



CANOPY

Newsletter of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust

PATRON: Sir Paul Reeves, ONZ, GCMG, GCVO, QSO

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Geoff Moon



Geoff Moon died on 13 March 2009. We were saddened by this news, even while celebrating an event close to Geoff's heart, the opening of the Trust's newest wetland reserve. As a founding Trustee Geoff Moon made major contributions to our work over a period of 25 years and by keeping in touch after his retirement in 2005. Geoff's extensive knowledge of wildlife matters was invaluable during the acquisition of the Trust's properties and when formulating plans for their restoration. Well into his 90s Geoff Moon continued to write and publish his magnificent books, sometimes in partnership with his wife Lynnette. *New Zealand Wetland Birds and their World*, just published by New Holland, begins "In recent years there has been an increasing awareness of the importance of our diminishing wetlands and of the valuable fauna and flora that inhabit them."

Thank you, Geoff, for that message and for your wonderful support of the conservation movement for so long.

On behalf of all Trust supporters we extend our deepest sympathy to Geoff's family, especially Lynnette.

Successes at Waipoua

Late last year the Maori people of Waipoua, Te Raroa, were delighted that after 16 years of negotiation an important claim was passed by the Waitangi Tribunal.

As a result, two very significant areas are being returned to the Maori of Waipoua. They are Maunganui Bluff and Puketurehu, which includes the fire lookout land down to the Waipoua River bridge and DOC Headquarters/Visitor Centre. The Visitors' Centre will be owned by Te Raroa. These reserves have extremely high ecological value and Te Raroa are proud to care for them. They are looking forward to establishing a quality visitor interpretation facility at Maunganui Bluff which is particularly rich in rare plant species, including titirangi (*hebe speciosa*) the magenta flowered hebe known to many in their gardens.

Te Raroa people have worked closely with our Trustee Stephen King on the restoration of large areas of the forest including the Trust's five reserves on the south side of Waipoua. We appreciate their cooperation and the leadership shown by Alex Nathan, and offer our congratulations on their achievement in advancing the settlement of their claims. These settlements are particularly significant for NZ NFRT supporters, adding two important areas to the vision of the wider kauri heritage park which we have been working towards for over twenty years. They represent a confidence in Te Raroa and their commitment to the restoration of the forest which Professor McGregor campaigned for in the 1930s.

Opening of the Marie Neverman Reserve

Nearly 200 people gathered on the paddocks above Leighton's Dam on the eastern side of the South Kaipara Head Peninsula on Saturday 14 March to open a new wetland reserve in honour of school teacher, Miss Marie Neverman. The Opening Day brought together Trust supporters, Marie's friends and family and local residents. The new reserve was declared officially open by the Restoration Trust's Patron, Sir Paul Reeves.

Miss Neverman had been a long-time supporter of the Trust and in her will asked that the proceeds of her estate be used to establish a reserve for the protection of bird habitat. As she had worked for much of her life in Auckland she hoped that the reserve might be in that general area. The Trust, with the help of members of the South Kaipara Landcare group and the Ornithological Society, located the 23 hectare block on the Tupare farm subdivision which includes a fresh water lake with abundant and varied bird life. The lake has extensive raupo beds and is bordered by pasture and some native vegetation. With substantial contributions from two other supporters, the Trust was able to purchase this valuable block. **We are also firmly committed to acquiring the adjacent marshland which will extend the reserve to the Kaipara Harbour. Satisfactory terms have now been reached for a Sale and Purchase Agreement to be drawn up.**

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 [javn@xtra.co.nz]

Yahoo! Another Wetland Protected For Ever

Supporter Jo Ritchie writes ... I recently had the pleasure of attending the opening of the **Marie Neverman Reserve** - a 23ha block of land on the South Kaipara Peninsula, about 70 km north of Auckland. The reserve is also known as the Tupare Lake and Wetland because 14ha of it is a wonderful open lake with extensive raupo and reed beds. The purchase was made possible by generous donations from several NZ NFRT supporters of whom Marie Neverman, through her bequest, was one. The location of the reserve suited the desire of the Trust to have an accessible reserve close to Auckland to showcase its goals of restoring natural habitat and protecting native flora and fauna.

The purchase of a wetland area in the Auckland Region is highly significant. Less than 0.5% of wetlands remain in the Rodney District where the reserve is situated. Surrounded by farmland on three sides, the Marie Neverman reserve illustrates the vulnerability of wetlands and the importance of protecting the remnants that remain.

