

DES CASEY



Des Casey has lived on Great Barrier with Angela Hills for eight years initially on a week about basis – working in Auckland alternating with a week on the Barrier. Des has worked for 35 years as a counsellor, mediator, tutor, supervisor, and workshop facilitator. However, from his early days in inland South Canterbury he developed a keen interest in nature, so coming to the Great Barrier in 2004 after most of his life in cities was like coming home. Des set up the Argentine Ant Control Programme on the island later that year, establishing a link with the community which he values highly. From 2008 to 2011 he worked full-time for the Department of Conservation on the Barrier in a community relations role. He has a strong sense of the urgency for communities and nations to take strong action for the conservation and restoration of an increasingly damaged and vulnerable natural environment, deciding in 2002 to return to University and study for a post-grad. diploma in science (environmental management). He is a member of the GBI Environmental Trust and presently works part-time in his previous profession mixing his time with environmental interests, a family that includes five grandsons, and staying in touch with his golf clubs.