



canopy 62

Newsletter of the Native Forest Restoration Trust

Winter 2016

NFRT Chairman's Message

Welcome to our Winter 2016 issue, Canopy 62. The Trust has continued to be active with further progress on several of the projects we had introduced in the Summer edition, Canopy 61. There are articles written by Trustees, staff and supporters.

At our Hillary Hope Reserve on the road to Raglan we have finally completed the boundary adjustment and received title to our official vehicle entrance off Old Mountain Rd, along the southern boundary. With the generous grant of \$5,000 from Waikato District Council, we expect to start construction of an all-weather car park fairly soon. We anticipate further revegetation of selected areas during 2016-17, in combination with volunteers, Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC) and other groups. Wild goats appear to be a reducing problem, but the veracity of this hope will be better seen towards the end of the winter.

Trustee Geoff Davidson has written a full and evocative story about the fantastic weekend and opening ceremony in February for the Purple Peak Curry Reserve that overlooks Akaroa on Banks Peninsula. Geoff also writes about the efforts being made to assist Forest and Bird in West Auckland to purchase land with access from Bethells Rd and adjoining their important Matuku Reserve and wetland in the Waitakeres.

Just before Easter NFRT completed the purchase of the 225 ha extension to our existing 330 ha Omoana Reserve in steep, erosion-prone Taranaki hill country some 40 km east of Stratford. We have been assisted in the purchase with a 40% contribution to the cost of the farm by a beekeeper in exchange for exclusive rights to place beehives on the property. Partnerships such as this one with Mike Everly make it much easier to secure vulnerable property. There is a very sound house on a small freehold title that NFRT wishes to sell, so if any supporter wants to own a holiday bach or bird watching base in eastern Taranaki please contact the Trust. The new extension is already partially regenerated and links the existing property with over 500 ha of DOC reserves to the east. Additional private native forest adjoins the DOC bush. This block will require only minimal revegetation assistance, which is fortunate as it is quite isolated. Although it does not yet have an active local community of support, regional council staff have been very helpful with pest control.

The William Upton Hewett memorial forest west of Whangarei that was severely burned in a fire two years ago is the subject of an ongoing compensation claim that has not yet been resolved. However, in the interim, the Trust is proceeding with

restorative work using our own funds in the expectation that insurance compensation will ultimately restore the money used. I visited this reserve (and several others in Northland) with our Northern Reserves Manager Chris Wild in mid-April and was shocked at the level of damage to what had been the best developed areas of bush on the property. Chris writes in this issue about the restoration progress and is also trying to work with the local community to develop a strategy to reduce the risk of a similar fire happening again. The types of regenerating native vegetation in this part of Northland are very susceptible to fire and, together with the current local government policies and rules, make rural fires an all too frequent occurrence. We hope to raise community awareness and reduce this risk.

Another article in this issue is by Hugh Graham, NFRT's Acting Treasurer, concerning our finances over the past 11 years and is a totally new concept for this newsletter. Hugh has provided tables of income and expenditure from 2006 through 2016 (budget) together with commentary explaining the major items. I hope you find this interesting and that it helps explain some of the complexity of the Trust's properties and operations. It also clearly demonstrates that our current expenditure exceeds our income and that we need to improve and increase our fundraising to remain effective. The Trust still tries to allocate donations to land purchases, unless otherwise tagged, so that donors see something tangible for their generosity. This means that we have to raise funds in other ways (e.g. carbon



Retiring trustee Brian Davis (front left) in the Rees Valley, 1957.

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Patron: Pat Cowan

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ISSN 1170-3172 (Print) ISSN 2463-2783 (Online)

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credits) to finance the rising management requirements of the Trust's many reserves. Trust Manager Sandy Crichton is focussing on this area over the next several months. Hugh Graham is also meeting with some individuals who have expressed interest and who may be a fit for the important role of Treasurer with NFRT.

On other Trustee matters, I am sad to have to report that Dr Brian Davis retired as a trustee at the end of 2015 after nearly 20 years service with NFRT. Brian kindly gave us 9 months notice of this impending change and continued to give a full contribution throughout this period. Brian's interest in New Zealand plants began during research in the 1950's with Professor L H Briggs at Auckland University College on the chemical constitution of extractives from various leaf oils, berries, bark and hardwoods. A lifetime of tramping led to a broader interest in conservation which was given practical

expression by appointment as a trustee of the NZNFRT in 1997, following retirement from the University Chemistry Department. Brian was elected chair in 1998 after Jim Dart returned to the Environment Court. He performed this role very ably for eight years, overseeing the acquisition of ten new reserves and one important reserve extension, and then was unofficial deputy chair and "go to" man for Trustees throughout the subsequent term of Colleen Newton. Brian has a gentle approach with wisdom and experience acquired across many fields. He always sought the opinions of others to achieve a consensus, and never foisted his own views onto Trust decisions. Trustees, supporters and, in a small way, the NZ environment are all very grateful for Brian's significant contribution to and through NFRT.

Tim Oliver, Chairman, NFRT

KCC Make a Splash at Ed Hillary Hope Reserve

We have been enthusiastically supported at our Ed Hillary Hope Reserve by Hamilton Kiwi Conservation Club (KCC), the junior section of Forest & Bird, which teaches children about New Zealand wildlife and places. For two years KCC children and parents, as well as other volunteers, have planted sedges, wineberry, lacebark and kahikatea on a section of riparian margin with plants donated and purchased from Tamahere Community Nursery. To supplement these plants and for growing on at the Nursery, the children have also collected seed and uplifted numerous rewarewa seedlings that are always proliferating in the centre of walking tracks.

To disperse kanuka and manuka seed onto a recent steep, bare slip face, the children fashioned seed balls which were then thrown and hurled using a slingshot.

