



**FOREST  
& BIRD**  
MANAWATU

MANAWATU BRANCH NEWSLETTER

# Twig and Tweet Gazette

December 2004 and January 2005

Volume 2, Issue 2

**FOREST  
& BIRD**

**TIAKI  
TAIAO**

## Tiaki Taiao~ symbol for our future

What's in a name? What's in our name? What is it about our name that links us 40,000 Kiwis together into the nature conservation society we are? In full the "Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Inc.", but generally just Forest and Bird, our name has through 80 years of remarkable effort and energy come to now convey instant recognition and identity~ synonymous with conservation of New Zealand wildlife and wild places~ and carries considerable weight in the media, and in political and cultural debate.

Our name is our identity, our symbolism, our anchorpoint and our vision~ all linked to the name Forest and Bird. Names evoke emotion and recognition, spark enthusiasm, and create common ground. As of the November council meeting of Forest and Bird, our name has grown with the addition of a Maōri component~ **Tiaki Taiao**. These two words create a powerful image of connections to the natural world. Tiaki translates to English as 'caring' or 'nurturing', and Taiao translates as 'the environments of the earth'.

The Maōri Language Commission has described Tiaki Taiao as a "green message" for looking after the environment. Tiaki Taiao strengthens our mana and vision, providing an expanded identity, symbolism, and opportunities for the protection of New Zealand's wildlife and wildplaces. The Manawatu branch welcomes this progress in the development of New Zealand's foremost conservation society~ **Forest and Bird / Tiaki Taiao**. Say it a few times and it just rolls off your tongue!

Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird wishes to acknowledge support from **NZ Post** 'Community Post' grant scheme, and from the **Square Trust** which fund the production and distribution of our newsletter. Thank you!!

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### Conservationist's Calendar

- **11 Dec:** Oxenham Bush Spring Workparty!!  
*CleanUp & Hebe Cuttings*
- **12 Dec:** Easy walk along Yeoman's Track, eastern Ruahine Ranges
- **14 Dec:** Branch Night: Albatross Advocacy and Adventures of the Southern Seas. 7:30 p.m. at Te Manawa
- **8 Feb:** Branch Night: The February Floods~ A Year On. 7:30 p.m. at Te Manawa

**Manawatu Forest and Bird: conservation *action!***

## The Manawatu Estuary Trust~ Looking a River in the Mouth

The Manawatu River~ as a powerful force of nature, we need no reminder of her power. Through eons she has carved our landscape and shaped our terraces into the plains we farm and inhabit (and yes even conserve!) today.

At her coastal mouth is that unique place where the many waters from the land combine again with the sea, creating the special habitats of our Manawatu River estuary.

Over the three intervening years, MET has strengthened, with plans for a interpretive centre, and recently with preparation of a strong application for recognition as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

For those of you like me who have only recently heard of this treaty~ it is named "Ramsar" because the Convention on Wetlands was signed in a place called Ramsar, Iran in 1971. It is unique and important as a

With recent generous funding from Banrock Station wines, the MET has designed and produced a beautiful full-colour brochure promoting the Estuary, outlining its recent history, and showing pictures of some of its special feathered residents and visitors.

One favourite migrant bird is the Kuaka or bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). Thousands of these 300 gram globetrotters fly the 11,000 kilometers from Western Alaska to New Zealand, some of whom go on to take up a summer residence at the mouth of the Manawatu! Not surprisingly, the godwit is known for fast flying!!

The wrybill (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) is another one of the amazing residents of our river-mouth. This chap takes a much more conservative approach to migration, shifting between North and South Islands instead of the wild trans-hemispheric journeys of the godwit!

The wrybill is famous (at least with us) for having its bill curved to the right (and always to the right not the left!). This amazing feature is found in no other bird species, a truly unique bit of what makes the Manawatu Estuary a place that is great to go birdwatching, and certainly a place that is worth protecting!

A complimentary copy of the MET's new brochure with pictures of the Kuaka, the wrybill and several others has been enclosed for you to enjoy and share. It outlines the goals and details of the MET. If you would like to join a tour of the estuary, or simply want to know more about the estuary or the conservation work being led by the Manawatu Estuary Trust, you are invited to contact trust representative Joan Leckie by ringing her on 06 368 1277.



The Lake Butrint Ramsar and World Heritage Site, Albania; a fine example of a wetland recognized by the Ramsar Convention.