NFRT has had considerable support from the South Kaipara Landcare group which along with the Ornithological Society turns out every Anzac Day to count wetland birds. Species recorded include diving birds such as dabchick, little grebe and NZ scaup, a pied shag nesting colony, and good numbers of paradise shelduck, NZ shoveler and grey teal. Some years ago nesting boxes were installed for these teal. Each autumn, before the teal select their nest sites, Landcare members working from boats clear the nest boxes of starling and sparrow litter. In addition to waterbirds, the surrounding habitat provides shelter for many other species including bittern, fernbird, spotless crane and kingfisher.

Nearly 200 people came to the opening on Saturday 14 March. We all congregated on the open paddock which provides panoramic views of the wetland. The reserve was officially opened by Sir Paul Reeves, the Trust's patron. Some wonderful talks on the importance of the wetland were then provided by a number of people. These included Michael Taylor, a noted ornithologist, and Geoff Davidson another NFRT stalwart who showed us a species of mistletoe growing in association with kanuka, recently found on the reserve by a keen staff member of Geoff's Oratia Native Plant Nursery.

Following the formalities we were directed to a bird-watching vantage point and also had a walk around the property before enjoying a wonderful barbecue put on by the Landcare group. NFRT are not content with what they have purchased to date and are hoping to acquire an adjoining block of wetland which links through to the Kaipara Harbour. [A map of the area appeared in Canopy 51, available on the Trust's website] The Native Forests Restoration Trust and its generous donors deserve a great thankyou from us for this inspiring purchase.

QSM Award to Judy Hanbury

Judy and Roy Hanbury of Waitakere are long-time backers of the Trust. They were among the group of active conservationists involved in Kiwi rescue and transfer operations in Northland when scrub clearance was at its height during the 1980s. Judy is well known to supporters as our efficient booking contact for Rangitoto Station. Elsewhere, Judy was instrumental in establishing Hauturu - Little Barrier Island Supporters Trust of which she is a Trustee. These efforts have received well-deserved recognition with her award of the Queen's Service Medal 'for services to conservation' in the 2009 Birthday Honours.

Congratulations Judy and very best wishes to you both!

Create a Legacy that lasts Forever

Recent purchases by the Trust have been made possible by several very generous gifts and bequests by supporters. Many of us want to protect and restore precious habitat so that native wildlife continues to thrive. Yet to save just a tiny area is mostly beyond individual capacity. Even small donations from many people can assist the Trust both to acquire new reserves and to look after those we already own.

Such help will be particularly important over the next year or two with the impact of the economic down-turn on charitable agencies. For example, we have recently learnt that the ASB Trust will be making no grants in 2009. Meanwhile, however, private gifts and bequests can provide opportunities for major steps to protect our heritage, while enabling the donor to achieve a dream that lasts beyond a lifetime..

The NZ NFRT leaflet offering guidance about bequests to the Trust suggests three ways: provide a monetary gift; make a gift of assets or property; or give funds for a Memorial Reserve with extra funds for ongoing maintenance. The gift can be a specified sum. However the total value of one's estate is not easy to anticipate. Hence a better method may be to donate a percentage of the estate, which maintains the balance between the gift to the Trust and any other legacies that may be made under the will.

The Trust's bequest leaflet also describes our 'Living Memorial' scheme. An event such a birth, anniversary or death can be marked by planting a tree or a grove of trees, or by our purchasing a block of native forest. All plantings are recorded in our 'Memorial Tree Book' and, as with all our reserves, a block of forest would be protected in perpetuity with a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant.

Redecoration of Rangitoto Station

The Howick Tramping Club have been helping with kokako recovery at Mangatutu in the Northern Pureora since 1997. For accommodation the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust made the house on the adjacent Rangitoto Station available at no cost. This generous gesture has provided the club with a welcome base for our visits - and a comfortable haven when the weather was not so kind! Previously we have reciprocated by donations of money, a vacuum cleaner, household effects and minor repairs, as well as some wallpapering with donated wallpaper. It had become increasingly evident that the house was in need of more maintenance so, planning a summer visit over a three day Waitangi weekend, thirteen volunteers cleaned and painted the outside of the house and continued wallpapering the inside. With an enthusiastic team, fine weather and a huge effort - fuelled by home-baking - we are very pleased to report that we accomplished our goals! Many thanks to Resene for providing discounted paint and wallpaper, to the Trust for paying for the balance and to all our volunteers who happily contributed their time, effort and equipment.