During a recent KCC visit in April, Dr Jennifer Price and Brenda Bartles, Freshwater Ecologists with Kessels Associates, volunteered their time to conduct a brief stream survey. This is the first stream survey undertaken and while it only sampled a small stretch near the Old Mountain Road entrance, it has provided useful information on which species are present and what their presence indicates in terms of habitat quality. The following is a list of species detected by electric fishing or netting:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Indicator Value or Habitat Requirements
short fin eel	<i>Anguilla australis</i>	Our most tolerant native fish species. They survive environmental hazards like high water temperatures or low dissolved oxygen concentrations. That means they can live in habitats where other species cannot survive.
Cran's bully	<i>Gobiomorphus basalis</i>	As Cran's bully has no marine phase, their ability to colonize new river systems is limited, and once they are gone from an area it is unlikely they will re-colonize on their own.
koura	<i>Paranephrops planifrons</i>	Common in bush covered and farmland streams of moderate to good water quality.
net building caddis	<i>Aoteapsyche</i>	Common in streams of moderate to good quality, so they are not particularly useful as water quality indicators.
spiny gilled mayfly	<i>Coloburiscus</i>	Indicative of good habitat and water quality, particularly if other mayflies or stoneflies are common or abundant.
dragonfly larvae	<i>Corduliidae</i>	Can be found in streams and ponds with a wide range of water quality, and therefore they probably have little value as water quality indicators.
Dobson fly	<i>Corydalidae archichauliodes</i>	Common in streams with moderate to good water quality.
mosquito	<i>Culicid</i>	Can be abundant in natural lakes and ponds, but also in low oxygen pools filled with decomposing organic matter.
single gill mayfly	<i>Deleatidium</i>	Good habitat and water quality conditions, especially if other mayfly or stonefly groups are abundant.
swimming mayfly	<i>Nesamaletus</i>	Not often found in high abundance, but they are indicative of good habitat and water quality, especially if other mayfly or stonefly groups are abundant.
NZ mud snail	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Found in pristine and polluted waters.
stick caddis	<i>Triplectides</i>	Can occur in streams with moderate pollution, so they are not necessarily an indication of good water quality.

For more information on these species and others see: <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/identification/animals/freshwater-invertebrates> and <https://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/nzffd/NIWA-fish-atlas>.

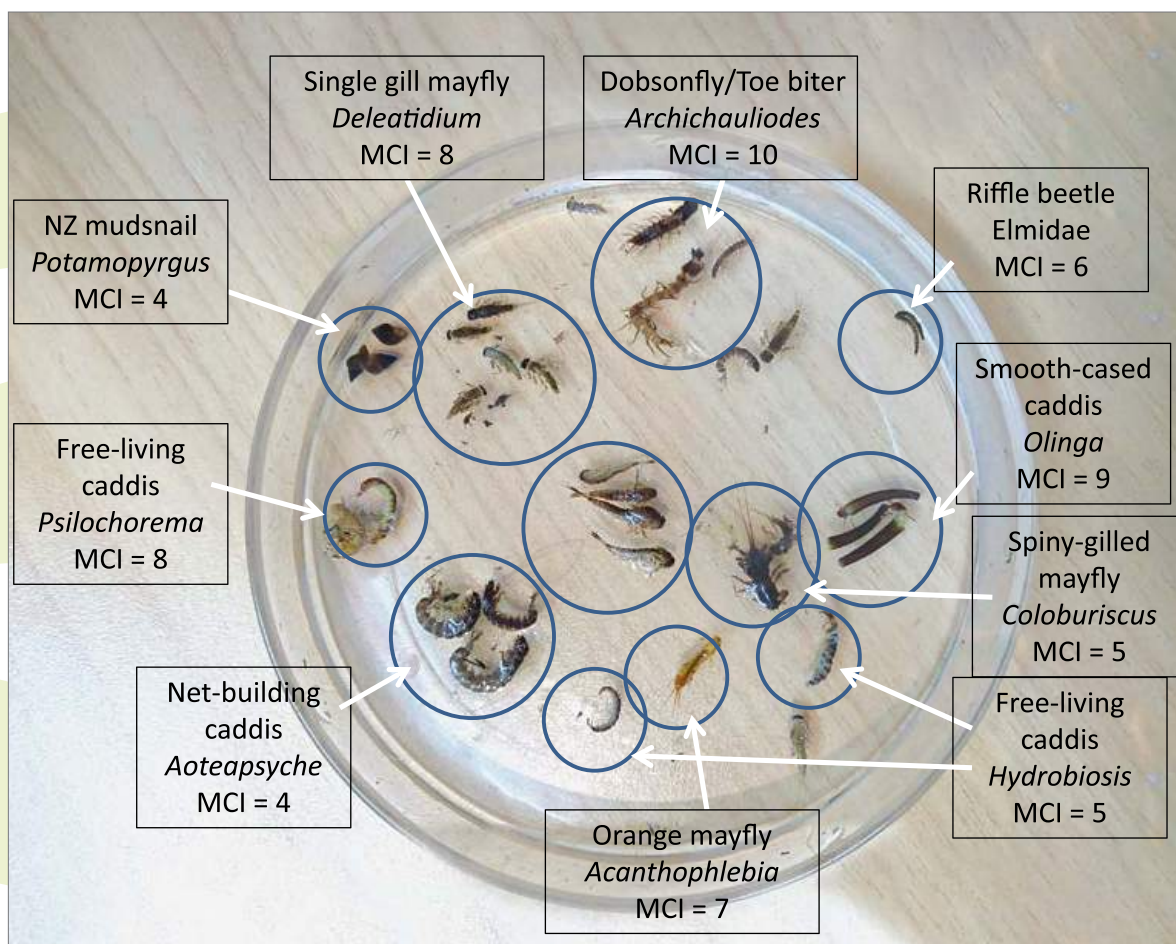
Round-up of other news from Ed Hillary Hope Reserve:

As the roadside doesn't provide sufficient visitor carpark space and the paddock becomes very difficult for any type of vehicle during winter, a graveled carpark area will be constructed at the Old Mountain Road entry. Construction of

the new car park was made possible by funding received from Waikato District Council.

Waikato Botanical Society visited at the end of May to begin compiling a botanical species list and Auckland Botanical Society is planning on a late October trip which will provide further baseline data on the Reserve. Bird surveys commenced in 2015.

Sharen Graham, Southern Reserves Manager, NFRT



Freshwater macroinvertebrates from Hillary Hope Reserve – Mangakirikiri Stream. A small sample of what was collected on 30 April 2016.

Waiata and Korimako Welcome Guests to Purple Peak Curry Reserve Opening Day, Saturday 27 February 2016

[Editorial comments throughout this article reference the style of *Pipipi's* Editor. *Pipipi* is the newsletter of The Maurice White Native Forest Trust, owner of neighbouring Hinewai Reserve].

"You had to be there". The only possible brief response when asked how the opening went.

Gorgeous weather, 30 degrees, with a pleasant zephyr of a wind providing a cooling touch.

The very precise planning for the event was evident at Akaroa sports ground where we were all met, labelled and allotted to vehicles from a car pool of drivers. Those of us who lifted our eyes could see the morning sun lighting up the 180 hectares of the reserve on the Akaroa side of Purple Peak. Another 12 hectares wrap over the ridge to join up to the 1,230 hectare Hinewai Reserve. As we were couriered up Long Bay Road we got our first close up view of the grassed ridges and forested valleys of the new reserve.

