



# CANOPY

Newsletter of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust

PATRONS: Arthur & Pat Cowan

PO Box 80-007, Green Bay, Waitakere 0643  
[www.nznfrt.org.nz](http://www.nznfrt.org.nz)

## Trust Patrons - Arthur & Pat Cowan

The Trust's first Patron from 1980 to 2009 was Sir Edmund Hillary. He was followed by Sir Paul Reeves, whose prior service to nature conservation included Chairing the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. To fill the vacancy caused by Sir Paul's untimely death last year we have been able to maintain a forest restoration focus in no uncertain terms because Arthur and Pat Cowan of Rewa Rewa are to be the Trust's joint patrons. As NZ NFRT friends & supporters will know, Arthur Cowan was one of the Trust's founders and has been honoured with an MBE for his work in conservation. With his wife Pat at his side, he has been a leader in our affairs ever since. Welcome, Pat & Arthur in your new role!



## Happy 35th Anniversary QEII

The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust was established in 1977 and named to commemorate Her Majesty's 25th jubilee in the same year. Hence 2012 jointly marks the Queen's 60th jubilee and the 35th anniversary of the QEII Trust. There is much to celebrate because the Trust has enabled landowners all over New Zealand to establish over 3500 perpetual covenants protecting nearly 100,000 hectares of exceptional landscapes and threatened native ecosystems on their land. In addition, the QEII Trust owns and manages 29 properties protecting 1,600 hectares of significant habitat. Parallel with this activity, our slightly younger Native Forests Restoration Trust owns thirty properties totalling 6,000 hectares, all of which have extra protection through QEII covenants. For more information about the QEII National Trust please refer by internet to [www.openspace.org.nz](http://www.openspace.org.nz). **Happy Birthday!**

## Joy Lewis

Friends and supporters of the Trust were shocked and saddened by the loss of Joy Lewis who died on 9 October 2011 after a short illness. Joy stood by Owen throughout the years in which he chaired the Trust, sharing his love of native bush and dedication to its protection. Joy's service, a large gathering at St Matthew-in-the-City, Auckland, paid tribute to a very fine person. Owen & Joy's daughter Dorothea and three close friends, Anne Jones, Robyn Dormer and Derek Pringle described a life of achievement in her own right and always supportive of Owen and the concerns of the Native Forests Restoration Trust. Typically, the hymn 'Jerusalem' was given an appropriate twist, ending with 'New Zealand's green and pleasant land.' Little over a year earlier, Joy & Owen had been saluted by Auckland University as 'oldest alumni' – having graduated together in 1944, prior to Owen's war service.

An extremely generous donation from the Lewis family in Joy's name will be used to increase the area of native forest protected by the Trust. Details of this project will be reported in Canopy as soon as possible.

## Professional help for the Trust

The scale and complexity of our work has continued to grow. For secretarial support in managing our affairs the Trust has appointed Teresa Norris to the position of Administrator, on the basis of 15 hours per week. Teresa brings wide experience of management, having worked in New Zealand, London (including BBC Science) and Melbourne in the fields of accounting, business analysis and website creation.

To increase progress in creating management plans for the Trust's reserves we have contracted Chris Wild, an ecologist with a strong background in the technical skills required. She will work with Sharen Graham, the Trust's Field Officer.

# An Inspiring Weekend at Mangarakau Swamp, Golden Bay

*Mangarakau Swamp "a truly outstanding natural landscape which should be retained as it is one of the best natural wetlands in the top half of the South Island" situated in North West Golden Bay and reached by sidling the majestic Whanganui Inlet. It was bought by the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust in 2002. Management is by the Friends of Mangarakau (FOM), with around 200 members, while day to day care is undertaken by four retired individuals who manage infrastructure and trapping lines.*

Through my FOM involvement, writes Ian Price, I saw an opportunity for groups to help out the 'inspirational four' (Jo-Anne Vaughan, Murray Gavin, David Morgan, Robyn Jones) and this is how a party of Nelson/Tasman Forest and Bird and Brook Sanctuary Volunteers came to spend Labour Weekend of 2011 at Mangarakau Swamp.

