



CANOPY

Newsletter of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust

PATRON: Sir Edmund Hillary, KG, ONZ, KBE

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From the Chair

This issue of Canopy marks my last as your Chairman and gives me an opportunity to thank all those Trustees, Rangers, Management Assistants and importantly you, our supporters, who have advanced the Trust's work so significantly over the past eight years.

The acquisition of land has been one measure of that work. It has been my privilege and great pleasure to 'preside' at nine reserve openings in those eight years. The list is an impressive one: Cynthia Hewett, Basil Hewett, Pehitawa Kahikatea, Ross Bishop, Pigeon Bush, Mangarakau, Opoutama, Omoana and Waiwawa. These names point up two important themes in our work: each purchase required patient negotiation and extensive discussions with owners, surveyors, lawyers and each and every one had to be paid for (an ongoing process). These reserves represent over \$1 million worth of land, paid for by your contributions, by bequests and by substantial grants from the Nature Heritage Fund. The valuable gift of the Palmer Reserve in the Bay of Plenty and the splendid purchase of Motu Kaikoura for the public estate - largely thanks to the Trust's initiative - may be added to that list.

But the 'Openings', satisfying and fulfilling as they all were, are only the beginning. We are, critically, a restoration trust and the mere acquisition of land is only the first step. The land needs active management against animal predators and weeds, hence our warm appreciation of our band of honorary rangers who assist those trustees who are active in the field.

Furthermore, we were pleased, a few years back, to receive a valuable bequest from the estate of the late Ray Ridgway. We now use the dividends from that investment to fund a part-time field officer to coordinate and assist our restoration work. We have also appreciated financial support from the Department of Conservation's Biodiversity Condition Fund to assist our restoration efforts.

The Trust is, I believe, in good heart as the Chair passes to Colleen Newton; but there are challenges ahead. Land costs are rising rapidly and purchases need to be matched to our ability to raise the necessary finance. We cannot always be in a position to purchase a threatened piece of bush or wetland. That is the primary responsibility of the Department of Conservation. Our efforts too are linked to our human resources. The past eight years have seen the retirement of a number of trustees. It is important that new recruits carry on our work.

We are a comparatively small organisation and have achieved results out of proportion to our size and our resources. We have made a significant and, importantly, continuing impact on New Zealand's landscape and on New Zealanders' appreciation of their heritage. I wish the Trust well in the years ahead and thank you all most warmly for your support and for your contributions to our work.

Brian Davis



Reserves Visit - Waipoua, Northland 25-26 February 2006

This weekend will provide an opportunity to enjoy the Trust's Reserves and to hear about the 'Operation Nest Egg' kiwi rearing programme, as well as pest and predator control, and forest restoration that is taking place at Waipoua. *On Sunday, for those interested, there will be some reserve work to help with.*

Some accommodation is available in the McGregor Centre, with other options nearby, or you are most welcome to visit for just one day. For more information, please call **Sharen on 09 817 5537** or **Geoff on 09 813 0229**.

(The NZNFRT website has more specific details of the Waipoua Reserves)

A Committed and Energetic Leader

Dr Brian Davis joined the Trust in 1996 as Deputy to the then chairman, Jim Dart. He was previously Professor of Chemistry and Head of Department at the University of Auckland. He became Chairman in the next year when Jim Dart stood down. Brian retires from the end of this year.

In the eight years he has been leading the Trust he has had the satisfaction of presiding over the opening of nine new reserves, the latest being the Waiwawa Reserve in Coromandel. In addition he played a significant part in the campaign to secure Kaikoura Island in public ownership.

Brian brought to the Trust's work a great capacity for thorough planning and detail. He helped negotiate the agreements to buy new reserves with lawyers, surveyors, and vendors with patience and skill. He strengthened the Trust's relationship with other organisations such as the QE II National Trust and the Nature Heritage Fund and other funding bodies. Firmly believing that the Trust had a responsibility to improve the condition of its reserve lands by active management and pest control, he presided over the appointment of our field officer. He established better systems for overseeing our widespread areas of responsibility by bringing the honorary rangers into the management of the Trust, and by sharing decisions with trustees and rangers.

Fortunately Brian is to remain a Trustee and we will continue to enjoy his positive and cheerful involvement for a good time to come.

Colleen Newton

Welcoming our new Chairperson

Colleen Newton joined the Trust in 1993, and has been Deputy to the Chairman since 1998. She is a barrister practising in litigation in South Auckland, and is keen to continue the Trust's existing work and activities.

Colleen describes her aims for the Trust as being:

- Consolidating the management of our reserves with the involvement of the Department of Conservation.
- Having more interaction with local and national funding bodies.
- Being more pro-active with advocacy at Government level on environmental issues.
- Supporting the growth and improving the infrastructure of local groups such as the Friends of Mangarakau.
- Improving the awareness of the work of the Trust both nationwide and worldwide by media such as our website.

We look forward to a productive time under Colleen's leadership.