On arrival at the Brocherries Road pond site, set on our neighbour Frank Miessen's property, the scene could have been

a medieval pageant with the crisp white marquee set on the closely cropped lawn with a forest backdrop. In the other direction, looking south-east over Hinewai Reserve to the Pacific, the bellbirds (korimako) could be heard calling their welcome, with some tui perhaps, and kereru swooped across treetops. People milled around greeting old conservation friends and meeting new [younger? – Ed.] ones.

Shortly after arrival, ample, delicious nibbles were offered, after which we were called into the marquee for the official ceremony to begin.

Introduced by Suky Thompson, representing the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust, the event started with an evocative karakia by members of the Ōnuku and Wairewa runanga. Kaumatua James Robinson opened with a karakia for Te Piki o Te Ake (Purple Peak) and a beautiful rendition of "He Honore" sung to Te Piki o Te Ake by James and his cousin Meri Robinson. Their words echoed back to us from the steep forest clad slope running up to the ridge line and beyond to Purple Peak 646m above Akaroa township.



Meri Robinson and James Robinson. Photo by Meg Errington.



Tim Oliver, NFRT Chairperson leads the speeches.



NFRT Chair, Tim Oliver, led a number of speakers representing the Native Forest Restoration Trust, the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust and the Christchurch City Council, both of whom assisted generously with funding the purchase. QEII National Trust, who will covenant the reserve for posterity, were represented by Chairperson James Guild, while Hugh Wilson spoke on behalf of the Maurice White Native Forest Trust who own neighbouring Hinewai reserve and will take on most of the management of the Purple Peak Curry Reserve.

All the speeches focussed on the reserve's benefits to the Akaroa area in particular, and all of Banks Peninsula. The biodiversity benefits, the amenity of having forested slopes in view of, and within easy public access of Akaroa; the reduced soil erosion and the water quality and quantity improvements that are expected, including a better town water supply to Akaroa townspeople, and the additional walking track network for those traversing the Banks Peninsula track. And of course the views. All points of the compass looked superb on such a day [although some maintain it is not always thus – Ed.].

After a short break for more refreshments we were organised over the newly erected boundary stile in orderly groups, determined by our destination, and guided along the recently completed track which was developed by Hugh Wilson and those staunch Hinewai veterans Paul Newport and Andrew Youngson.

The real trampers started first with determination that Akaroa was their destination. Next the day-trippers who would meander across the slopes to The Heritage Park and be car pooled back to Akaroa.

Lastly the socialites who were there to enjoy the company, the view and the day. We wandered slowly through the cool shade of the overhanging *Fuchsia* and tree ferns, ascending to Brown Top Saddle where we caught up with members of the Curry Family. Graeme and Maryn Curry, the previous owners of the property, were enjoying the sunshine and the opportunity to walk casually without having to shepherd the sheep [now all removed – Ed.]. Having negotiated with Graeme to purchase the land we wanted to particularly thank him for making the exercise a pleasant one, as happens with a willing and supportive seller [and a willing buyer – Ed.]. The Curry Family have lived and farmed on the property for generations. Earlier the land was birthplace of Frank Worsley who gained fame when he guided Shackleton's disastrous Antarctic Endurance expedition of 1915/16 to safety.

On Brown Top Saddle we met up with Hugh Wilson, botanist extraordinaire, raconteur, author and bushman [and sometime Ed. – Ed.]. Well perhaps the more appropriate epithet should be gorseman, because Hugh's 'point-of-difference' is that he uses gorse like the rest of us use manuka, as the nurse crop to promote the growth of more desirable native species. Hinewai Reserve behind and below us is testament to the success of his approach. In front of us is the Purple Peak Curry Reserve entrusted to Hugh by NFRT. We are optimistic he will not need to use gorse as extensively to achieve the revegetation goals we have set. From previous walks over the Curry property we have seen the few mature matai, kahikatea and Hall's totara. But we also noted the extensive regrowth of seedlings of those species and of narrow-leaved lacebark *Hoheria angustifolia*, horopito, kanuka, mahoe, and ongaonga (the stinging nettle that attracts the myriad admiral butterflies we also saw).

Most of these species were well illustrated and named in booklets presented to the crowd before they set off walking. Observant walkers will have noticed a ring of exhausted flower petals carpeting the ground under every lacebark tree. Above, the swelling seeds indicated what will soon become the dominant tree in the reserve, and what a glorious tree. For Aucklanders, used to the broader leaf lacebark *Hoheria populnea*, the narrow-leaved form has a grandeur and majesty that belies its little leaves and slender juvenile growth form. If Hugh and his merry band of helpers can create a forest of *Hoheria angustifolia* we will be content [Hugh will ensure a natural balance of species – Ed.].

We would like to thank the editor of *Pipipi* for stylistic inspiration [That's Hugh Wilson – Ed.].

[We hope Hugh Wilson will provide a column for the next issue of *Canopy*, perhaps even on a regular basis]

Geoff Davidson, Founding Trustee, NFRT



'Key Native Ecosystem' Expands as Omoana Bush Reserve Extended

Our latest purchase in East Taranaki comes crammed with restoration potential and adds a further 226ha to our existing Omoana Bush Reserve, which lies directly west of the new property. The resulting 560ha reserve is now one of our largest.

Omoana Bush has been identified by Taranaki Regional Council as a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) due to its high indigenous biodiversity values. The Omoana Bush KNE contains regionally significant ecosystems and species such as the 'threatened' New Zealand falcon. It also contains 'at risk' fern bird, North Island pipit and the 'regionally distinctive' Tawhirikaro (*Pittosporum cornifolium*).

North Island brown kiwi are also present in Omoana Bush KNE, confirmed by recent surveys undertaken in the vicinity by the Taranaki Kiwi Trust. With a sustained predator control programme there is plenty of scope for reintroductions; with a further 216 hectares to be added to the existing KNE, Omoana Bush will be large enough to hold a good number of kiwi pairs.

Much of the property had until purchase been used for sheep farming but we also estimate there to be around 15% existing bush with mature natives and 35-40% regenerating bush. As with all our reserves we have retired the land from farming. The reserve will be actively encouraged to naturally regenerate into a native forest reserve, saved from future spraying or cutting and protected by a QEII Open Space covenant.

