

## **Jolendale Park - Forests for the Trees and the Future**

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Jolendale Park, permanently protected by QEII National Trust for Open Space (2004) is the sole registered 'semi-arid woodland reserve' in New Zealand, and recipient of the top environmental award by the Otago Regional Council (1995).

We are presently well advanced in the formation of a single purpose publicly focused charitable trust set up to manage and care for the park in the years to come. In gifting the 6-hectare plus parkland which already has open public access as a recreational 'retreat' 365 days a year we are making a token contribution to the reversal of Barrett Hardin (1968) 'The Tragedy of the Commons's

The relevance of our lifetime venture can be well illustrated by reference to the recent study by the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, and titled, "NeighbourWoods for Better Cities" (and townships) with enhanced and conveniently located access to semi-natural landscapes typical of the district for the enjoyment of local urban dwellers and visitors - a place for the increased presence of wildlife, and an atmosphere of tranquillity. A place to 'recharge the batteries' and resuscitation of cultural energy. I attach an electronic edition of this most useful publication at the foot of this email message.

In this age of widespread air travel and apparently un-satiable appetite for overseas experiences we need a fresh appetite to better appreciate the more locally located wonders of Nature. New Zealanders have the longest per capita overseas travel distances per annum in the world today. (UK Economist statistical tables). I was for some 8 years a member of the NZ Tourism Council and recall the domestic travel focus on seeing our own country first... I was also the South Island member of the 1982/88 NZ National Parks Centennial Commission and am perhaps better informed of the wonderfully compact New Zealand package with a great diversity of landscapes and seascapes.

[http://www.openspace.org.nz/Site/Places to visit/South Island public/Jolendale Park.aspx](http://www.openspace.org.nz/Site/Places%20to%20visit/South%20Island%20public/Jolendale%20Park.aspx)

