



LEADING A FULFILLING LIFE

My name is Jan Hood and together with my husband Peter, we live as caretakers on Forsyth Island in the Marlborough Sounds, New Zealand. We have fresh spring water always coming from the hillsides and the supply can generate a pelting wheel for power supply. We use solar energy on the island as well. The water is wonderful for the vegetable gardens where we grow all sorts of vegetables.

We use the seeds for next year's crops. The orchard is well supplied with an abundance of apples, pears, lemons and oranges. We grow olives for oil. We keep bees for honey and for the sweet things in life. They are also used to pollinate the gardens. The chickens supply plenty of eggs. Fresh fish, mussels, scallops and paua are always available. Of course, we rear lambs on the island and the cow and goats produce milk for butter and cheese.

We lead a very peaceful and fulfilling life on the island.
JAN HOOD

HALF A CENTURY OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

In the late 1950s, Ross Webber, then 27 years old, bought Puangiangi in the Marlborough Sounds of New Zealand's South Island. Over the years, he established a little farm on the island. His daily tasks included clearing the land of bush, fishing commercially and looking after about 60 sheep. He rarely had a day of ill-health. At one stage, he did not leave the island for over 10 years. Over time, his simple rustic existence had not changed very much. He installed a few modern conveniences – but never owned an electric oven nor fridge. The house had electricity in one room only and the TV was run off solar power. Almost half a century of living a largely self-sufficient life on the island, Ross Webber, at the age of 73, gave an interview to a New Zealand TV station:

What brought you here? I was looking for a farm and this was the only one available at the time. **Is it hard work living on an island?** It's not so hard that one would be sweating all the time. There are lots of things to do and I am always kept busy. **Have you left the island much?** The longest I've been away from the island was 8 or 9 days. I enjoy myself while I'm away but am always pleased to get back home again. **What about the idea many people have of you being a hermit or a recluse?** A hermit would be somebody who



doesn't like fraternising with people. I don't think anyone would think that of me. At least not the people who know me. **Do you ever get lonely?** What is loneliness? It's having nothing to do. If you have things to do, you don't think of things like that. **What about a wife and family?** I would like to have had (a wife and family) but never found the right woman. **Will you think of the place much when you are gone?**

I probably will. If somebody leaves the place they love in the prime of their life, then that is different. I have spent the prime of my life here. **Will you be sad leaving?** Probably, yes.
TV NEW ZEALAND