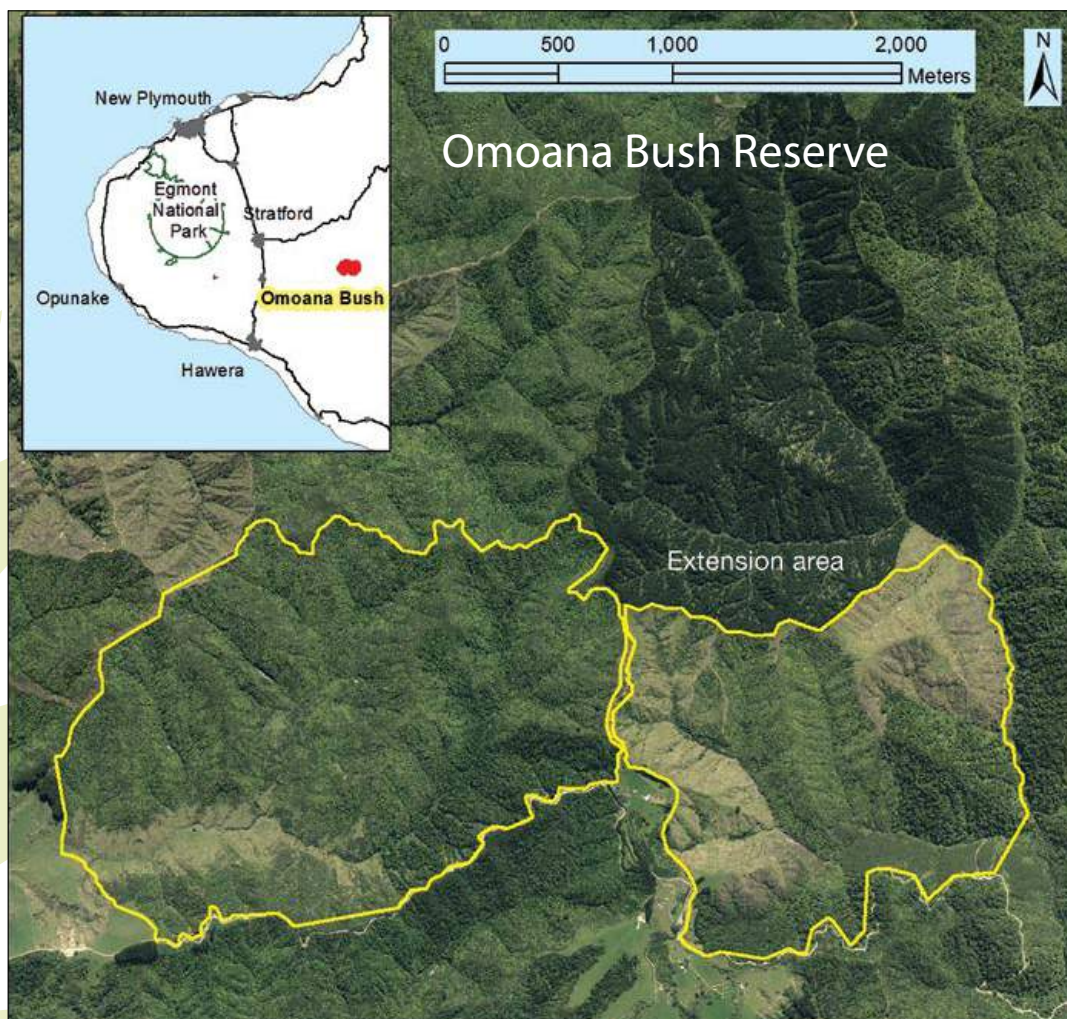
This purchase wouldn't have been possible without the ongoing support and generosity of our supporters. A special thank you goes out to local beekeeper Mike Everly and his company Forest and Bees Native Honey, for bringing the property to our attention and exploring partnership options. Mike's involvement provided the catalyst and much needed financial support for the purchase to proceed.

Omoana Bush is located 35km east of Eltham, towards the Matamateonga Ranges; a head catchment of the Patea River.



Left to right: former owner Brian Thomas, Southern Reserves Manager Sharen Graham, Founding Trustee Geoff Davidson, Chair Tim Oliver and beekeeper Mike Everly





Science Guides Restoration Effort at William Upton Hewett Reserve

On an afternoon in January 2014 a fire was lit on farmland neighbouring the William Upton Hewett Reserve. The fire was intended to clear three hectares of native shrubland. The fire escaped resulting in over 90 hectares being burnt in all, including 58 hectares of forest and shrubland within the reserve.

The fire swept along the ridges and upper slopes but in most places died out due to the more mature vegetation in the wetter gullies. Initially the resistant rhizomatous species re-sprouted and then by December 2014 seedling plants of small manuka and prickly hakea were visible. Everybody sighed with relief as the area greened up.

However, the ecosystem has suffered a major disturbance and a range of management strategies are now needed to ensure successful regeneration through the shrub-land stages and on toward native forest. This part of the reserve had been regenerating for about 50 years before the fire.

Research undertaken to understand regeneration processes after fire shows that there is a positive feedback loop between disturbance by fire, soil deterioration and the presence of a suite of species adapted to these conditions that tend to promote fire. (Perry et al, 2010, 2015).



Photo by Malcolm Pullman, 2014.

Unless more fires can be prevented, and weeds and pests contained, the reserve, instead of following the natural disturbance response cycle pictured below in green, will be held in the red cycle. The fire will initiate an environment suited to species who thrive in open sites with poor fertility. These species are also highly flammable and so effectively perpetuate the conditions they excel in.

Invasive exotic weeds such as hakea and pampas which were present in low numbers will also expand rapidly to take advantage of the new environment.

The third contributing factor to the feedback loop are introduced pest species who will further pervert the natural regeneration process by eating the seeds of the native shrub species thus helping to hold the species composition in the red cycle.

Evidence of this feedback cycle can be seen at the site of the last fire on the reserve in 1995. The vegetation is almost entirely manuka, stunted to about one metre tall, after twenty years regeneration. Fire was a very rare occurrence for New Zealand forests before humans arrived and its native species are not well adapted to utilise its effects. Combine this with introduced weed and pest species and you have a scenario where management intervention is required to ensure forest regeneration.

The Trust is now undertaking four major restoration management initiatives: Weed control, regeneration re-planting, pest control and soil remediation. Weed control programmes will need to continue for at least ten years.

In the first summer after the fire over 21,000 prickly hakea seedlings were weeded over 18 hectares at a cost of \$25,000. The

weeding was done by students, a community environmental group and a commercial weed team. The teams grid searched and hand pulled the plants.

The second summer following the fire a two person weed team covered the whole reserve removing highly invasive weed species that were present in low numbers i.e. pampas, willow leafed hakea, wilding pine and gorse at a cost of \$20,000.

