

PETER ANDERSON



Knuckle Point on the Karikari Peninsula in the Far North, purchased with \$2.7 million from the Nature Heritage Fund. There were buyer inquiries from all round the world, but the land is now a scenic reserve.

More Cow, Maruia Valley

Land which is expected to be a candidate for addition to the Maruia/Waiau National Park was purchased in early 2003 by the Nature Heritage Fund. The 178-hectare forest is comprised of red and silver beech and will be added to the Lewis Pass National Reserve in the Upper Maruia Valley. Among the wildlife are the endangered long-tailed bat, as well as other threatened species such as yellow-crowned kakariki, kaka, kea, falcon and native pigeon.

Mt Hiwi Trust, Taranaki

The Nature Heritage Fund has helped to protect a unique area of forest and wetland around the Moumahaki chain of lakes in south Taranaki. The Mt Hiwi Trust, formed by former Taranaki residents now living mainly in Wellington, has been assisted through the Nature Heritage Fund to purchase land and undertake fencing to create a safer habitat for native plants and wildlife. The trust has an active pest control programme using toxic-free technologies to eradicate pests that threaten birds. These



PETER WHITE

A portion of the Forest and Bird Pauatahanui Reserve on the Porirua Harbour north of Wellington. The Nature Heritage Fund was recently involved in protecting more wetlands nearby.

birds include bellbird, tomtit, tui, fernbird, morepork, North Island robin, grey teal and brown kiwi which are found among the rimu, rata, tawa, beech, and wetland.

The 411-hectare property will be legally protected by a covenant, and the Mt Hiwi Trust plans to develop an extensive sanctuary for research and education. The trust hopes to develop simple accommodation for more people to appreciate the indigenous virgin forests and ecosystems.

— KEITH LYONS is a Wellington based journalist.

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