The Official Opening of the Waiwawa Bush Reserve



After the previous days of torrential rain that had flooded so much of the East Coast, it was with increasing apprehension that we approached the Sunday of Labour Weekend which had been set down some months in advance for the official opening of this newest reserve. It was to be an especially important event for the Restoration Trust, marking, as it would, our 25th acquisition - achieved at the rate of one each year since the Trust was formed in 1980. Luckily, our fears were groundless; the day dawned fine and remained so, to the great relief of the organisers and the ensuing pleasure of the 60 to 70 people who braved the unsealed narrow & very winding Tapu-Coroglen Rd to inspect the site and participate in the celebration. [Those who were unable to attend may like to visit the Trust's website www.nznfrt.org.nz where a description of the Waiwawa Reserve will be found, along with others]

The formal part of the proceedings began soon after mid-day with the Chairman, Brian Davis, setting the scene. Geoff Davidson then described the topography and ecology of the 61 ha, cutover, but regenerating, block with its extensive frontage to the Waiwawa River, after which Jeanette Fitzsimons, Coromandel's resident MP and co-leader of the Green Party, graciously declared the reserve open. Next came the informal part, with the eagerly awaited & famous venison sausages & billy tea, expertly and very generously served up as always by the Trust's Waikato team. This was followed by an inspection of the reserve. Some visitors went

little further than a view from the road, but the reserve was subjected to a closer and approving look into the block proper by the more determined and agile members.

The event was also an appropriate occasion to make public the fact that the Trust has received \$15,000 from Trust Waikato as a contribution towards the purchase of the block, and also to announce that we have had the good fortune to attract the attention of Matua Valley Wines, a company that has resolved to 'put its money where its ecological vision is.' Matua Wines are to contribute, as a Corporate Sponsor, towards the work of the Trust. This was good news, indeed, for which we are most grateful, especially since the acquisition of each new block marks only the beginning of a long-term obligation to care for and enhance the indigenous fauna & flora within it, and that means, among other things, a constant battle especially against possum, goat, mustelid, rat and weed infestations.

All in all, it was a most happy day which was marred only by the absence of Arthur & Pat Cowan who, at the last moment, were prevented from playing their customary leading roles. Thankfully, this sudden turn proved to require only an enforced rest and lots of TLC for Arthur to ensure his early return to fitness again.

Jim Dart, Secretary

Sponsorship from Matua Wines

Wine buyers may have recently noticed a small neck tag on bottles of Matua Valley or Shingle Peak wines, offering a chance to enter a draw for a \$10,000 garden makeover. From these responses, Matua Wines will give NZNFRT the sum of \$1 for each entry to go towards our forest restoration work.

Matua Wines were keen to act as a corporate sponsor and we were brought to their notice by the Robin Hood Foundation (nice name!). After a presentation by two of our trustees, the Restoration Trust became the chosen recipient. From our side, the sponsorship was marked by a toast during the opening of the Waiwawa Reserve (see our website and the news flash "Waiwawa Reserve launched with Matua Wine"). We see the benefits as arising not only from the income but also in an increased profile for the Trust. So watch out for those tags and enjoy a summer drink of Matua wines.

Conservation Efforts at North Pureora

Colleen Grayling, Chairperson of the Howick Tramping Club Conservation Subcommittee, writes to Trust supporters:

It has been highly encouraging that ten years of predator control targeting rats and possums in the Northern Pureora has seen pairs of kokako rise from just six to 46 by the 2005 census. As Howick Tramping Club members, we have continued our involvement, putting out poisoned bait, rat monitoring and doing track maintenance. Our role has expanded from volunteers to one of management with DOC Maniapoto, after securing private funding. We have increased the area under pest control from 1000 to 1500 hectares and kokako have been taken to help re-establish a population at Mount Bruce.

Crucial to this success has been the involvement and support of a range of people and organisations. Laurence Gordon and Rosemary Gatland are our two dedicated contractors, Phil Bradfield of DOC Maniapoto has given invaluable technical advice and practical support, and we have had the generous funding of Transpower and the NZ National Parks and Conservation Foundation. DOC's Waikato Community Conservation Fund enabled the recent addition of 200 hectares to encompass six pairs of kokako not previously protected by predator control.

The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust has allowed access and accommodation through Rangitoto Station, and the Whakareta Maori Trust allows access across their land. Telecom and DOC recently upgraded the roads and we have had support from local farmers. Other volunteers include the Pukekohe Tramping Club and Toi Toi Trekkers and we have all learned new skills, enjoyed camaraderie and team work, and put our tramping knowledge and experience to a worthwhile cause. We have not been without problems, however. Pigs have damaged some of the bait stations and last year the new bait "Sentinel" failed to reduce the rat count to the level which would allow successful breeding of the birds.