Colleen Grayling

CHAIRPERSON
HOWICK TRAMPING CLUB CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Losses and gains from fire damage at Opoutama

Though it may seem contradictory, wetlands carry a considerable risk of damage by fire, especially during the late summer months. The Trust's reserve at Opoutama on the Mahia Peninsula suffered such a fire on 2nd February, which began on adjacent property and spread to our wetland in two separate places at different times. The first outbreak spread north east and did the most damage on our land, before moving into neighbouring wilding and plantation pines. The second fire damaged a house as it spread at night to the north west and entered our land towards the main approach at the beginning of YMCA Road.

Having inspected the devastation, Geoff Davidson together with our Field Officer Sharen Graham gave the following report:

For the most part the damage the Trust's reserve suffered is superficial and the wetland will recover quickly enough. The sad part is the loss of manuka scrub that was beginning to dominate on the drier areas. Gorse and blackberry now have an opportunity to re-establish where they were being shaded out. The priority is to get control of the weeds before they overshadow the germinating manuka, because there is sufficient seed to provide a dense cover if we can encourage its growth. This will require a careful spraying regime to keep on top of the weeds without killing the good species, which include lots of *Baumea juncea* (a native rush) on the drier areas and *Lepidosperma australe* (a sedge).

A benefit of the fire is that we can now see where a network of tracks would be best placed for public access and predator control operations. Our Honorary Ranger, Ian Pickering, is being invited to plan a layout of board walks giving access to bait stations and fire breaks. Some fencing needs to be replaced but, on the positive side, a patch of unwanted pines has been destroyed and pits that were dug while fighting the fire can be retained as open areas for waterbirds. Cabbage tree, flax, hebe, kanuka and tauhinu seeds collected from unburnt locations nearby are being distributed in the reserve to germinate in the autumn rain. **Volunteers are very welcome** for this activity and also to assist with weed removal. Please contact **Geoff Davidson** if you can help. Tel: (09) 813 0229 or email: oratia@ihug.co.nz

Trustee Matters

Michael Taylor, who held the post of Secretary from 1996 and 2003, has again become a Trustee and is looking forward to being involved not only in administrative matters but also in practical activity, especially where this involves protecting and restoring habitat for native birds.

Gerry Kessels recently stood down from the Trust having been a valued member for a number of years.

Hugh Graham who was appointed a Trustee last year brings wide knowledge of the business world from his career overseas.

Hugh was born in Wellington but grew up in South Auckland. He attended school locally at Mangere Bridge Primary, Miller Road Primary, Manukau Intermediate and Onehunga H.S. After a few months at Auckland University he dropped out and headed to Australia for some OE before returning to NZ and working in the construction industry for six years, then recommencing his studies to attain a BComm in 1982. On completion Hugh worked for Mobil Oil in New Zealand and after 6 years based in Wellington (where he met his Canadian wife Barb) he was transferred to Australia for two years; thereafter he was moved to Turkey, where both his daughters were born, spending nearly 4 years in Istanbul watching from the sidelines as the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia were breaking up, then to Greece for a year before moving to a marketing role within the Moscow retail fuels market. After that it was London for 4 years and finally Paris as CFO for Mobil's downstream business in Africa. Following Mobil's merger with Exxon and a mooted shift to Brussels, Hugh and family decided to accept an offer from BHP in Australia to help re-engineer its finance processes based in Melbourne. After 18 months he was again moved, this time to Adelaide where he managed BHP Billiton's Shared Service Centre for 4 and a half years before deciding to retire in early 2006 and return to NZ so that the children could attend high school here.

Hugh currently lives in Takapuna on Auckland's North Shore where he has ready access to his holiday home and boat in Northland. Outside of family, the bach and walking in the bush, Hugh's major interests are politics and economics and he has a particular interest in how governments and business are dealing with climate change and other environmental issues. The Native Forests Restoration Trust is very fortunate to gain a Trustee with his background. We extend a warm welcome, coupled with the wish that Hugh will enjoy applying his energy and wide experience to the activities and opportunities provided by the work of the Trust.



Canopy Must Get Through.....

As Trustees of NZ NFRT we want to keep all supporters informed about matters relating to the Trust so we are very keen to circulate our newsletter **Canopy** to as many people as possible. Costs and convenience are important and regrettably NZ Post has not been helpful in these aspects since July 2008 with changing regulations. Therefore we are considering some alternatives listed below -

Option 1: Print and post hard copy of Canopy to our mailing list - nearly 2000.