The Manawatu estuary is a home to many spectacular shorebirds. Some birds live there year-round; while for some it is a summer home, and for still others it is a winter home! Some of the most adventurous winged travelers commute twice yearly for thousands of kilometers from Asia or North America.

In 2001 a dedicated team joined together to form the Manawatu Estuary Trust, (MET for short) with the ideals of protecting the rich natural heritage of the estuary and working to create a world-class environmental education facility there.

conservation treaty, because it recognizes the fact that the habitats of a single bird species often cross political borders, and thus the greatest conservation gains are realised by working in concert across national borders. So the Ramsar treaty is a framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Worldwide, there are presently 1387 Ramsar wetland sites, totaling 122.7 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Now that's a lot of wetlands!!!

## ~ The December Calendar ~

**7:30 pm, Tuesday 14 December**

**“Of albatrosses and the Falklands”**

Branch Night Presentation by  
NZ seabird & photography expert

**Brent Stephenson**



**Note: 14 December branch night is  
at Te Manawa, not the Esplanade!**



“Being able to participate in the John Ridgway ‘Save the Albatross’ Voyage in January 2004 was the chance of a lifetime. Forty-one days at sea in a 57 foot ketch, in one of the roughest stretches of ocean in the World - not many admit being stupid enough to round Cape Horn on their first sailing voyage!”

“Not only were the birds and marine mammals amazing, but the crew, isolation, and risk of the whole journey made for an unforgettable experience. Being able to then spend six weeks on the wind-swept Falklands, getting to know the people and seeing the incredible abundance of sub-Antarctic wildlife was the icing on the cake.”

**~Brent Stephenson**

**Saturday 11 December~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Spring Clean and Hebe Cuttings  
Oxenham’s Bush Patch  
Kahutarawaha Valley, PN**

Between the city’s Kahutarawa Reserve and the Black Bridge carpark at the Sledge Track, lies a marvelous original bush patch called Oxenham’s Bush. In preparation for a QE II Trust covenant, Hugh Oxenham is working very hard to restore the paddock adjacent to the remnant.

In autumn and winter 2005, Hugh wants to begin planting out the grassed area in the forest remnant paddock. He estimates approximately 1000 hebe cuttings will be required to plant the area under the power lines. This is the big job for Saturday!!

Activities for this workparty include: taking hebe cuttings, releasing some of the trees planted last winter, plus a guided walk of the remnant. With plenty of time for a sleepin, we meet in the PNCC carpark at 10.30 am to carpool out to 703 Kahuterawa Valley Road (number on the gate). Bring secateurs, gardening gloves, good walking shoes and lunch. Trip leader: Anna Gerraty ph 357 7996.

**Sunday 12 December 8:15 a.m. start**

**Walk the Ruahine’s Yeoman Track**

Here’s your chance for a lovely stroll in the Eastern Ruahine~ checking out the spring bloom and blossom despite the evil possum! Alan Hawkins promises a fun, family-oriented easy stroll along a level track, but does say there will be a shallow simple river crossing, so some feet may be wet. Maximum time is 2.5 hours walking each way, so an easy trip.

Note the early departure, 8:15 a.m. from the PN City Council carpark in Church Street (over the road from the Central Post Office). Bring lunch, wet weather gear, sturdy footwear and a smile! This trip is in conjunction with the Napier Branch, so perhaps also a chance for some to catch up with friends. Phone Alan on 323-0583 for any more details.

***options a plenty!!!***

Are you unable to make the dates we’ve set? Just keen to find out about other conservation activities in the area? The team at Environment Network Manawatu keeps a very comprehensive calendar of local conservation events, ring 356 8199 ext.7780 or go online at:

**[www.environmentnetwork.org.nz](http://www.environmentnetwork.org.nz)**

# Forest & Bird National November Council Update

I've recently returned from the November Council meeting for the Society, held in Upper Hutt. In meeting with Forest and Bird representatives from throughout New Zealand, I was reminded of how the Society is so strong nationwide. The conference was poignantly held at a ex-US Marine Barracks complex in Upper Hutt. We were reminded that both people and the environment suffer during war time.

The November Council meeting focussed on politics and membership. And took time to pass an important remit on the Society's name.

## Politics & Environment Session

With less than a year to the next general election, Forest and Bird was preparing for the 'Vote for the Environment 2005' campaign. Representatives from the major parties presented their views, and answered questions.