The team also cleared and prepared new tracks in preparation for increased pest control. While they were doing the tracks our contractors collected seeds of the five main shrub species on the reserve. 25,000 seeds have been sown by a local nursery to be planted in the 2017 winter. The Trust plans to plant five, two hectare revegetation patches in the burnt area, with these shrub species to facilitate the revegetation process.

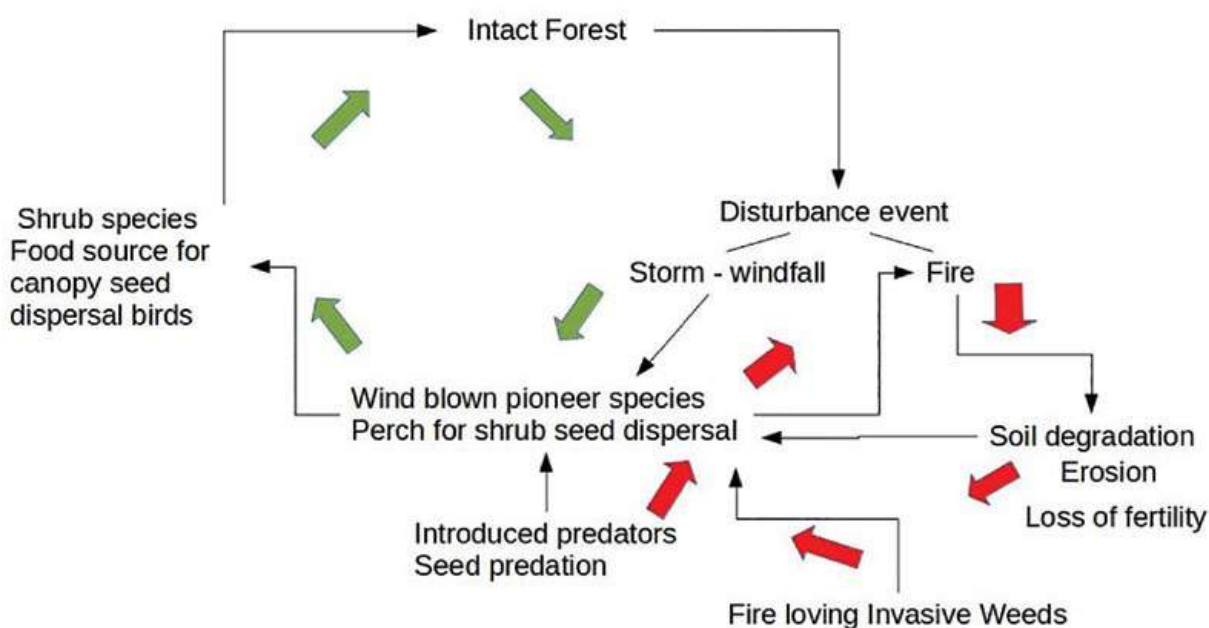
Soil remediation involves stabilising the slips and keeping them weed free, while also using slow release fertilisers at planting time. Unfortunately in this area with naturally occurring low fertility, unstable soils, and many hectares of human induced, highly flammable shrublands, fire remains a costly and constant threat for this reserve.

Chris Wild, Northern Reserves Manager, NFRT

Perry G., Ogden, J., Enright, N., Davy, L (2010). Vegetation patterns and trajectories in disturbed landscapes, Great Barrier Island, northern New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 34(3): 311-323.

Perry G., Wilmschurst J., Ogden, J., Enright N. (2015). Exotic Mammals and Invasive Plants Alter Fire-Related Thresholds in Southern Temperate Forested Landscapes. *Ecosystems* DOI10.1007/s10021-015-9898-1, Springer Science + Business media New York

Regeneration cycle of disturbed landscape (after Perry *et al.*, 2010, 2015)



Become a Forest Guardian

The Trust can't do its important work without your help. As a charity we have to raise the funds required to keep buying and protecting land, managing reserves and restoring native forests. The sad truth is that it has become much harder to find the funds we need and the cost of land is now much higher than it once was.

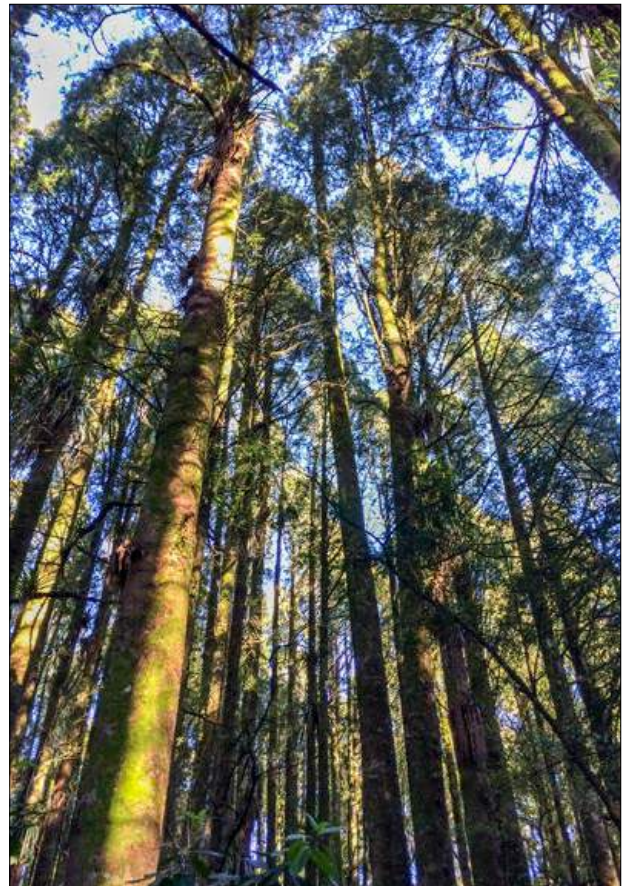
We are now regularly facing some tough decisions because there are increasing opportunities for us to restore important forests, but right now raising the funds required is a real struggle. I know that, like me, you don't want us to miss any opportunities to save and restore our forests and so the Trust has decided to have a major push in a number of areas to raise more funds. We've drawn up a plan which we will be executing over the next few months, and we want to get the word out to everyone possible (including people like yourself, corporates and grant giving organisations) to tell them about the Trust's work and how much more we could do with your help.

Together with the help of people like you, the Trust is already achieving great things. We now have reserves all over New Zealand and these are protected forever for all New Zealanders, but there is so much more we can do.

So what can you do to help? Please take a look at the leaflet we have enclosed with this newsletter and consider joining us as a Forest Guardian by making a regular monthly donation to the Trust. Our Forest Guardian initiative is new and one of the most important parts of our new fundraising drive. Programs like this are one of the best ways you can support a charity like NFRT because, along with the contributions of other supporters, it all adds up. In addition, because your donation is regular over a long period of time, we can plan ahead knowing that we have funds coming in. We intend to use your donation where we need it the most, which frees us from some of the ties that grant giving organisations impose on their support.