We stayed in the Swamp Field Centre, a renovated house, sleeping up to 17 people, sited on a hilltop looking over the swamp and lakes, with majestic forested limestone cliffs as a backdrop. People lined up to do the dishes for the spectacular views from the sink!

In general we were gifted with pleasant weather and, with gusto, tore into the jobs identified by the 'Fab 4': 2-300 trees to get into the ground (achieved in quick time); previously planted trees to be released; weed nasties to be controlled (the legacy of early habitation when Mangarakau had a thriving community in the timber, flax and coal industries). The building skill of one of the volunteers was applied to improve the Field Centre and Visitor Centre, and future firewood supplies were ensured. Last, but not least, a new 25,000 litre tank was installed for extra water and in case of fire - a real team effort as the photo shows!

Birds were monitored by FOM and Brook Sanctuary volunteers. Those of us from Nelson were captivated by the richness of the dawn chorus. Fernbird, Redpoll, Brown Creeper, Bittern & Falcon were just some of the calls heard during the survey.

Sunday was taken up with a tramp by some over the Kaituna Track which runs from near the Naked Possum Cafe over to Dry Road on the Whanganui Inlet; a great day, sunny and fabulous views of Farewell Spit and Whanganui Inlet from Knuckle Hill. After this 6-hour trip we took advantage of kind hospitality to watch the All Blacks win the World Cup.

An inspirational weekend enjoyed by all: much achieved in assisting a unique project and helping a dedicated and committed group of people. This is the only time I have worked and completed a long tramp and thanks to the delicious pot-luck dinners still put on weight!

To visit or stay at Mangarakau or become actively involved with this fabulous project contact Jo-Anne Vaughan javn@xtra.co.nz or (03) 525 6031. If you would like to join a team on a long weekend in a working bee then contact Ian Price (03) 545 9018 or ian.price@xtra.co.nz

# Trustee Changes Farewell Jim Dart, Welcome Warwick Brown

In this issue of CANOPY we record our thanks to **Jim Dart** who became a Trustee in 1996, serving as Chair then later as Secretary and proving highly effective in both these key positions. In standing down due to failing health Jim expressed a wish for continuation of the public support that has been a consistent factor in all that the Trust has achieved since its formation in 1980.

We are delighted to welcome **Warwick Brown** as a Trustee. Having qualified in law from Auckland University in 1964, Warwick practised in property law and town planning until 1990. For ten years he was a committee member and honorary solicitor of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society. He made a career change into the field of arts in 1990 and since that time he has been active in gallery operation, writing, publishing & lecturing. As an active tramper and long-term member of the Environmental Defence Society and the Native Forest Action Council, Warwick is a committed supporter of initiatives to preserve New Zealand's native bush and fauna. He has travelled extensively (having nine grandchildren in three countries) and also lays claim to be the only Trust member who plays jazz clarinet.

## Recent Grants to NZ NFRT

We express very warm appreciation for recent grants to support the work of the Trust.

\$50,000 was granted by the **ASB Community Trust** for operating costs of native forest restoration activity in our Northland reserves at Waipoua. This grant will be applied to the raising, planting and nurturing of kauri seedlings undertaken by a team led by Stephen King. The Trust's Elvie McGregor Reserve was purchased in 1991 with the help of an ASB grant and we welcome this continued support through the present allocation.

A grant of \$5,000 was awarded from the **Waikato Community Conservation Fund** for the purpose of animal pest control to protect and enhance native biodiversity in the Trust's Steuart Russell Reserve.

A further grant of \$1,500 from the **Heseltine Trust** has been applied to the ordering and preservation of our records. This professionally compiled archive is a comprehensive accumulation of the Restoration Trust's affairs, sorted under such headings as Reserves, their purchase and management to preserve regenerating and mature native bush and threatened habitat; our Trustees, Rangers and volunteers; contact with our supporters and the general public by way of meetings and the newsletter Canopy. Also preserved are the details of appeals and grants, donations and bequests, and all the usual material of a complex organisation in terms of reports, minutes and financial records – documents that will, we believe, form a precious part of New Zealand's conservation history

# A History of 1080 Use in Waipa Valley, Rangitoto Station & North Pureora



In the mid-1970s T.B. was diagnosed in cattle. At Thompson Road we lost four cows and five yearlings, and a testing regime was introduced. Possums were in huge numbers and the bush was obviously suffering. Deer and goats were also numerous and doing their share of damage. A 1080 programme was started – with a massive kill of possums and a marked deer cull. Pigs and goats were less affected. Following several 1080 drops tests showed a rapid decrease in T.B. cattle and after ten years only annual testing was required. The 1080 programme was downgraded to a three-yearly effort.