While Conservation Minister Chris Carter highlighted conservation gains under Labour, National Conservation and Environment spokesman Nick Smith made some impressive policy statements - including frustration at our poor quality of Ocean and Coastal policy. He might have been reading from our own Barry Weeber's (Forest and Bird marine expert) notes when he pointed out the mismanagement of our Hoki fishery. He also made a commitment to a National Park in the Northland Kauri Forests.

Ken Shirley (Act) promised that his party would withdraw New Zealand from the Kyoto Protocol on Greenhouse Gases. Judy Turner (United Future) pointed out their affiliation with Outdoor Recreation - hence

they supported use of 1080 poison that included deer repellent!

The best received speech came from Jeanette Fitzsimons (Green Party) linking many of our environmental problems to energy demand. She pointed out that the Dobson dam proposal on the West Coast - flooding protected podocarp forest with a land swap to protect beech forest - has no environmental gain, as the beech forest is already in a local reserve and under no threat.

Gerry McSweeney, our Society's President, reminded us that each individual's efforts are all important, and that collectively they make Forest and Bird a political force to be reckoned with. The organisation supports no party, but weighs up each party's policies.

## Membership

To remain effective as a nationwide organisation, we need strong membership numbers in the local branches. A large proportion of the meeting revolved around growing our membership. Forest and Bird remains popular, with a large number of people joining the society every year. When I quizzed our Conservation Director Kevin Hackwell on membership - he said "It's not rocket science - we just need to be better at what we do." If you'd like to help out locally, or have ideas to share - let the committee know. And if you are stuck for that perfect Christmas gift for someone near or far, consider a year Forest and Bird membership.

## Tiaki Taiao

Councillors passed a remit adopting a Maōri name for the Society- *Tiaki Taiao*. Pronounced as **tea ah key - tie ow**

(cup of **tea**, that tasted good, **key** for the lock, and neck-**tie**, **ow** as in 'that hurt').

More importantly - what does it mean? A simple translation could be "someone who cares for the environment". The front page story goes into more detail on this progression of the Society's symbolism.

Locally, your branch committee are beginning to explore partnerships with local iwi for conservation initiatives.

## Other Items

The Society has restructured slightly, and has just advertised for the new staff position of General Manager / Coordinator.

High Country, Marine and Dawn Chorus campaigns continue, and as well, in the year ahead, the Society's members and leaders needs to be vigilant on the Resource Management Act review, water quality, and the vital use of 1080 to effectively control pests across our conservation estate.

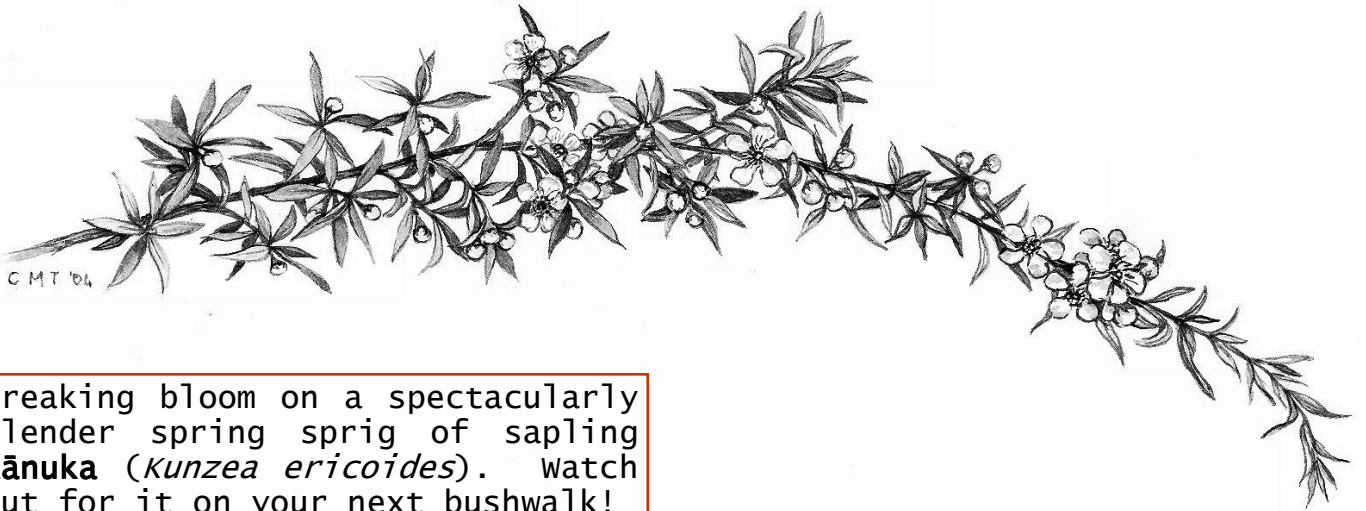
~Donald Kerr

**Branch Chairperson and  
your November Council  
Branch Representative**

## Welcome!

A warm welcome to the new Manawatu Forest and Bird members! We look forward to your joining us as we celebrate and preserve New Zealand's special wildlife and wild places.

