



ROGER GRACE



KEN GRANGE

*Neothyris lenticularis* brachiopod in Paterson Inlet. Unlike bivalves such as molluscs, brachiopods have a pair of tentacled "arms" which create the feeding current and maintain the supply of oxygenated water. These can be seen inside the shell opening.

here too, resting at high tide with other waders on the dunes of The Neck taiapure areas.

Paterson Inlet not only has many unusual and scientifically important features but it also has habitats once typical of New Zealand's many harbours. Protected, it could become a focus for marine education and tourism.

Nature tourism has already given

Stewart Island a unique night life, with "After Dark" glass-bottom boat adventures, twilight tours for bird watchers and Philip Smith's never-fail kiwi spotting trips.

Who knows? There could be further dusk delights such as crayfish tours. With a marine reserve, cray may in time, once again come out in great numbers to feed across the sandy bottoms.

*Cerianthus anemone* growing on red seaweed beds of Lenormandia.

Paterson Inlet is worthy of protection but a marine reserve isn't the whole answer. "The inlet could have its own bag limits, and we need to protect people's traditional interests. Virtually everyone here goes fishing on the inlet. We need a working party," he finishes.

This puts the ball back into DoC's camp and Greg Lind takes the cue. He suggests that they could set up a working party as a committee of the Conservation Board. It would be an independent body and DoC and MAF could act as official advisers.

There is general agreement with the idea and a huge list of groups that should be represented are drawn up.

**T**HAT WAS IN November last year and a committee was very quickly established with local representatives from recreational and commercial fishers, marine farmers, charter boat operators, ratepayers, Forest and Bird and the Southland Conservation Board.

The terms of reference were to advise