

ARANUI PARK



Husband and wife, Bernard and Dorothy Wells, receiving recognition for 40 years service to the Mapua Domain Board.

The generous gift of 10 acres from Bernard and Dorothy Wells in 1977 is the heart of Mapua's Aranui Park. This is a community project "in progress". Some of the land has been leased as horse paddocks for many years and is gradually being reclaimed for recreational use.

The vision for the park is the creation of a modified wetland habitat, surrounded by landscaped grounds, which will attract native wildlife. While earlier plantings near Aranui Road comprise mostly exotics, more recent plantings are of predominantly native species.

If you are a regular visitor you might notice the changes in flowers, leaf colours and birds between seasons, or the height of a tree you planted; if an infrequent visitor, you might notice more dramatic changes - perhaps a horse paddock one year - a landscaped park the next!



Office of the Minister of Lands,
Wellington, N.Z.

Mr B L Wells
Mapua
P O 1
UPPER MOUTERE

Dear Mr Wells

I am informed by the Director-General of Lands that you have offered to gift 4.1265 hectares of your freehold property at Mapua to the Crown for addition to the Mapua Domain. I understand the land will be an asset to the existing domain and will give the opportunity for recreational development.

Your offer is a generous one and it is my pleasure on behalf of the Government to accept your offer and commend you for your public spirited attitude. Acceptance of the land under the Reserves and Domains Act 1953 will ensure the protection and preservation of the area for future generations to enjoy.

The Crown is pleased to meet the costs of the transfer and the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson, will be in touch with you shortly to finalise details.

I am pleased to be able to present the enclosed certificate to you as a record of the gratitude of the people of New Zealand.

Yours faithfully

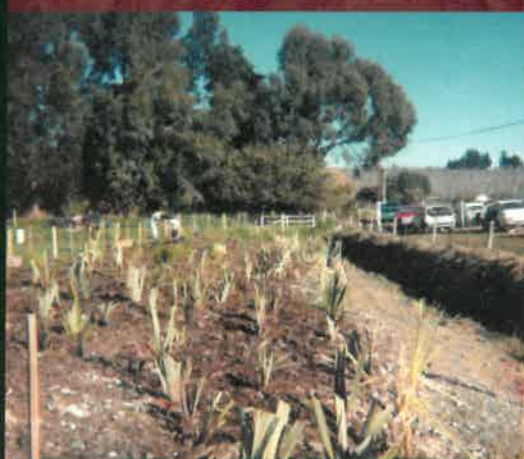
Kerry Harvey
Minister of Lands

Acknowledgement
from the Government,
1977, that Bernard's
gift would be retained
and enhanced as a
natural environment.



PRESENTED
on behalf of the people of New Zealand
to Bernard Lloyd Wells
to record our thanks for a generous contribution
to the preservation of New Zealand's natural heritage

Kerry Harvey
Minister of Lands



Compare this early photograph with the vegetation growing along State Highway 60 today, which include beech, kahikatea, totara, kowhai and cabbage trees.



Bernard and Dorothy Wells, centre, with helpers on the Public Planting Day 1980.



Volunteers planting the area behind the Tavern after landscaping.