- ∞ **R Lewis**
- ∞ **Mrs D Ward**
- ∞ **Frank and Cynthia Light**



Breaking bloom on a spectacularly slender spring sprig of sapling **kānuka** (*Kunzea ericooides*). Watch out for it on your next bushwalk!

### Save your Trees & Postage Fees!!

If in future you prefer to receive the **FULL COLOUR** edition of your newsletter by email rather than on processed trees, send a request to **forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com**

### House to Rent

(This from long-time Forest and Birder Josie Randall)

3 bed family home + carport, sunny in quiet street in Palmy. Huge enclosed yard, safe for children. Close to schools, hospital, shops. Dogs OK, no cats. \$180 weekly. References required. Phone Josie 357- 7560.

### Kānuka (*Kunzea ericooides*) Blooms

This beautiful native tree catapults up to a height of 15 metres, and with its showy cream coloured blooms make for a spectacular specimen tree. Found throughout New Zealand's natural habitats to an elevation of 900 metres, you can tell the difference from manuka by the kanuka's smaller flowers and soft-to-touch leaves.

Named the white tea tree by Europeans, it was a favourite brew for early pakeha. A tea-spoon of fresh young leaves is plenty to whip up a fine cuppa. Traditional Maōri uses do include the creation of arrow shafts, and the use of the inner bark as a roofing material. Cook and Co. rapidly expanded on the use of this durable wood for the creation of wagon spokes and implement handles.

Its summer profusion of creamy flowers makes it a fantastic addition to a native garden. If you want to, you can easily start your own (eco-sourced please!) tree from a semi-hardwood cutting, or from seed.

~art by Chris Thomasen

~story by Brent Barrett

Our friends at **Environment Network Manawatu** (ENM) online host your newsletter at <http://www.environmentnetwork.org.nz/>. ENM is an umbrella agency for environmental groups whose role is to encourage and support initiatives in the Manawatu area that have benefits for the wider community. Interested? Contact **Adie Leng** on (06) 356-8199 ext 7780 or [econet@pncc.govt.nz](mailto:econet@pncc.govt.nz)



# Mt Bruce Secures Restoration Project

Over \$500,000 raised for Pukaha Mt Bruce restoration

## DOC press release 8 Nov 04

The dawn chorus looks set to become louder in the Pukaha Mount Bruce forest after \$558,000 was raised in a major fundraising campaign in the Wairarapa. The money was raised during a five month long Community Challenge campaign. It will secure for at least five years the Pukaha Mount Bruce restoration project which, since it commenced in May 2002, has already enabled kokako and kiwi to be returned to the forest.

Representatives from major sponsors including DB Breweries Limited, Pharazyn Trust, Tranzit Coachlines (Wairarapa) Limited, Trust House Copthorne Solway Park and Oldfield Group Limited, presented cheques to the value of \$525,000 in total. DB Breweries contributed a whopping \$275,000 of this.

Masterton mayor Bob Francis, one of the main drivers behind the Community Challenge, said it was a "victory" for the community to achieve such an impressive fundraising result.

"We're absolutely thrilled with the level of support shown by the major sponsors and the community who have really embraced this fundraiser. "It has lifted the profile of Pukaha Mount Bruce - motivating and informing the commu-

nity of what we have out there, and getting schools involved and recognising its significance."

National Wildlife Centre Trust Chairman John Bunny acknowledged the "superb support" from the community and local and national sponsors. "I'm looking forward to working with our sponsors over the next five years on the Pukaha Mount Bruce restoration project."

Department of Conservation Wairarapa area manager Derrick Field said with the viability of the project secured for five years, the vision of returning the Pukaha Mount Bruce forest "to what it was before the early settlers arrived" was closer to being released. "I'm absolutely thrilled to see the level of support given by the community and I know we will deliver something that's totally unique in return."

