



CANOPY

Newsletter of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust

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From the Chair



I recall well, the feeling of trepidation on taking over the role of Chair of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust.

Whilst I have been involved with the Trust for over 13 years, during which time the Trust work has expanded greatly, there is a very big difference between being a Trustee sitting around a table and being the Chair who sits at the end of the table and coordinates the proceedings.

The analogy of an iceberg has rapidly come to mind as I only now appreciate the correspondence that surfaces for my attention and which has been so ably dealt with in the past by my predecessors Brian Davis, Jim Dart and Owen Lewis.

I am eternally grateful of course that they will still be around that table sharing the decision making and the load that is often placed on those of us who involve ourselves in community work.

Last year marked the 25th anniversary of the Trust and coincided with the purchase of the twenty-fifth Reserve to be secured in perpetuity by the Native Forests Restoration Trust, but the work of the Trust goes on.

Whilst we have had some success with appeals in respect of the Waiwawa purchase and the second Coromandel acquisition at Tararu, both these Reserves still require additional funding to enable their purchases to be completed. As always, we are grateful to the local organisations, such as Environment Waikato in this particular instance, as well as the other local authority groups that in their own way

contribute to the work of the Trust, whether it be by way of direct donations or the remission of rates or fees that would ordinarily be borne by the Trust. Such remission is within the specific ambit of the act to secure native forests, or areas where native forests may be restored, for the enjoyment of New Zealanders now and for future generations.

Some recent changes have been discussed at our planning session which was held on the 4th of March 2006. One proposed change will enable the regular monthly meeting of Trustees to take place in various parts of the country where our Trustees are resident.

We are always open to supporters of the Trust coming along to meetings if they are so inclined, and given the advanced years of some of our Trustees the hunt for young blood to carry on the work of those who have gone before is always encouraged.

The task of being a Trustee is not to be taken lightly as there are occasions when the commitment to the Trust and its work can seem overwhelming in the face of adversity.

The New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust however has a firm record of achievement which I for one hope to be a part of for the next 25 years and I would welcome all of the Trust supporters to continue to share in our successes whether it be by donations, contributing articles or giving time at working bees and planting sessions, or most importantly by spreading the word of the Trust to enable us to keep on keeping on.

Colleen Newton



Successful Sponsorship by Matua Wines

As we reported in our previous issue, CANOPY #44, Matua Wines offered to support native forest restoration by way of a promotion over this past summer. Buyers of their products had the opportunity to enter a draw for a major prize, and for each entrant the company pledged \$1. We are delighted to report that we recently received their cheque for \$5214 which is most welcome financial assistance for our work.

Thank you very much, Matua Wines.

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

Tararu Valley Purchase

The Tararu Cynthia Hewett Memorial Reserve

In our issue #43 last winter we reported on a 90 hectare block of bush, strategically placed in the Tararu Valley, just north of Thames on the Coromandel Peninsula. That purchase formed the basis of our 2005 appeal. We are most grateful to many supporters for valued contributions which totalled just over \$30,000. We are pleased to report that the negotiations are now complete. The involvement of Trustee Arthur Cowan and his family was recorded in that earlier issue and we express our gratitude to them for their assistance in what turned out to be a protracted process. We also acknowledge further generous support from the Hewett Family Trust. A gift of \$50,000 from that source means that we now have three quarters of the purchase price in hand. To recognise the Hewett family's wonderful contributions the block is to be named the Tararu Cynthia Hewett Memorial Reserve, in honour of Cynthia, whose great devotion to the forest restoration cause was emphasised in Canopy of Spring 2003.

Despite all this major help, we still have over \$60,000 to raise.

As the enclosed letter from Colleen Newton, our incoming Chairperson, points out, the need for the remaining funds is urgent, and your contributions will endorse the preservation of this threatened native bush. We hope that you will continue to support our work, as you have so generously during previous appeals.



Honour for Roy Dench

Supporters will share our pleasure in the news that Roy Dench of Ohope, a long-standing Trustee, received the award of Queen's Service Medal for public service in the 2006 New Year Honours' list.