I would also be keen to hear from anyone who feels they may be able to help on a voluntary basis with fundraising for the Trust. Don't worry if you don't have any experience with this - a passion for our cause and willingness to help in some way is the only qualification required!

Sandy Crichton, Trust Manager, NFRT (sandy@nznfirt.org.nz)



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NFRT Revenue and Spending

This review is intended to provide supporters of NFRT with an explanation of funding and what it has been used for, including budgeted spending for 2016. NFRT's Financial Statements are available on the Charities Commission website where all Statements up to and including 2014 are available <https://www.register.charities.govt.nz> (use the NFRT registration number CC30320). The numbers provided in the following tables are

largely accurate but as not all historical data was available and the 2015 accounts are not yet finalised there may be some minor errors/misclassifications. For clarity purposes non-cash items are excluded. It should also be noted that certain revenue is "tagged" and may only be spent on a specific reserve(s), location, purpose or category of property (e.g. wetlands).

The following table shows revenue by category:

Grants & Other Income \$000	Donations Tagged	Donations Non-Tagged	Investment income	Sale of carbon credits	Bequest	Grants	Other	Total
2006	95	57	94			7	11	264
2007	45	48	79			256	2	430
2008	75	63	79		132	31	16	396
2009	983	47	63		694	23		1810
2010	44	51	135		304	50	1	585
2011	0	62	117	127	197	36	12	551
2012	0	175	131	616	30	24	427	1403
2013	0	27	162	105	124	11	91	520
2014	0	45	201	323	117	505	12	1203
2015 est.	160	43	120	236	64	327	10	960
2016 Budget	0	15	80	161	0	0	184	440
Total	1402	633	1261	1568	1662	1270	766	8562

Looking at grants specifically, Environment Waikato and Nature Heritage Fund contributed \$175k and \$20k respectively to our Tui Glenn purchase in 2007, Waikato Regional Council contributed \$500k to the purchase of Ed Hillary Hope Reserve in 2014 and Christchurch City Council contributed \$320k to Purple Peak Curry Reserve in 2015. In the "Other" column in 2012 and 2013 the Hewett Trust transferred "tagged" funds to NFRT of \$419k and \$85k respectively. These funds (generously

contributed by the Hewett family) may only be spent on our named Hewett properties. The \$616k sale of carbon credits in 2012 represented the first year of our contract with Mighty River Power and included accumulated historical carbon credits. Mighty River Power has a contract with NFRT to purchase 7500 carbon units annually.

The following table looks at how NFRT has spent the funds entrusted to it by its supporters and grantees:

NFRT Spending \$000	CAPEX	OPEX	Total Spending						
		Reserve Maintain	Compliance & Admin.	Comms & Publicity	Legal, Broker, Insurance	Staffing & Projects	Other	Total OPEX	
2006	28	55	7	5	8	0	1	76	104
2007	234	56	9	8	8	1	1	83	317
2008	0	34	6	4	10	0	1	55	55
2009	940	85	6	8	8	7	2	116	1056
2010	22	117	19	6	9	13	2	166	188
2011	294	144	12	4	14	1	1	176	470
2012	28	129	20	3	14	0	15	181	209
2013	42	117	9	6	17	21	14	184	226
2014	1374	186	20	8	24	100	25	363	1737
2015 est.	758	244	33	9	31	116	9	442	1200
2016 Budget	849	277	37	21	35	97	10	477	1326
Total	4569	1298	178	82	168	356	81	2319	6888

CAPEX (capital expenditures) includes land acquisitions, fencing, legal costs associated with land acquisitions, significant property maintenance, minor capital items (e.g. GPS units) and computer software. Major CAPEX includes:

- Tui Glenn \$228k in 2007 (largely funded by a grant from Environment Waikato and Nature Heritage Fund);
- Marie Neverman Tupare settled in 2009 for \$936k funded by gifts from Neville Stacey and Michael Taylor plus a bequest from Marie Neverman;
- in 2010 the major expenditure was fencing at Basil Hewett;
- in 2011 the second stage of Tupare Marie Neverman was acquired for \$202k and the Wilkinson Honeymoon Valley property was purchased but required fencing so \$87k was spent;
- in 2012 the major expenditures were Rauroa Bush fencing \$10k and an upgrade to the website \$15k;
- in 2013 Wekaweka land was acquired for \$35k;
- in 2014 Ed Hillary Hope was finally settled for \$1,371k (Waikato District Council contributing \$500k); and
- last year, 2015, the 38ha Takle property extending Puhoi Far North in Honeymoon Valley settled, and Purple Peak Curry was acquired for \$800k with contributions from Christchurch City Council of \$320k and the local Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust of \$160k;
- to date in 2016 we have acquired a second Omoana property for \$725k adjoining our existing Omoana reserve. Local beekeeper Mike Everly contributed \$184k to the purchase and in return secured the rights to place his hives on the property for an extended period. A further \$118k has been budgeted for spending in 2016 including \$35k for fundraising and website development, \$32k for fencing at Puhoi Far North, \$22.5k for reroofing the Rangitoto Station house and replacing the wood burner with electric heating, \$10k towards a new carpark at Ed Hillary Hope and various other small fencing and planting projects.
- In summary, since 2006 NFRT has acquired a further 9 properties.

OPEX (operating expenditures) includes:

- Reserve Maintenance (the costs directly related to supporting individual reserves including costs of weeding, pest and predator control, track maintenance, Reserve Manager costs, rates, power, repairs and maintenance of buildings and equipment). The ramp-up in Reserve Maintenance expenditure from 2009 onwards reflects a number of factors:
 - ▷ the increase in the number of properties initially required an increase in the number of hours by the Reserve Manager, then it was necessary to split the role and employ an additional Reserve Manager to look after our Northern reserves;
 - ▷ the nature of properties with wetlands requiring significantly greater attention and cost,
 - ▷ the high profile Ed Hillary Hope and Purple Peak Curry reserves with part funding by local bodies places a higher requirement on NFRT to improve rather than simply “land-banking” these properties,