The Pukaha Mount Bruce Community Challenge fundraising campaign was kicked off in mid-July by Masterton Mayor Bob Francis and supported by Wairarapa media including Hitz 89, Wairarapa Times Age and Classic Hits and the Pukaha partners; The National Wildlife Centre Trust, Rangitaane O Wairarapa and the Department of Conservation. These organisations, service clubs and community groups have combined forces to back a region-wide project to set up an endowment fund to aid the restoration of the Pukaha Mount Bruce forest. For more information, please contact Sally Thomas on (06)377 0700.

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## Your Opportunity to Contribute to 'Twig and Tweet Gazette'

Following on from our successful first year of bi-monthly publication, we're aiming to increase the scope of your favourite conservation newsletter, with features ranging from cartoons to book reviews. To do this right, we need your good ideas!!

Whether it be a one off, a mini-series, or ideas for a regular feature, we'd like to hear from you! If putting together nature and conservation features is the sort of thing that interests you, we're more than happy to hear with your ideas. Contributions on a local and regional theme are a priority, but we're interested to hear whatever it is you may like to create! Original material is preferred, but if you see something of interest on the web or in print, feel free to pass it along as well.

While we're on the topic, there's still a bit of hand work that goes into the newsletter~ folding and stuffing envelopes, and getting labels on for posting. We have some regulars who often look after this, but if you have

a free hand to turn to this activity and would like to help out occasionally, feel free to contact me as well.

So whether it's something you want to contribute to the newsletter, or simply being willing to occasionally come along to a folding and envelopes stuffing party, let me know! I can be reached by on 06 357 6962 or email [forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com](mailto:forestbirdmanawatu@hotmail.com).

*Thank you!!*

~ Brent Barrett, your 'Twig and Tweet' Editor



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## Manawatu Forest & Bird Committee Contacts

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Donald Kerr	353 7631
<b>Secretary &amp; News:</b>	Brent Barrett	357 6962
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sally Pearce	359 4326
<b>Feilding Contact:</b>	Alan Hawkins	323 0583
<b>Membership:</b>	Peter Herbert	355 8212
<b>Conservation Advocacy:</b>	Dianne Haist	354 2626
<b>Work Parties:</b>	Jane Carver	355 8212
<b>Kiwi Conservation Club:</b>	Caroline Percy	021 264 2789
<b>Annual Programme:</b>	Viv Nicholls	353 2305

~Ideas or Questions~

Give us a ring, We want to hear from You!!

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All members and the public are invited to all branch activities and meetings (December meeting will be a great one!!).

Our local email address is [forestbird-manawatu@hotmail.com](mailto:forestbird-manawatu@hotmail.com). Also have a look at the Forest and Bird website [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) and local branch website kindly hosted within [www.environmentnetwork.org.nz](http://www.environmentnetwork.org.nz) for more information. You may also ring national office on 04 385 7374 with any queries.

Branch nights are the 2nd Tuesday of the month (excepting January~ summer break!) from 7:30 p.m. at Te Manawa, 396 Main St, Palmerston North.

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## The Labour Weekend Excursion to the Taranaki

A group of 18 Forest and Birders from the Manawatu Branch enjoyed a Labour weekend around Taranaki based at Stratford. We stayed at the Taranaki Accommodation Lodge in Romeo Street at the South end of Stratford. This backpackers lodge is great for large groups. We shared the accommodation with a group of cyclists and quite a large group from a Country and Western Club of Porirua. These folk were good sorts and entertained us well with a number of songs before we left to come home.

It was a free and easy style of weekend with no set itinerary so that all our members could do what they wished in their own time and according to weather conditions. Staying at Stratford rather than on the mountain was a good idea as it gave a lot of flexibility. Henk and Phil had prepared a number of information pamphlets about the district and things to do.

Many of us travelled up on the Friday in beautiful weather. Henk and Phil travelling together diverted to Lake Roto-

kare and walked around this picturesque reserve which contains unspoilt Taranaki forest. Some of our members did the same walk on their way home.

S a t u r d a y dawned a lovely day with grand views of the mountain from our lodge windows. Every one decided to do something on the mountain as conditions were good and the weather forecast for Sunday was horrible, and also doubtful for Monday. We split up into groups according to our aspirations and physical fitness.