Roy puts huge amounts of work into the affairs of NFRT and he will usually be found where the need for practice effort or commonsense advice is greatest. This recognition is very well deserved indeed.

Congratulations, Roy!

Help us celebrate our first twenty-five years and plan for the future

With this issue of Canopy we are distributing a brochure that will give you some outline of what is involved in restoring a forest, and some of the people that have been helping.

We would like you to share in the celebration by making a special contribution for this twenty-fifth year. In this way you will be able to know that you have had a part in restoring some of our valuable native bush, and increased the survival chances of our native birds.

This mail-out includes a second copy of the brochure. We ask that you give it to a friend and tell them about the Restoration Trust and your part in it. In this way you will be helping to spread the knowledge of the Trust more widely and making it possible to develop this important programme further.

Ensure Canopy spreads more widely. Don't let the second copy stay idle!

Restoration Trust Profile

Colleen Newton assumed the **Chair** position in late 2005, following Brian Davis who continues as a Trustee. Including Colleen, the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust currently has 17 **Trustees**: Jim Dart (Hon. Secretary), Jocelyn Dutton (Hon. Treasurer), Arthur Cowan, Geoff Davidson, Brian Davis, Roy Dench, Gerry Kessels, Stephen King, Owen Lewis, Helen Lindsay, Malcolm Mackenzie, Guy Nash, Tim Oliver, Tim Porteus, Jenny Rattenbury, David Wright. It is a special feature of NFRT that the trustees frequently undertake practical jobs, as well as paper work, relating to the various properties, in addition to their key roles in decision making and guiding the affairs of the Trust.

Six other people attend to various regular tasks concerned with mailing, banking, bookings, the website and the newsletter CANOPY in the guise of **Management Assistants**. Sharen Graham, who was introduced in a previous issue, CANOPY #40, is employed part-time as the Trust's **Field Officer**. Much other valuable work is performed by the **Honorary Rangers** of each NFRT Reserve.

Annton Nursery Cambridge



The Trust is grateful for the continued support of Annton Nursery, Cambridge. Their most recent help came in the form of native plants - 200 kanuka and 80 coprosma - for restoration planting.

Landeman Printers support the Trust

We are very grateful to Landeman & Co. Printers of Avondale for printing the previous CANOPY without charge as a birthday gift to the Trust in our 25th year. Currently we print 3,500 copies of each issue for distribution to our list of almost two thousand individual supporters, while the rest go to libraries, conservation bodies, all branches of Forest & Bird, visitor centres. etc. throughout the country. We even dispatch a few copies to well wishers overseas.

NFRT is of course responsible for the content of the articles in Canopy. However we cooperate closely with Landemans who attend to the page setting and layout of the newsletter, as well as the actual printing. This has proved to be a very satisfactory and harmonious arrangement. We are glad to recommend Landeman & Company to anyone requiring work of this kind.

Three Fine Books

These recent biographies will be of special interest to NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust supporters, because their subjects have been intimately concerned with the appreciation and protection of our native flora and fauna.

FERNGLEN - *The Muriel Fisher Story* is by Muriel Fisher & Margaret Forde who, as long-time friends, are dedicated to the story they have to tell, which is that of Muriel's life, culminating in the transfer of the native plant garden, Fernglen - originally the Birkenhead home of the Fisher family - to the care of North Shore City as a public utility. Born Muriel Hunt in 1915 and growing up around Wellington, she developed an early passion for New Zealand's flora which expanded to alpine species through her keenness for tramping. The book gives a wonderful account of the times through which she has lived; school and family life, earthquakes and the depression years, job hunting and holidays, serious botany and the major conservation battles to which she was committed. There are cameos of Royal tours, the 'American invasion' of World War II, training college & university study in the 1950s, and the developments brought about by the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Muriel Fisher's books *Gardening with NZ Plants, Shrubs and Trees, New Zealand Ferns in your Garden* and *A Touch of Nature* with Elaine Power's paintings mark a turning point in the public attitude to this country's indigenous flora. She went on to take a stand with the activists against the logging of native forests during the tree-sitting protest, which is graphically described in the chapter 'Pureora and Conservation.'

