



Coromandel block protected

IN 1985 A GROUP of conservationists at Moehau community at the far north of Coromandel Peninsula decided to pool their resources to save their forests. They bought a Lands and Survey licence over 240 ha of low-land forest and shrubland, adjoining the Moehau Ecological Area and Cape Colville Farm Park, to prevent local farmers from clearing it during the Government's land allocation process. Forest and Bird's then northern field officer, Mark Bellingham, ensured that the Department of Con-



MARK BELLINGHAM

Trustees of the Coromandel block, the Mist Preservation Society, with DoC staff and Mark Bellingham at Moehau.

servation not Landcorp administered the licence.

In January this year the block's trustees, including Forest and Bird members,

agreed to protect the land as a private scenic reserve. This initiative will hopefully be an example to other private forest owners around

Moehau. The forest in this area is deer-free and also lies within DoC's proposed possum-free zone (see *Conservation Update*).

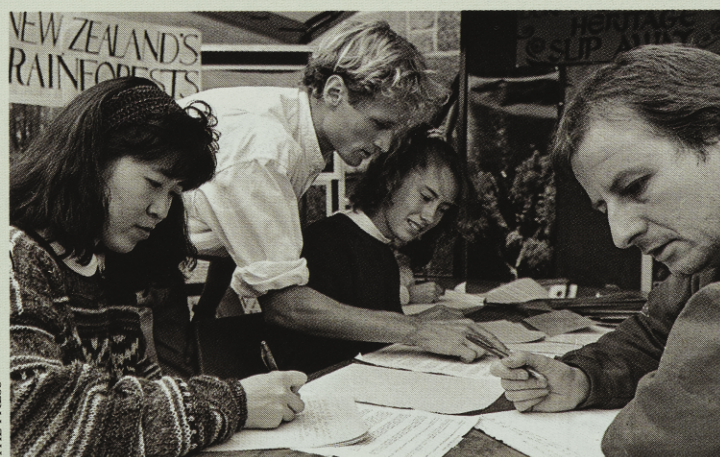
Marine reserve proposal for Muriwai

WEST AUCKLAND branch members have been hitting the beaches recently surveying local people to see what they think of the branch's proposal for a marine reserve at Muriwai. They have also undertaken a house-to-house questionnaire that revealed a high level of support for the proposal.

Branch Secretary Ken Catt said Muriwai has the potential to be as environmentally important as Leigh Marine Reserve because it is thought to have the same unique combination of plant, animal and seascape on the ocean floor. A scientist from Leigh has been commissioned to carry out preliminary underwater surveys which will help in defining the reserve boundaries.

Currently the proposal stretches over six kilometres of coastline including the Oaia Island's seal colony and a gannet sanctuary. However, this may change after further public consultation.

Letters call for timber ban



THE PRESS

Michael Inder from the Canterbury University Environment Council (standing) assists Makiko Yamamoto of Japan, Denis Burrow of Dunedin and Haley Wallace write letters supporting a ban on native timber exports.

CONCERN FOR the environment is global and that became very evident in Christchurch two months ago during a one-day stall at the arts centre. The wood-chipping threat to New Zealand's native forests resulted in 120 letters penned in several languages calling for a native timber export ban.

The stall was organised by the Canterbury University Environment Council and

Forest and Bird's North Canterbury branch after previous stalls had proved successful in getting letters of support for a Hooker's Sea Lion Marine Mammal Sanctuary. There were information displays and up to six letter-writers put pen to paper at the same time. The letters were presented to Gail McIntosh, National MP for the Lyttelton electorate, who delivered them to the Prime Minister.

Forest and Bird in Te Anau

CREATING marine reserves and stopping pollution are two campaigns a new group of Forest and Bird members are tackling in Te Anau.

The group was formed in mid-December after a meeting with southern field officer Sue Maturin and has put together a full programme of activities for the coming year.

Group member Simon Hayes said that the first meeting attracted a core committee of 12 and one of the first activities will be painting yellow fish over the drains in the town to highlight pollution problems. Further developing the Kiwi Conservation Club is another priority as the club already has over 40 children.

"We will also be seeking active support from other Forest and Bird branches when further marine reserves are nominated in Fiordland," said Simon.