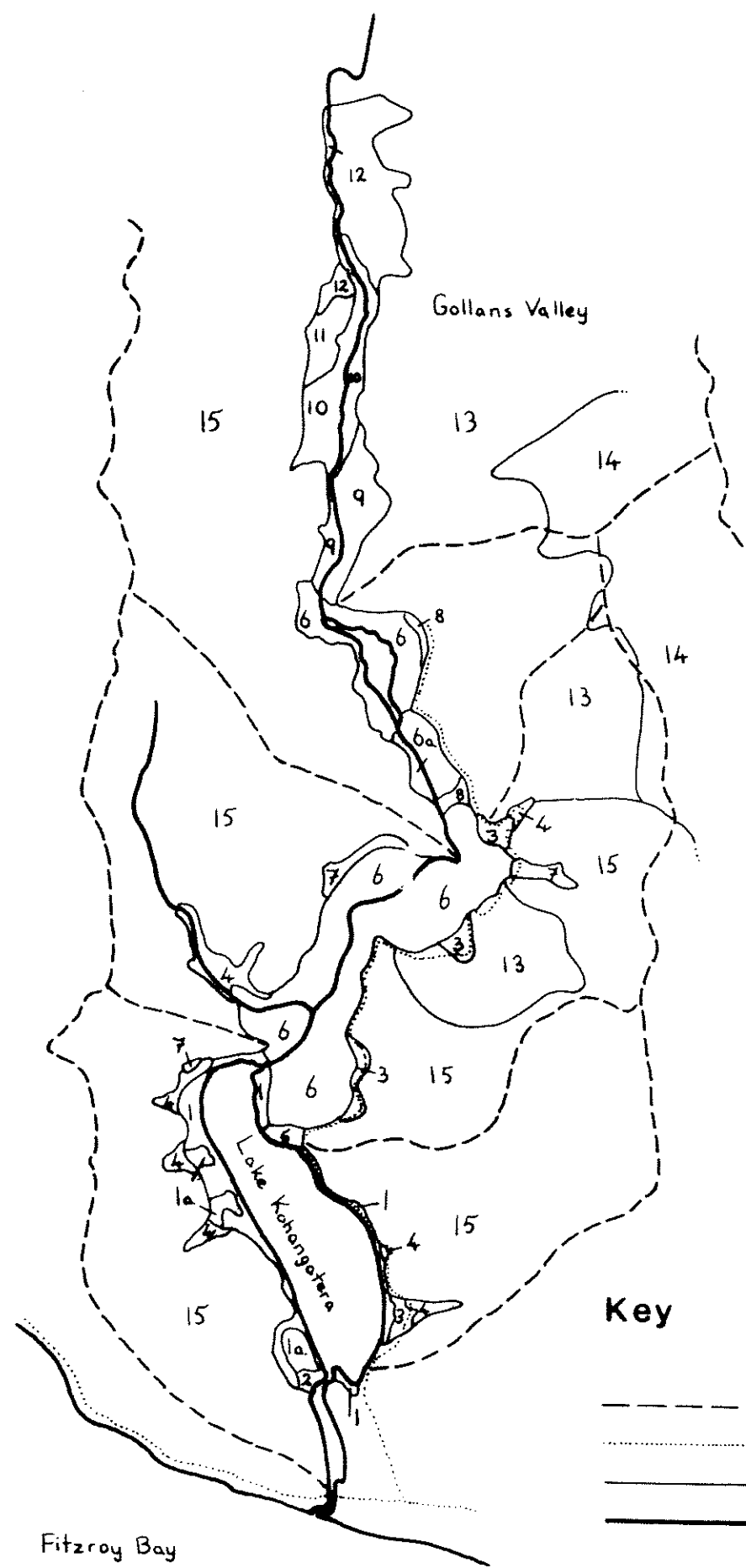


On bibliography ✓

1 km



Key

- Ridges / Spurs
- Unsealed roads / Tracks
- Vegetation boundaries
- Shorelines / Waterways