The nine chapters in 100 pages are supplemented by five Appendices linked by the theme of utilising native plants: Fernglen and its Plant Inventory; Landscaping a School Garden by Romily Atkinson; Cultivating a Wellington Garden by Ruth & Arnold Dench; and Coastal Landscaping at Mangawhai Heads by Nev Arbury. The book is handsomely produced and includes fine colour and B&W photographs. Don't miss it!

Sir Charles Fleming, *Environmental Patriot*, is a superb biography of one of this country's foremost scientists who, from the 1950s until his death in 1987, was also a dedicated conservationist. The author, Dr Mary McEwen, an ecologist who majored in both zoology & botany and a daughter of Charles & Peg Fleming, writes from a special perspective as a member of a family well known and respected for their many contributions to New Zealand life.

Quotations from Charles Fleming's field notes & diaries and his personal correspondence are woven into the text, giving an intimacy to the story throughout. His generosity in supporting causes, both financially & by personal example, and his encouragement, especially of young people, are clearly revealed. The result is a 'life' that is both highly readable and a work of scholarship in line with Sir Charles' own best endeavours.

Beautifully produced by Craig Potton Publishing, and illustrated by many of Charles Fleming's own drawings and photographs, the book records his life through four stages: Part I 'Born Lucky' (1916-1940) traces early influences, particularly that of Auckland Museum's A W B (Baden) Powell in extending his interest from birds and insects to shells and fossils which led to his becoming a geologist; II 'Forging a Reputation' (1941-1960) includes his war service on the Snares Islands and subsequent building of a career; III 'Living with Achievement' (1961-1976) sets his role as a public figure, President of the Royal Society of NZ for example, alongside his fearless determination not to stand aside from crucial environmental issues, IV 'In Shining Armour' (1977-1987) shows how these commitments continued into his 'retirement' years.

Like Muriel Fisher's autobiography, the coverage recalls in detail the struggles that took place from the 1960s to the 1980s, first over the issue of raising Lake Manapouri, then during the successive campaigns to preserve native forests. Sir Charles Fleming's story reaches its zenith in the penultimate chapter

'Bringing the Green Dots Together' - which is about uniting the efforts of people with a passion for nature conservation. To quote Stewart Chambers, reviewing the work for the Miranda Naturalists' Trust: "If he lived today I feel sure he would think most of what he preached had not been in vain."

The work presents a fascinating account of part of New Zealand's scientific and conservation history. This handsome book is a treasure to possess.

New Zealand Birds in Focus: a photographer's journey is the latest book by one of our founding Trustees. Geoff Moon has been photographing birds for well over 50 years and this magnificent book takes us through that period. The Introduction and opening sections on 'Photographic equipment through the years' and 'Photographic hides' put Geoff's approach in context and establish the autobiographical style which runs through the book. The content that follows is a series of 25 profiles of New Zealand birds. For each subject, stunning pictures are accompanied by a personal account of how the shots were obtained. Hence the description of the pains-taking effort of nature photography brings together the fascinating story of Geoff's adventures in the field with much information on the birds themselves.

Admirers of Geoff Moon's previous books will find their favourite birds here, among them the New Zealand pigeon, the pied stilt, the royal spoonbill, the coastal reef heron and the more widespread white-faced heron - a special challenge. Few readers will have entered a hide 20 metres up a pine tree, but the vicarious thrill of believing oneself high in the tree tops overlooking the nest of a heron is not to be gainsaid! Yet another challenging subject, the kingfisher, receives a section with more than a dozen wonderful shots, including the famous diving sequence and the story of how this was obtained.

Those who have enjoyed Geoff's illustrated talks will bear out the truth of his statement "At heart I am a naturalist and I use the camera as a valuable tool in recording facets of bird behaviour." His book amply demonstrates the power of this approach, for example by revealing the items brought as food for nestlings or the precise manner in which the young are fed.

