In 1984 Forest and Bird launched its High Country Campaign, seeking greater protection for the landscapes, and unique plants and animals of this much celebrated region. Regional field officer Mike Harding reports on the campaign's progress to date.

Above: The first runholders encountered tall, thick tussock grasslands with a variety of uncomfortable plants. Widespread burning eliminated spectacular 'spaniards' (Aciphylla spp.) from all but the most inaccessible or alpine sites. Photo: Mike Harding.