

Covenants also protect a wide range of landscapes. An interesting example is the Pyramid Valley moa swamp, near Waikari in North Canterbury. This is the most important repository of moa bones known to exist, and the swamp is also significant as one of the few wetlands in that dry region.

Another covenant protects the Redcliffs Wetland Reserve in the Waiau River valley, Southland. This was created by the Southland Acclimatisation Society to secure wildlife habitats. There has been a spectacular increase in the species and numbers of birds, such as grey duck and pukeko.

Buying land

The Trust can protect land by buying it. An example is the Lake Wainamu Scenic Reserve, which the Trust bought with contributions from local groups.

The Trust has prepared a management plan for the reserve, which is near the Te Henga reserve belonging to the Society. Cascades Kauri Park (now managed by the Auckland Regional Authority) and public land owned by the Waitemata City Council are close by. Together they form an ecologically rich open space network.

Landscape studies

The Trust is also concerned with large areas of landscape. South of Raglan there is a stretch of coastline, backed by farm land, with steep bush-filled gullies rising behind to the volcanic cone of Mount Karioi, an outlier of the Pirongia State Forest Park.

In 1980 the Trust completed the Mount Karioi Landscape Study, which identifies ecological, scenic, and recreational areas and provides guidelines to allow farmers to



Morrison's Bush, 124 ha of hardwood forest in Geraldine, South Canterbury, is protected by an open space covenant with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.

continue their farm development, but in a way which will enhance the landscape. The study involved the Raglan County Council, the Department of Lands and Survey, the Forest Service, and user groups and landowners. Several farmers have since entered into open space covenants with the Trust to protect important landscape features.

The Trust initiated a study with the Waipa County Council aimed at promoting the landowners' awareness of the landscape for which they are all responsible.

Waipa is a highly developed Waikato county, and with about 80 percent of the area in freehold, there are many individuals making decisions about the land, which, collectively, have a tremendous impact. The county asked the Trust for assistance with protecting the privately owned natural features — the forest remnants, peat lakes, and archaeological sites.

As part of this study the Trust is producing six booklets. The first, *Waipa Country Landscape — An Introduction*, covers the natural, historical, and agricultural processes which make the Waipa landscape distinctive. It also discusses present and future changes, for example, an increase in horticulture.

Demonstration farms

The Trust is working to establish three demonstration farms, one each at Whatawhata (near Hamilton), Lincoln College, and Southland, intended to show farmers how farm management can combine with landscape planning and design to enhance long-term production.

Wise land use is based on a balance between production, conservation, and visual quality. This includes the protection and creation of wildlife habitats.