



them in a better condition than they found it," he says. "Perhaps then we could look back and say we had achieved our mission."

Progress to date

Natural Wellington is already underway. Acceptance of the plan to date has been even better than expected. Last year the idea was presented to the Wellington City Council, who welcomed it with open arms. It passed a resolution of unanimous support for the plan and council officers have been instructed to work in accordance with the general plan. If any council moves affect Natural Wellington, they will consult with Forest and Bird. This resolution is already in effect with consultation regarding work on Karori's Wright's Hill and the Ngaio Gorge already taking place.

Jim Lynch and Colin Ryder have taken the plan to the people of Wellington and will continue to do so, as the plan's success rests on public commitment. Forest and Bird branch officers are explaining the concept to residents' associations and other community groups and support is growing rapidly.

"People care about the environment and they can help by looking after and contributing to their area," Jim says. "They'll get the direct benefits too."

Even a quarry owner has given support. Jim presented Natural Wellington to a local quarry owner who agreed to covenant strips at the back of the excavated land to retain a wildlife corridor through the area.

Natural Wellington aims to see the 36 ecological sites fully protected by 1995. With community and council support this looks possible. Three sites under immediate threat of destruction and damage have been given urgent priority and are being worked on anew. Spooky Gully on the capital's south coast has unique plant life, including 29 regionally rare species and five nationally rare species. It is threatened by pine planting, quarrying, goats and rubbish disposal. Red Rocks on the coast is protected, but the inland area urgently needs to be formally protected. This may be possible as the neighbouring Long Gully Farm is for sale. Further east adjoining Huntleigh Park in Ngaio is privately owned native shrubland proposed for subdivision. It provides a vital bird corridor with Khandallah Park and needs protection.

You can do it too!

Other Forest and Bird branches are encouraged to give such a plan a go in their area. Branches may not have the advantage of Jim and Eve Lynch's planning skills and publishing facilities, but Natural Wellington is a blueprint others can follow. The emphasis may be different depending on the communities' needs in the area. For example, preservation of natural areas rather than restoration may be the order of the day for some branches. Natural Wellington can be used as a starting point and the Lynches have conveniently prepared a step by step plan available for branch use. (For more information please contact Wellington Forest and Bird, PO Box 4183, Wellington.)