Map 4

Gollans Valley - Lake Kohangatera

LOCATION

Near Pencarrow Head on eastern side of Wellington Harbour entrance.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Formerly a marine inlet and estuary, Lake Kohangatera and Gollans Valley swamp formed when the area was tectonically uplifted to form the freshwater wetland and lake we see today. The lake lies at the toe of the valley and is separated from the sea by a broad gravel bar. It is about 1 km long and bordered on most sides by a broad zone of wetland vegetation. The swamp, which is not more than 300 metres wide extends from the lake head for another 2.5 km upstream eventually merging with pastureland. The surrounding hills are mostly pastureland although there is some scrub and forest on the slopes and in the gullies on the eastern side particularly, and above this on the ridge there is beech forest. The swamp is an earlier successional stage than Plimmerton Swamp having less flax and more raupo. A transition occurs in an upstream direction from raupo dominant swamp at the lake head to flax dominant swamp in the upper reaches. Toetoe is at its densest in the middle reaches. Birds and insect life are abundant, especially on and near the lake and this adds to the overall diversity and richness of the valley.

SIZE

approx. 17 hectares open water,
70 hectares wetlands.

OWNERS

1. Mr Turvey - upper reaches
2. Mr Riddiford - lower reaches.

STATUS/CURRENT PROTECTION

Forms part of proposed Pencarrow Regional Park [Department of Lands and Survey, W.R.P.A. 1975]. A 20m wide esplanade reserve protects the lakeside vegetation for most of the shore length. Main body of swamp unprotected.

ACCESS

Access is via the coast from either Eastbourne or Wainuimata Valley and requires travel by foot or bicycle as this is not a public road. Stock trails can be followed up either side of the lake and swamp.

JUSTIFICATION FOR RESERVE STATUS

1. Contains representative, early stage, freshwater wetland communities. Camerons Valley nearby contains the only similar site in the region but the Gollans Valley site is larger and better preserved. Several of the community types contained are not represented within existing Wellington Region reserves.
2. Contains at least 13 species of regionally endangered or uncommon plants.
3. Provides homes and breeding sites for many native birds, some of which are regionally uncommon.
4. Has considerable scientific, scenic and educational value.

RATING 0-10

SCENIC .7
SCIENTIFIC 8
RECREATION 5.5(7)

BIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

COMMUNITY TYPES

- | | RES | WGTM |
|---|-----|------|
| 1. Lake edge vegetation with bands of <i>Scirpus lacustris</i> , raupo, <i>Leptocarpus similis</i> , <i>Cyperus ustulatus</i> and <i>Carex geminata</i> in a zonation from open water to dry land. | 9 | no |
| 1a. Small 'permanent' lagoons within type 1. Contain water buttercup. | 2 | no |
| 2. Sea rush - <i>Leptocarpus similis</i> rushland. | 1 | yes |
| 3. Manuka-kanuka/ <i>Carex geminata</i> , remnant forest. | 4 | yes |
| 4. <i>Carex geminata</i> - <i>Cyperus ustulatus</i> sedgeland. | 6 | no |
| 5. Shore-ribbonwood shrubland with pasture grasses. | 1 | yes |
| 6. Raupo swamplands with bands of toetoe and flax. <i>Carex</i> spp. <i>Cyperus ustulatus</i> and occasional manuka, gorse, broom and <i>Cassinia</i> at margins. | 40 | no |
| 6a. Raupo-toetoe swamplands with occasional flax and margins as for type 6. | 3.5 | no |
| 7. Karaka/kaikomako, Scotch thistle and pasture grasses. | 3 | no |
| 8. <i>Scirpus prolifer</i> sedgeland with <i>Juncus articulatus</i> . | 1 | yes |
| 9. Mosaic of flax, toetoe and raupo swamplands with areas of <i>Carex geminata</i> and <i>Scirpus prolifer</i> sedgelands. Also with occasional <i>Carex secta</i> tussocks and cabbage trees. Margins as for type 6. | 7 | no |
| 10. Flax swamplands with some raupo, <i>Carex secta</i> tussocks and cabbage trees. Margins as for type 6. | 9 | no |
| 11. Raupo with flax/ <i>Scirpus prolifer</i> , swamplands. Margins as for type 6. | 2 | no |
| 12. Mosaic of <i>Carex geminata</i> sedgelands, <i>Juncus</i> rushlands and pasturelands. Stream channel lined with flax and crack willow. | 12 | yes |
| 13. Regenerating forest and scrub with broadleaved spp. in gullies and manuka, gorse, <i>Cassinia</i> and Spanish heath on spurs. | - | yes |
| 14. Beech forest on ridge [not visited - probably black beech] | - | yes |
| 15. Pasturelands. | - | yes |

