



Cultural use and misuse: Maori totara carver; felled kauri.

officials, tramped the length and breadth of the country, sang, sweated, and were often disheartened — but they did not give up.

In the hour of victory, some will see new opportunities for service in channels now being opened: more careers in existing parks and reserves and their ancillary services for tourism. Most specifically for the Maori people will be the Conservation Department's responsibilities for the protection of some coastlines and foreshores, especially in Northland.



One of the architects of the final victory: the Minister for the Environment, Russell Marshall.

While with respect to indigenous forests the Department's powers will be all that could be wished for, the same cannot be said of all other natural habitats. High country tussock grasslands (subject to pastoral leases) could be administered by a commercial corporation although final decisions had not been made at the time of writing. There are other areas of non-forested Crown lands where practice has not

yet been clarified, including land development blocks and also coastal waters.

A new concept of land stewardship has yet to be enshrined in law and seen to work in practice. Conservationists must not assume that all the problems have been overcome; a substantial body of opinion still needs convincing that a nature conservancy will in the long run serve the health and wellbeing of the whole country and all its people.

Some years ago one of Colin McCahon's paintings bore the legend: "A land with too few lovers." I am sure that McCahon himself would gladly see the comment relegated to history.

Once again in their own land New Zealanders can stand tall. In spite of domestic problems of social and racial inequities, wanton violence, and reactionary dogmas, it is possible today to admit of ideals becoming practical realities in a way that was not possible even two or three years ago.

There is a new spirit abroad, a new pride in being a New Zealander, in standing up for values that need championship: concern for social justice beyond as well as within our borders; a facing up to unpopularity in making a stand against nuclear weapons. The role played by women in the conservation movement has been incalculable, and in itself a thrust towards the establishment of a Ministry of Women's Affairs.

*We Shall Overcome*, the folk song popularized by Joan Baez in the sixties, was lost to sight in the seventies. In a real sense, we can affirm the words again today.

We are not helpless spectators of our

own fate. We have proved that we can change our world for the better. A sense of unity is no longer an exercise in self-deception, it is a reality.



No other modern movement has generated as much enthusiasm over the past decade as the environment movement. Forest and Bird members here attend the opening of Te Henga Reserve, Auckland, on October 28, 1979.

An holistic vision of society as a healthy organism within the natural environment already stirs to life in Aotearoa.

*Tokomaha nga ahuatanga o te whenua. Tiakina.*

*The land has many forms. Look after it well.*

*With humility, we know that we have begun.*

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