Nor can the crucial importance of Geoff Moon's photography to the growth of the conservation movement be over-estimated. Many of the birds at risk appear, beginning with the kiwi. Attempts to rescue and transfer kiwis from Northland ahead of the land clearance which threatened them were part of the genesis of the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust in the 1970s and early '80s. Again, many Trust supporters will remember the finding of a kokako nest on the Coromandel by the artist Rei Hamon in 1978. It was the first such nest Geoff had seen and his shots of the birds rearing their young (as both cine and still pictures) were central to the Save the Kokako Campaign which swung the mood of the country against exploitative logging of native forests at that time. Such iconic shots have enormous value in raising public concern for endangered species and threatened habitats, whether for forest dwellers, rare terns and dotterels on popular beaches, or wetland birds like the bittern, the fernbird and the New Zealand dabchick. All these feature in the *Photographer's Journey*, which is rounded off with a section entitled *British Birds* where Geoff recalls his early experiences with the European grey heron and the kestrel hawk.

No one can fail to appreciate these magnificent photographs or the pleasurable text. Those with a technical bent will also welcome the fact that each photograph carries a note of the camera, lens, flash usage and film type with which it was taken.

However many of Geoff Moon's books you already own, this latest is one you are sure to enjoy.

Cynthia Hewett Reserve

In this issue we look at another of our northern properties



This property of 152 hectares, situated south west of Kaikohe in Northland, was purchased in 1999 and opened as a Reserve in March 2000. The Trust owes a great debt to the generosity of the Hewett family and was glad to honour Cynthia by its naming. The Nature Heritage Fund, the Whangarei Native Forest & Bird Protection Society and many individual supporters also assisted with funding.

Description: The area is largely forested, with a small patch (7 ha) of grassland and ferns near the entrance off Parker Road. Excellent regeneration has occurred on the property since early farming operations, and the plateau portion of the reserve has remnants of scarce high altitude rimu-towai-tawari-swamp maire-Ascarina forest. Geographical features include a conspicuous ridge and a shallow basin, over an altitude of 548 to 620 metres a.s.l. The western boundary follows the historical coach road that once ran to Kaikohe and of which remnants can still be traced.

Special values: This reserve adjoins the 31,000 hectares of the Waipoua-Mataraua-Waima forest for which it forms an important eastern buffer, contributing to the ecological values of the much larger block. The bush cover also protects the water catchment in the upper reaches of the Mangakahia

River which then flows through predominantly farming land below the reserve.

Wildlife: As part of the larger area of forest, the reserve helps to support viable populations of threatened native birds, particularly brown kiwi, kaka and kakariki (red-crowned parakeet). It also provides good winter feeding for the kukupa (NZ pigeon). Kiwis have been recorded on the property and fernbirds are present in the patch of wetland. A small population of North Island kokako is being monitored and managed in adjacent Mataraua Forest.

Management: Possums and rats have been controlled at Cynthia Hewett Reserve since 2004 to help protect forest habitat, birds and invertebrates. Goats, pigs and roaming hunting dogs are additional pests in the contiguous forest. During the wet winter months, possums and many of the other animals move to lower altitude forest and control efforts are reduced. Operations resume around early September once possums have had their fill of pollen from adjacent flowering pine trees and are ready to move back to browsing native species.

Facilities: There is a car parking area off Parker Road where the Reserve sign is located. Lightly marked routes for the purpose of possum and animal

control enable access to the interesting plateau area. Access to the higher altitude area takes a route through grass, then up a steep ridge of regenerating forest that is lightly marked with coloured tape to an old fence-line. From there on the main access route is marked with triangles and follows the fence-line. Seven bait station lines lightly marked with tape, run off this main track to the west. Return to the carpark should be made via the same track and lightly marked route.

How to get there: From the South via Maungatapere, take the Kaikohe Road through Pakotai till you reach Two Bridges. Turn left into Waimatenui East Road and follow this road to Waimatenui. Turn right here and after about 5 km you come to Parker Road on your left.

From the North via Kaikohe, follow the Mataraua Road through Mataraua and about 10 km further on you come to Parker Road on your right.

From the West: leaving Highway 12 about 1 km south of Katui, turn into Marlborough Road, and follow this road through Tutamoe to Waimatenui. Continue a further 5 km to reach Parker Road on your left.

Parker Road leads directly to the Reserve. This final stage is steep and winding. Care is required. PLEASE CONTACT THE TRUST IF YOU WISH TO VISIT THIS RESERVE.

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**