RARE/UNCOMMON PLANTS	NCC STATUS	RES	WGTM
<i>Crassula kirkii</i>) also found	-	no	
<i>Glossostigma submersum</i>) in Cameron's	-	no	
<i>Ranunculus limosella</i>) Valley	-	no	
<i>Potamogeton ochreatus</i>)	-	no	
<i>Ruppia polycarpa</i>)	-	no	
<i>Cotula dispersa ssp dispersa</i>) also	-	no	
<i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>) found in	-	no	
<i>Hydrocotyle pterocarpa</i>) Cameron's	-	no	
<i>Ranunculus macropus</i>) Valley	-	no	
<i>Microphyllum triphyllum</i>) and	-	?	
<i>Limosella lineata</i>) elsewhere	-	?	
<i>Scirpus lacustris</i>)	-	?	
<i>Glossostigma elatinoides</i>)	-	?	
RARE/UNCOMMON ANIMALS			
Australian bittern	-	no	
Spotless crane	-	no	
Pukeko	-	no	
Giant Kokopu	-	no	
	Indeterminate	?	
Also of note are: black swan, which occurs in good numbers; black shag, which here forms one of only 3 colonies in region; paradise shelduck and Californian quail, which were seen during the survey. A total of six species of freshwater fish have been recorded from the lake.			

MODIFICATIONS AND TRENDS

Despite the development for farming of the neighbouring hills and the introduction of stock, the lake and swamp have remained relatively intact. Some stock damage is evident from browsing, trampling and track formation, but this is confined mainly to the margins due to the extent and thickness of the vegetation in the main body of the swamp. Some straightening of the channel has occurred at the lake outlet and at the head of the swamp where drainage channels have also been dug. Fires which burn on the slopes occasionally damage vegetation at the swamp margins. Although present in reasonable numbers, exotics do not play a dominant role in any of the main vegetation types and with the exception of gorse the area is free from large scale infestations of noxious plants.

THREATS

1. Stock, in particular cattle, could cause irreversible damage.
2. Fire on the slopes could interfere with regeneration.
3. Direct interference by man: digging of drainage channels, filling of the swamp.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

