5 hectare (8 acre) property is regenerating bush; the rest is shared between well-established native gardens and lawns. The land is surrounded by a large bush reserve thus forming a magnificent restoration project on the north-eastern slopes of the Ranges. As to the house, in Roy's words "the basic house is a fairly modest 48-year-old but is strong and well built. The outstanding feature is the large 'music room' added in 1996 which has great acoustics and can hold about 70 people." What else? Bird life. Interesting walks on and around the property. Clean air. Stars. Secret places to explore. Not least, a benevolent climate - below the clouds, above the frost, and green all year. **If you could be a possible and suitable future owner for this home and estate, please contact Roy.** Address as above, or email: roy.clements@clear.net.nz

Come and stay at **Rangitoto Station Reserve**



Modern 3-bedroomed house, 34km from Otorohanga, King Country. Well-equipped and ideal for small to medium groups but sleeping space depends on how many workers are there at the time. Camping permitted near the woolshed. Hours of walking tracks through bush or open country with superb views. Many native bird species including kokako, kaka and falcon.

Relax and enjoy the peace and quietness. House Bookings: Ph. Judy (09) 817-7604 (pte)

Your donation supports the work of the Trust and ensures that your address remains current on the mailing list for CANOPY

Yes, I should like to give a contribution to the work of the Trust

Here is my tax-deductible donation of \$

Name:

Address:

Phone:

**Please make cheques payable to NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust
Send to NZ NFRT, PO Box 80007, Green Bay, Waitakere 0643**

YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP YOUR COPY OF CANOPY INTACT - IF SO, PLEASE SUBMIT A NOTE OF ITS INTENDED PURPOSE WITH YOUR DONATION



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