- ▷ the nature of recent acquisitions being retired farmland requiring a more hands on approach; and
- ▷ the additional costs at William Upton Hewett as a result of the fire (no settlement has been agreed so NFRT is funding remedial work at present). Of the \$277k budgeted to be spent on Reserve Maintenance in 2016 \$76k relates to remediation work at William Upton Hewett.
- ▷ In addition, NFRT conducted a strategic review of its operations in 2012 and, as a result, agreement was reached to prioritise Reserve Maintenance activity on certain key reserves.
- Compliance and administration (costs required to operate NFRT on a day to day basis and comply with various legal and statutory requirements so includes accounting and audit charges). The strategic review also identified the need to employ a part time administrator to support efforts of our volunteers and recently, with the resignation of our long term Treasurer Jo Dutton, whose firm carried out much of the accounting work pro bono, NFRT has engaged Accounted4 in Cambridge to provide accounting support. Audits are carried out annually by Lynch Phibbs with the final 2014 Financial statements recently signed off.
- Communications and Publicity (includes the cost of Canopy, website maintenance, marketing and publicity); this is basically about raising awareness, keeping existing supporters informed and recruiting new supporters. In 2016 NFRT is placing a renewed focus on attracting more support, hence the additional spend;
- Staffing and projects (includes staffing cost other than administration and Reserve Managers and one-off projects); the strategic plan agreed the hiring of a full-time Trust Manager (Sandy Crichton) and costs associated with this decision appear from 2014 onwards. The regular income stream from Mighty River Power assisted Trustees in taking this decision. A number of projects have been undertaken including archiving documents, oral history, implementation of an open source Reserve Management System (RMS) to help build management plans for reserves, the strategy review and the introduction of a virtual office.

At the beginning of 2006 NFRT had \$1.1m in cash and investments of which \$0.3m was “tagged”. As at the end of April 2016, NFRT has \$2.5m in funds of which \$1.4m is “tagged”.

You will note from these accounts that over most of the last 10 years the Trust has run a surplus i.e., we raised more than we spent. This has allowed the Trust to build up some reserves which puts us on a solid financial standing to get us through the leaner years. Much of this has been possible thanks to the generosity of supporters like you who remembered us in their will with a generous bequest. However, you will also see that over the last three years the Trust has run a deficit and has had to call on some of its reserves to make up the difference. This is unsustainable in the longer term and it is critical that the Trust establishes a wider funding base and increases its fundraising activities. Our new Forest Guardian program is one of the first of these new fundraising activities, so please consider supporting it.

Hugh Graham, Acting Treasurer, NFRT

Bethells Wetland Resonates as Potential New Acquisition

There are times when a block of land comes along and it ticks all the boxes. Even the price is right. However there are times when a land purchase resonates for lots of reasons but it is too expensive. Normally we would regretfully turn the opportunity down. However, past circumstances have led us to the point where we have a degree of commitment to a block of land in the Bethells Valley, west of Auckland.

The purchase of the property at 111 Bethell's Road Te Henga has been on 'our' radar for ten years..

"We" in this instance are a joint project team from West Auckland Forest & Bird (F&B), their subsidiary, Ark in the Park (AitP), and the Native Forest Restoration Trust (NFRT).

Here is a link to a video of a drone flight over the property: <https://youtu.be/JL5wpAd3rfY>

The choice of the specific property came about in 2005/6 when NFRT was given substantial funding from a donor who requested we use it to purchase ecologically important land within an hour of Auckland. After much searching we recommended this extension of F&B's 120 hectare Matuku Reserve, by acquisition of the 37 hectare property at 111 Bethells Rd, then owned by Henk Van Steeden. He had previously sold a bush block to F&B some years before. When approached 10 years ago, Mr Van Steeden declined to sell.

After Henk's death late last year, we have been talking to his family who indicated they planned to sell the property. We are discussing a purchase price of circa \$2 million. NFRT have agreed to pay the deposit once full funding has been found, and contribute up to a total of \$450,000.

The three main reasons this particular property is so important to the three groups involved are:

1. The Waitakere wetland is one of the largest and arguably most important of Auckland's few remaining wetlands as per this extract from Auckland Council's brochure on wetlands:

"Not far from Lake Wainamu is Te Henga wetland, one of Auckland's largest freshwater wetlands (140ha). The wetland is home to 300 species of plants and 45 bird species (including fernbird and bittern) and 6 native fish. The best way to access the wetland is via Matuku Reserve, a Forest & Bird reserve where visitors can access the wetland on boardwalks."

The Waitakere River runs through the property and feeds immediately into the wetland, bringing occasional flooding, silt deposition and the natural cycle of wetland creation. Ecologically the headwaters of wetlands are areas of great biodiversity being the transition zone from dryland, subject to intermittent inundation, to the permanently wet of the true wetland. Approximately 7 hectares can be considered lowland wetland forest zone, currently in rough pasture, which we would revegetate with lowland forest of kahikatea, swamp maire and pukatea etc. The balance of 30 hectares is a mix of maturing kanuka forest transitioning into kauri – puriri – broadleaf species. The quality is good to high and very few environmental weeds occur.

2. Additionally the land gives ready access to the 'Habitat Te Henga' pateke project, and access to the rest of the Matuku Reserve which currently has only difficult access from Jonkers

Road high on the ridgeline. Recent release of Brown Teal on the wetland requires better access for monitoring purposes, trapping and bait station servicing.

In two public open days F&B had several hundred people attend and there is great scope for greater public access and involvement in planting days etc.

3. Ark in the Park have had many students carrying out research requiring billeting and homestays in the area. Overseas students come to do conservation work with AitP, staying for several months at a time and also require convenient lodgings close to the operative area. The house is in reasonable condition and large enough to accommodate several researchers/workers at a time. There is also a sturdy barn which is envisaged as a wetland interpretation centre and workplace headquarters.

We initially approached the main potential funders for such a purchase: Auckland Council, Foundation North and DoC's Nature Heritage Fund. All of them are under financial constraints and none want to be the 'first mover' but we persist. Which raises the question: If none of those agencies contribute, can we raise the funds from our combined supporters? To gauge that support we welcome your views and if you feel strongly enough to make a financial commitment, an indication (non-binding) of what you might contribute. We believe the goodwill is out there and the project is worthy of support, but it is bigger than any fundraising NFRT have done in the past and we must move cautiously.

Please respond to admin@nznfrt.org.nz with 'Proposed Bethells Acquisition' in the subject line.

Further information from Geoff Davidson oratia@ihug.co.nz or websites about the organisations at:

www.nfrt.org.nz

www.forestandbird.org.nz/branches/waitakere

www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/projects/ark-in-park

www.forestandbird.org.nz/habitattehenga

NFRT at Waikato Show's "EnviroExpo"

As a newly recruited volunteer for NFRT, I was invited to assist with the Trust's stall at the EnviroExpo section of the Waikato Show. I spent Sunday 10 April, the third and last day of the Show, supporting Trust Manager, Sandy Crichton, at the stall.