1. Exclusion of stock by fencing at margins.

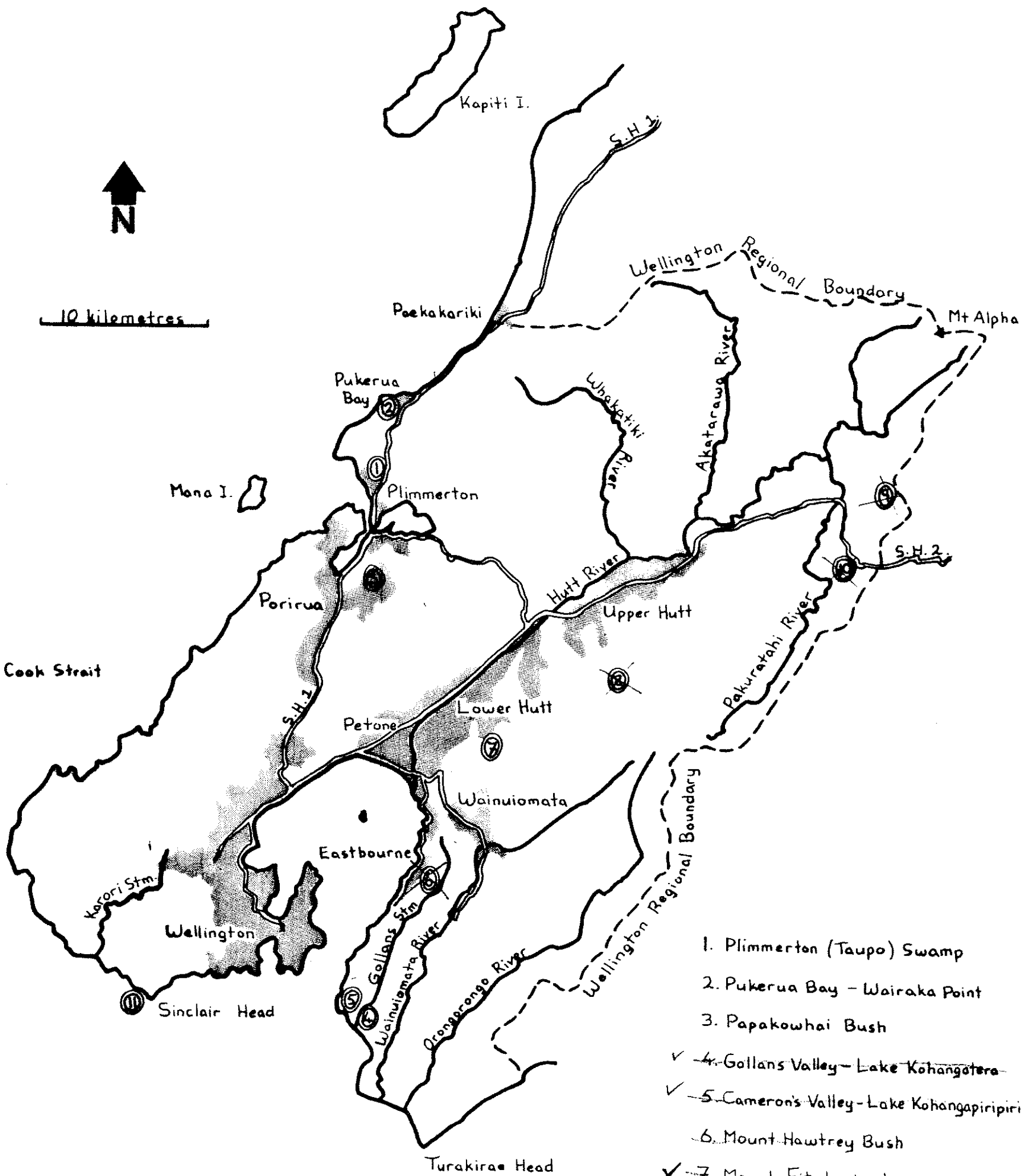
COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS

Pencarrow lakes are Wellington Region's only natural lakes. Lake Kohangatera is the largest of the two and with its associated swamp forms the largest and least disturbed wetland in the region. This swamp represents an earlier successional stage than Plimmerton swamp and this can be seen in the dominant vegetation types of the area. Raupo is the dominant swamp plant overall, with flax concentration mostly at the northern end. The diversity of the vegetation, and wildlife is very high for the region and only the relative isolation of the area can account for the fact that it is not widely known about. This area provides for the botanist, zoologist, teacher, ornithologist, photographer and day trapper, a large and varied resource which has remained almost completely neglected. The lake, swamp and adjacent slopes need to be reserved to protect the vegetation and wildlife from harmful influences. The scientific rating of 8 is given according to the national importance of the area. It was not rated higher because none of the plants or animals within are nationally rare or endangered. On a regional scale, and on the basis of size, degree of modification and diversity, this area must rate as one of Wellington Region's most valuable natural features.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Stephenson, G., 1975. Report on proposed Pencarrow Regional Park. Jointly Dept Lands and Survey, Wellington District Office: Wellington Regional Planning Authority.
2. Moar, N.T., 1949. A study of some mires in SW Wellington Province, Victoria University.
3. Moar, N.T., 1950. *Journal Wellington Botanical Society* 22.

BY
DJC, DC



- 1. Plimmerton (Taupo) Swamp
- 2. Pukerua Bay - Wairaka Point
- 3. Papanohai Bush
- ✓ 4. Gollans Valley - Lake Kohangatera
- ✓ 5. Cameron's Valley - Lake Kohangapiripiri
- 6. Mount Hawtrey Bush
- ✓ 7. Mount Fitzherbert
- 8. Blue Mountains Bush
- 9. The Puffer
- 10. Rimutaka Bush A, B
- 11. Red Rocks to Karori Stream

Locality Map

- Wellington Region showing location of surveyed sites.