Henk Janssen, Phil Pearce, Alan Hawkins, Philip Prujean, Judith Bird, and Alan Dodge decided to do the Dawson Falls and Plateau round trip, going to the Plateau from the Dawson Falls by the high track and returning by the low track. A great walk of about 4 to 5 hours. Phil reckoned that at his current level of unfitness he would just be up to this 5 hour tramp so this was all agreed to



by the party. However there were several fit members of the little group that wanted to keep moving the goal posts along the way, doing side excursions. Result a stiff and sore Phil Pearce on the Sunday.

On Saturday evening a group of us went to the Stratford Club for a very nice meal and glass or two of wine. Nice not to cook a meal after a days tramping. The Weather Workshop folk got it right this time and Sunday was horrible, so most of us headed off to New Plymouth and did things like the museum, very good, the art gallery, not so good unless you have ultra modern tastes, and eating out. It rained and rained.

On Monday most travelled back home doing things on the way in reasonably good weather. Some of us called in to Bushy Park, had a picnic lunch there and did the bush walks. It was a trip enjoyed by all.

~Jottings from Phil Pearce

## October Branch Night Highlighted Success of the QE II Trust

Next time you think of the QE II Trust, think of it like bits of a national park in the Manawatu, in Southland, in Northland, and everywhere in between! Did you know the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants in perpetuity over 67,000 hectares for nature and cultural heritage preservation? That is over three times the size of the world renowned Abel Tasman National Park, and arguably of greater ecological value!! Unlike the Abel Tasman, QE II covenants have thousands of care-takers, the land owners whose dedication has seen the trust rocket forward from a dream to a massive conservation estate. With a recent boost in funding from the government's biodiversity strategy, the QE II trust provides conservationists with a powerful tool for the protection of New Zealand's treasured natural heritage through covenants protecting natural features on private land.

At our October branch meeting, Peter van Essen (past branch chair and current Manawatu & Wanganui & Ruapehu regional representative for QE II) gave a splendid presentation about the origins, status, and objectives of the Trust.

Why are so many landowners attracted to the Trust? In addition to the strong love of the land and its heritage values that many landowners have, there is the opportunity to have professional and financial assistance with the preservation of a bushpatch, and in many



circumstances rates relief and fencing cost assistance upon successful covenanting of an area.

And how does the Trust decide whom to covenant? Each applicant is weighed up against the full set of criteria including ecological value, naturalness, sustainability, and connectivity to other natural areas and values.

Peter's presentation highlighted a number of local QE II covenants, including a recent one by the com-

pany that owns the land under the proposed third windfarm for our Tararua foothills. Also highlighted were covenants of national significance such as Young Nick's Head near Gisborne, and the Pyramid Valley Swamp in North Canterbury with its treasure trove of moa bones. Even organizations such as Carter Holt Harvey, perhaps not the best known for common ground with Forest and Bird, have QE II covenants on some ecologically significant properties they own.

The Trust maintains a staff of 27, of whom 18 are part-time regional representatives such as Peter. With such an able team, a clear vision for conservation, and ongoing support from covenant holders and other conservation organizations, the QE II National Trust will continue to make valuable contributions to the New Zealand conservation movement.

The QE II trust- working with landowners to create a marvelous 'national park' scattered all about the place, with massive ecological value and thousands of dedicated caretakers. Enough to put smiles on every Twig and Tweeter's face!

## Our Springtime Ramble Into the Ruahine Ranges

It dawned a promising day for a visit to enjoy the spring bloom in our North Island ranges. We headed away out toward Apiti, over the bridge and down the dusty road to the Heritage Lodge track, above the Oroua river gorge.

Under the able leadership of Vic Vercoe, a primary goal for the group was to see some fantastic New Zealand native orchids in bloom. Vic has a keen eye for these wee beauties, and with his help a number were spotted!



*Pterostylus*, one of the native orchids we saw

We had a pleasant walk through to the Heritage Lodge, over a arched bridge and past massive specimen trees. Once beyond the lodge we nested down for a bite to eat in the warm sun, gazing out over the river valley. From there it was onwards and upwards to the creek bed, with Vic dashing up the far side for a check of the kidney ferns.

In total we saw eight species of NZ native orchids, including the green hooded orchid pictured at left.



*Sue getting right up close for a better angle on the orchid!*

Eight orchid species was really perfect, because there were eight of us on the excursion! We were Vic Vercoe (leader), Alan, Brent, Diana, Kevin, Rose, Sarah, and Sue.