

Guardian Trust (trading as Perpetual Guardian) is sole trustee of the 'John David Stout Charitable Trust' created under the will of the late John Stout who died in 1982.

John David Stout (1925-1982) was a scientist with broad interests in science, history and culture.

Born in Wellington he studied medicine at Otago University but was forced to relinquish his medical studies and returned to Wellington and studies Zoology at Victoria University College, eventually gaining his PhD in 1953.

John Stout's work and publications led him to the forefront of biological soil science. Some of his almost 100 publications represent significant advances or turning points in soil zoology which will be referred to for many years.

Apart from his scientific work, John Stout had wide cultural interests and contributed to many societies and meetings. He was the editor of *New Zealand Soil News* for 15 years, on the editorial board of *Pedobiologia* for 14 years and made valuable contributions to the running of the scientific programme of the Soil Bureau.

His final project, the Stout Trust, continues his contributions to New Zealand's scientific, cultural and environmental heritage.

When Dr John David Stout died in 1982, his will set up, in memory of the Stout family and its wide interests in New Zealand, a trust that would promote and preserve this country's environmental and cultural heritage in a variety of ways. These include the preservation of natural and historic sites or amenities for public enjoyment and the promotion, creation or preservation of visual, audio and literary works of art.

The trust offers fellowships at the John David Stout Research Centre for the Study of New Zealand Society, History and Culture at Victoria University, helps to fund publications and makes donations to a range of projects.

In looking for suitable projects, the trust particularly encourages innovative ideas and seeks to encourage a few major enterprises rather than contributing to many smaller ventures. Enterprises that receive support should preferably be wide-ranging and encompass several disciplines.

Funds are granted to help to fund publications and are made annually to a range of projects.

Since the first grants made in 1983 the Trust has distributed more than \$6 million to charitable organisations

Not all applications can be accepted, but many are, and New Zealand is the richer for the projects that have come to fruition with the trust's support.