Option 2: Provide current copy of Canopy to be downloaded from our website www.nznfirt.org.nz. This service has been available for some time and we have built up a library of back copies.

Option 3: Email direct to each supporter via their personal email address.

Using the electronic medium saves on printing and postage costs, reduces environmental impact from printing, and saves paper and waste. However we recognise that the hard copy is a friendly document that is often circulated amongst family and friends. This also can be achieved by downloading off the computer. Forest and Bird (Central Auckland Branch) with a membership comparable with that of the Trust has recently embarked on a programme to circulate their newsletter Te Karere electronically.

Would you please consider the above options and email your first, second, third preference to admin@nznfirt.org.nz with "Canopy circulation" in the subject line. Comments are valued.

We recognise that some households do not have access to a computer. If this is your situation please feel free to put a simple reply in an envelope to our post box address, located under the heading of this Canopy. Thank you for your interest and support.

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 \$

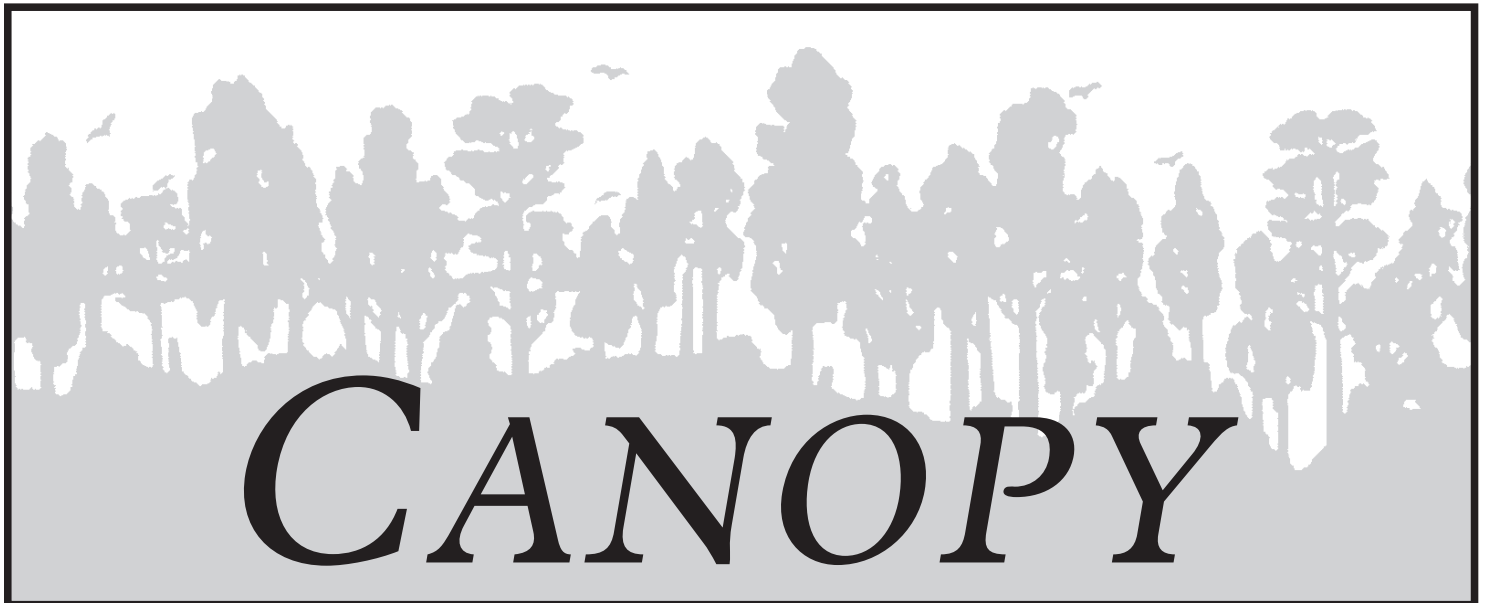
Name:

Address:

..... Phone:

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

IF YOU WISH TO KEEP YOUR COPY OF CANOPY INTACT, PLEASE SUPPLY THE ABOVE DETAILS & INDICATE ITS INTENDED PURPOSE WITH YOUR DONATION



NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust
PO Box 80007
Green Bay
Waitakere 0643

New Zealand
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