Although a long term resident of Hamilton, I confess I had never previously attended the Waikato Show, but I understand that the EnviroExpo is a recent development. The amazing thing was the huge flow of people all day long – it didn't ease up until late in the afternoon. Neither of us sat down once all day and we each left the stand only once, and only briefly. There were probably 50 or more stands in the EnviroExpo which was indoors in an area separate from the other activities and it was set up more or less to require visitors to walk through in one direction. The NFRT stall was the second one people saw as they walked through the door; an ideal location. It didn't have as many activities or "freebies" as some other stalls but it had a huge magnet for kids in the form of a little table and four kid sized chairs, with paper cut outs of native plants and animals, including some pest species, and lots of felt tips, crayons and colour pencils. The kids coloured in whatever they chose from a heap of black and white outlines on the table painstakingly produced by Trust Administrator, Sue Cameron, who had

traced, copied and cut them all out. The children then attached the final product, however imperfectly coloured in, with stick on Velcro on to a coloured felt hill and stream scene on the dividing partition (Sue's handwork again), to create an expanding 'forest'.

I was pleasantly surprised at how big a draw card colouring in still is for kids probably up to 11 or 12, and I was even more pleasantly surprised by how just about all the kids, even the older pre-schoolers, could name the pest species and say why they were an environmental hazard. They weren't quite as good at naming common plants like flax and toetoe, which were unmistakable even in their black and white outlines. We agreed that some colour photographs of the plants represented in the cut outs could be a useful addition for future years.

The children's activity saw parents patiently waiting for their young artists, providing an excellent opportunity to explain the Trust's mission to those who had not heard of us before, as well as update those who had. The planned recreational opportunities possible within the Ed Hilary Hope Reserve was a subject discussed by many.

Participation in the EnviroExpo seemed to me to be a worthwhile and productive way to engage show patrons, particularly parents, and co-incidentally, a great opportunity for networking among the environmental organisations' workers.

Dell Hood, Volunteer, NFRT



Passion + Energy + Generosity = New Track for Mangarakau Swamp Reserve

Visitors to the Trust's Mangarakau Swamp Reserve, a 350 hectare wetland south of Farewell Spit at the top of the South Island, enjoy several existing short walks around the reserve. Recently a new track has been developed encompassing the area to the north of the lodge known as Wattle Point.

Development of the track was led by volunteers John Barraclough and Bronwyn Thorneycroft. John and Bronwyn have been providing enthusiastic new energy to many aspects of the maintenance work, in particular the maintenance of recently planted trees. They drive over from their home in Pohara every couple of weeks to spend a few days working on the reserve. Over the past few months their time has been dedicated to designing the Wattle Point route and cutting and benching the track.

The formation of this new track was made possible following the receipt of a generous bequest from the estate of the late Roy Hanbury. Roy and his wife Judy had been staunch supporters of the Native Forest Restoration Trust for many years, and Judy continues to give strong support to the Trust by managing bookings for our Rangitoto Station house.

Roy and Judy had visited Mangarakau in 2004 for the opening of the reserve and were very impressed with the

project, and the dedication of local support group the Friends of Mangarakau Swamp (FOMS). It was thought fitting therefore that the bequest be allocated to the Mangarakau Reserve and some of these funds were used for materials to construct the new track. Part of the development of the new track involved the construction of two small bridges across ditches which formerly had to be scrambled over. As Roy had been an engineer involved in building bridges this seemed an appropriate memorial.

The Wattle Point track provides the opportunity to view the swamp without disturbing bird life. The track winds around a point which runs along the edge of the swamp and has been positioned so that walkers can see out through the trees but will not be very visible to wildlife in the swamp. The final benching of the track was completed with the assistance of other volunteers during a recent working bee that was held at the same time as the FOMS AGM. During the AGM, John and Bronwyn agreed to join the FOMS committee and were accepted with acclamation.

Helen Lindsay, Trustee, NFRT



Bronwyn Thorneycroft and John Barraclough cutting the Wattle Point track.

Notable Donations Since Last Canopy

Times have changed and prices have risen; without the help of partnering organisations and our generous benefactors the Trust would not be able to manage our reserves to the standard we would like. Some notable donations over the past few months have assisted with the development of facilities at Ed Hillary Hope Reserve.

Momentum Waikato Community Foundation have continued John and Bunny Mortimer's support of the Trust with a donation of \$5,000. As the Mortimer's Waitetuna property on Old Mountain Road bounds our new Hillary

Hope Reserve these funds have been earmarked for use within this reserve with a number of ideas currently under consideration.

Following the purchase of the Ed Hillary Hope Reserve the need for an all-weather carpark was identified. The Trust was very grateful to receive \$5,000 grant from the Waikato District Council to assist with development of this car park which is due for completion in May/June this year.

The Trust is also very grateful for the \$5,000 donation received from Forest and Bird Waikato. These funds will be put toward future Kiwi Conservation Club planting days around the main entrance.

Property for Sale Adjacent to Omoana Bush Reserve

Following the recent purchase of land extending our Omoana Bush Reserve in South Taranaki, the Trust is now selling the associated brick and tile house with 1.3 hectares of land.

The house occupies an elevated position on top of the Omoana Saddle and has the added bonus of neighbouring one of our largest protected reserves. The house was built around 1976 and has four bedrooms with open plan dining, lounge, kitchen and double garaging in the basement.

This is an ideal property for someone who appreciates the remote aspect of rural living and loves the outdoors. As well as the surrounding Omoana Bush Reserve you will be just 36kms from Egmont National Park and 34kms from the Tasman Sea with Eltham as your closest town.

The asking price is \$210,000

The property is being marketed by Owen Mills of First National, Stratford. He can be contacted on 06 765 8550 or 027 477 7302 or on email at owen@mgfn.co.nz

<http://www.mgfn.co.nz/buy-rural-real-estate/lifestyle-3345-rawhitiroa-road-eltham-nz-31921110198>



Come and stay at Mangarakau Wetland Field Centre, North-west of 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) 525 6031 javn@extra.co.nz



Come and stay at Rangitoto Station Reserve, The King Country

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) jrhanbury@actrix.co.nz



TO MAKE A DONATION

I would like to support the work of the Trust with a contribution.

I enclose a donation of: ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 \$ (other)

All donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

Name

Address Post code

Phone E-mail

Make cheques payable to: NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust

Send to: NFRT, P.O. Box 80-007, Green Bay, Auckland 0643

To bank your donation online, follow instructions at www.nfirt.org.nz/internet-banking

If you wish to keep your copy of *Canopy* intact, please provide the above details with your online donation.



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