During this time the native birds had largely disappeared and it needed at least 10 years for them to begin a noticeable recovery. Similarly for the bush there was a slow but marked improvement. 1080 poison drops are much more efficient these days and ill effects on the bird life are greatly reduced. The nesting success following a 1080 drop has been proven to far exceed the possible loss. North Pureora adjoining Rangitoto Station now records a nationally significant kokako population. This success has been helped by ground-baiting for rat control in the Mangatoto Valley and more recently in the Tanewai watershed. The 1080 programme in this watershed led to a remarkable recovery in the dormant rata trees; in the 1980s & '90s these were in a seedy state and all were on the way out.

The up-graded road allowed access to Rangitoto Station via Tanewai Valley after being impassable for six or eight years. It was wonderful to see the remaining ancient rata trees back to full health – entirely due to 1080 programme's control of possums. Bird life is fantastic, with all except kiwi and blue duck in striking numbers and the recent expansion of rat control will guarantee a lasting benefit.

Those who doubt the value of continued 1080 use should take note of the proven benefits evident across the country. It is imperative that these programmes are continued and extended to all areas where our native forest and bird life is still at risk. We are now able to capture surplus kokako, robins and others to re-establish colonies that existed 20 or 40 years ago. We believe it is entirely possible that we may see kokako and blue duck in the Upper Waipa Valley in a few years from now.

*Arthur Cowan*

## Progress at Mangarakau

The Trust's major reserve in North West Nelson goes from strength to strength thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Friends of Mangarakau. Our President Colleen Newton and Trustee Helen Lindsay attended the recent AGM and found the group in good heart and very happy with the past year's progress, all of the restoration tasks on the annual plan having been completed. Features of the 2011-2012 annual task list include planting open areas to shade out grass and weeds, releasing young trees, and propagating 300 trees for planting during the 2012 season. Controlling pest animals and plants is another priority with efforts directed at the usual suspects - rats & mustelids, mice, deer & pigs, and among noxious weeds, blackwood, wandering jew, two kinds of honeysuckle, along with unwanted gum trees. Monitoring of birds and native snails has been organised, and measures taken to minimise fire risks.



*Team work at Mangarakau – pushing the water tank into place*

The Visitor Centre, which is an important feature of the reserve, continues to be upgraded to accommodate more people and enable easier use. The Field Centre has received attention and new storage areas added. Membership has also been targeted. Under the operational headings: Objective, Tasks, Resources required, Timing, Person to lead, the work programme is a model of its kind. Supporters wishing to visit or stay at Maungarakau should refer to the invitation to 'Come and stay' elsewhere in Canopy.

Also check out <http://www.gbworkcentre.org.nz/mangarakau/index.html>

## Kaipara Wetland Survey

The annual survey of lakes and wetlands of the South Kaipara Peninsula took place on ANZAC Day 2012 with 25 participants from the Trust, the South Kaipara Landcare group and the Ornithological Society. Despite the wet summer, several once-important lakes are now dry - the burgeoning Woodhill pine plantation is a likely factor in this deterioration of natural biodiversity. The Trust's Marie Neverman Reserve at Tupare is now the major site for waterbirds that take advantage, not only of the lake, but also of the extensive coastal flats added to the property in 2010. Of native species found in the survey, Tupare held half of the grebes (14 out of 29), around two-thirds of the paradise shelducks (108), 90% of the shoveler ducks (118) & grey teal (236), and all 29 of the NZ scaup tallied on the day. Supplementary counts before and after the survey confirm the importance of the reserve and reinforce the Trust's commitment to protect this prime example of threatened habitat.

## RESTORING NATIVE FORESTS

*Yes, I should like to give a contribution supporting 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

*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) 525 6031**  
**[javn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:javn@xtra.co.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)**  
**[jrhanbury@actrix.co.nz](mailto:jrhanbury@actrix.co.nz)**



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