On-going challenges include funding, and the concept of "pulsing". DOC intend moving their support between Mapara and the Northern Pureora in two-year cycles. Do we follow DOC? Will pulsing prove to be successful in increasing two populations of kokako for the cost of one? Whatever the future brings, to hear the beautiful, haunting song of the kokako and see the resurgence of bird life is our reward. To enhance this even further is our aim.



Puketi Mokau Reserve

Continuing the series about the Trust's established reserves, this issue focuses on Puketi Mokau in Northland.

The Puketi Mokau Reserve is a property of 319 ha adjoining the northern boundary of Puketi Forest approximately 25 km west of Kerikeri. It slopes northwards down from the Mokau Ridge.

History: The reserve was purchased in 1987 and is a valuable extension to the neighbouring forests. It was last logged in the 1920s and has since been allowed to regenerate. It was the enthusiasm of the late Shirley Guildford, a founding Trustee of the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, which led to the purchase of this block.

Vegetation: The canopy is dense over most of the Reserve except along the ridges and old logging roads. There are scattered kauri, totara and rimu of

reasonable height. Taraire and towai are dominant canopy trees with tawa, tanekaha, kohekohe, pukatea, kawaka and a few rata. Manuka and kanuka are on the less-regenerated ridges with emergent towai and rewarewa. The forest is rich with epiphytic lilies, orchids, ferns, kiekie, nikau, wheki and mamaku.

Wildlife: There is a diverse range of species including the North Island brown kiwi, kukupa, tui, grey warbler, fantail and pied tit. Also present are the kauri snail and the giant bush worm.

Special values: At the time of the purchase appeal, a Department of Conservation report described the block as 'Outstanding'. It is an important extension of the Puketi-Omahuta

forests, providing a buffer zone in the north, and increasing the chances of survival of some of our larger and more threatened forest birds. Puketi and Omahuta also contain some of Northland's most spectacular kauri forest and its associated unique flora.

Management: Pest control is conducted in association with the Department of Conservation as the area comes within their management zone, but due to the high numbers of possums, the Trust takes a particularly active role in the process.

Weeds are a problem in all Northland forests. Mistflower is prevalent and has been subject to a trial of a fungus that specifically targets it with encouraging results.

Puketi Mokau Reserve (continued from pg 3)

Facilities: There are two tracks, lightly marked with small red markers. The Loop track begins at the reserve sign and takes about two hours to walk. Murray's track branches off the Loop track at a large puriri and continues northward to the back boundary of the reserve where it finishes.

How to get there: Puketi Forest can be approached from Okaihau in the south, Kaeo in the north, and Kerikeri in the east. The reserve is 5 km along an old forestry road which branches off Waiare Road about 30 metres north of the Kauri Dam walk. The forestry road has had locked gates installed. If you are associated with the Trust and wish to visit the reserve, please contact the honorary ranger, Dan O'Halloran, (09) 405 0892 (evenings) or by email: puketi@orcon.net.nz

Shirley Guildford



The Puketi Mokau Reserve was especially beloved of Shirley Guildford. Shirley, one of the Trust's Founders, will be remembered by the many volunteers whom she led and exhorted to sterling efforts during our first tree plantings in Northland and at Pureora. Shirley was instrumental in securing this particular block, and indeed her frontline endeavours, wherever the action was hottest, played a key role in setting the Trust on its future path.

After her death in 1987 an area of regenerating trees at Pureora was dedicated as the Shirley Guildford Grove. This 25th anniversary is a fitting time to renew tribute to Shirley with gratitude and respect.

'Open Space'

'Open Space' is the magazine of the QE II National Trust which, in its current November 2005 issue, carries a two-page spread celebrating the 25 years of restoration work by NZNFRT, and devotes its cover to a splendid photograph of Arthur Cowan supervising the preparation of those legendary ingredients - the venison sausages and billy tea - at one of our reserve openings. The magazine's central article explains how the Restoration Trust operates, and stresses how the visionary role of NZNFRT has been translated into action by reserve acquisition, so that this Trust (backed by QE II through its covenanting role) is now actively engaged in restoring

some 5500 hectares of land in its 25 reserves from the Far North to north-west Nelson.

This last property - Mangarakau swamp - is the subject of a feature on 'Historic sites' which describes how the Trust has set out to protect 160 ha of precious freshwater wetland.

Supporters who wish to know more about the work of the QE II National Trust, or to take out membership and receive 'Open Space' (at \$30 individually, \$45 per family annual subscription or \$550 for life, which are also popular as Gift Memberships), should write to PO Box 3341, Wellington, or call Free-phone 0508 732 878.

Toby Clements



With sadness we report the death of one of our valued helpers, Toby Clements, who collapsed and died in August while on a visit to the W U Hewett Memorial Reserve. Toby and Noeline were the first rangers for this reserve and he will be especially remembered for the all work he did for that property during the 1990s

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), Email: jrhanbury@actrix.co.nz



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

I would like my donation to be used for Waiwawa Reserve purchase, Tararu Valley Reserve purchase, reserve maintenance, general purposes, etc.

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 80-007, Green Bay, Auckland 1230**