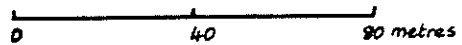


**Pahiatua Hill Scenic Reserve**

Area: 2.3145 ha



broadleaf scrub, mostly laubark and mahoe, with cabbage tree, toetoe, flax and small shrubs.

raupo swamp with exotic weeds

No 2 S.H.

WILLOWS

Vines 1a  
4  
vines

tawa-titoki-kowhai canopy with mahoe five-finger, lemonwood subcanopy but sparse understory. Floor cover now of ferns, blackberry and nightshade. Very dense vines and climbers. No regeneration.

tawa-titoki-kowhai broadleaf/cabbage tree, tree fern

pines

1. Scattered and rather stunted tawa, titoki and kowhai over subcanopy species: laubark, mahoe, five-finger, lemonwood, tree tutu, cabbage tree; dense understory of tangiora, kiekie, tree ferns, hangechange and milkwood.

slip face clothed with grasses, weeds, blackberry; margins of tutu, koromiko, Cop. robusta

zone of tallest and densest tawa and titoki, some over-mature trees.

low broadleaf scrub (regeneration after slip); laubark, hebe, tutu, toetoe, flax.



PAHIATUA HILL SCENIC RESERVE										GRID REF T24 467740	
for:	scenery	bush	scrub/tussock etc	willows	plants	animals	geology/soil	history	prehistory	water supply	
<b>LOCATION</b> At the junction of State Highway No. 2 and Rock Road, on the banks of Makakahi Stream, 7 km south of Pahiataua, northern Wairarapa. <b>ACCESS</b> From Rock Road, however due to the steepness of the hillside only the small area of trees on the river terrace is easily accessible.								<b>AREA ha/acre</b> 2.3145 <b>L.D. No.</b> pt. Pahiataua 7, Blk XI, Mangahao SD <b>STATUS</b> Scenic <b>RES sub-Cttee</b> <b>CONTROL</b> CCL <b>GAZETTED</b> 1910/3345, 1912/3441 <b>RESERVED</b> 1882 <b>HISTORY</b> Granted to 10 Maoris in 1882, later returned to Crown as Scenic Reserve. Historical significance. <b>AIR PHOTO</b> 5408 F/7 date 17.12.79.			
<b>OUTLINE &amp; TOPO</b> There are two blocks of reserve land, one each side of Rock Road. The smaller, triangular part is a group of tawa and titoki on the flat terrace of the Makakahi Stream. This is reduced to a canopy only, with grassy clearings. The larger part runs along the west face of a prominent bluff reaching 260 m. The steep face carries stunted tawa-titoki-kowhai/broadleaved species, and grassed rocky bluffs. A row of exotic pines marks the hilltop fence-line.								<b>nearby town</b> 6... km Pahiataua <b>nearest reserve</b> 10... km Tiramea SR <b>public road</b> State Highway No. 2/Rock Road <b>see (km)</b> 50... <b>ALTITUDE m/ft</b> 140-200 <b>ASPECT</b> West to southwest, 30° - 40° to vertical bluffs. <b>RAIN mm/yr</b> 1400 (approx) <b>NAT FERTILITY</b> Moderate.			
<b>SURROUNDINGS</b> On the corner of the intersection there is a small raupo swamp beyond the reserve boundary. The surrounds are grassed farmland with willows bordering the stream.											
<b>GEOLOGY</b> Marine fossiliferous sand and silt with fossiliferous limestone bands.											
<b>SPM</b> Sandstone and mudstone and alluvium from greywacke on the stream terrace.											
<b>SOIL</b> Weakly clay illuvial. Makotuku-Nhetakura central yellow-brown earths.											
<b>DRAINAGE</b> Very good to moderate.											

RES	HDT		LD	HT	WZ	N	S	E	W	%	area	native		ex	open	M	H	L	D	L	I	M	I	H	S	M	
	LD	HT										1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>														
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	54.5	1.26	✓	✓														
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15	0.35	✓	✓														
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	0.14	✓	✓														
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	0.04	✓	✓														
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	22.5	0.52	✓	✓														
										100	2.31																

**CONDITION** Generally poor. The hillslope vegetation is naturally stunted with moribund canopy trees and slip erosion on the slopes and exotic weeds along the road boundary. The riverside stand is depleted in species and also infested with noxious weeds.

**FENCING** The small block is unfenced. The hillside block is fenced on its hilltop and eastern boundaries only.

**PRIORITY** Medium. Any number of stock that might brave the steep terrain may help induce slipping.

**RATING 0-10**

**SCIENTIFIC** 0...

**SCENIC** 3... Although the vegetation is not of great value, the prominent bluffs are a conspicuous landmark near the main highway.

**RECREATION** 2... The flat land provides shaded parking, picnicking and access to the stream.

**CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS** The steepness of the slope limits the height of the canopy, which is patchy and includes many over-mature trees. However, regeneration of all species is moderately vigorous. Many bigger trees have been removed in the past. Where slip faces are not too steep they are regenerating to native vegetation. The smaller block is deteriorating due to previous stock grazing, spread of introduced creepers and public use. The surviving canopy is healthy. Weeds are a problem in both blocks although blackberry and honeysuckle along the roadside could easily be controlled. *Tradescantia* is prevalent along the stream terrace, inhibiting native seedlings. With little native undergrowth present, spraying might be the most effective means of checking weed growth initially. Vines, both native and introduced, are expanding gaps in the canopy. These clearings, if they are to remain as picnic areas, need to be cleared of noxious weeds such as blackberry, ragwort and convulvulus.

The traditional significance in Maori mythology of Rongomai Cave and the bluffs, is the prime reason for the reservation of this land. Certainly the preservation of vegetation on these steep hillsides is important, but overall the scenic value of this reserve is minimal, and other privately owned stands of forest in the vicinity preserve better examples of this vegetation association. The roadside area beside the reserve could be developed with the co-operation of the National Roads Board, County Council and Lands & Survey Department to provide an attractive "rest-area", which no doubt would also benefit nearby commercial attractions.

1 NATURALNESS 2 TREND: D deteriorating; S steady; I improving



NATIVE SPECIES

Trees and shrubs

*Alectryon excelsus*  
*Aristotelia serrata*  
*Beilschmiedia tawa*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Coprosma grandifolia*  
*C. robusta*  
*Cordyline australis*

*Coriaria arborea*  
*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*  
*Hebe stricta*  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Hoheria sexstylosa*  
*Macropiper excelsum*  
*Meliccytus ramiflorus*

*Paratrophis microphylla*  
*Pittosporum eugenioides*  
*Podocarpus totara*  
*Pseudopanax arboreus*  
*Schefflera digitata*  
*Sophora microphylla*

Climbers and lianes, etc.

*Metrosideros diffusa*  
*M. perforata*  
*Muehlenbeckia australis*

*Parsonsia capsularis*  
*P. heterophylla*

*Passiflora tetrandra*  
*Ripogonum scandens*

Grasses, rushes and like plants

*Carex virgata*

*Cortaderia toetoe*

Herbs

*Astelia fragrans*  
*Collospermum microspermum*

*Epilobium nummularifolium*  
*Gastrodia cunninghamii*

*Microtis unifolia*  
*Phormium tenax*

Ferns

*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Anarthropteris lanceolata*  
*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*A. hookerianum*  
*A. flaccidum*  
*A. oblongifolium*

*Blechnum* sp. (*capense* agg.)  
*B. chambersii*  
*B.* sp.  
*Cyathea medullaris*  
*Lastreopsis velutina*  
*Phymatosorus diversifolius*

*Phymatosorus scandens*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pteris macilentata*  
*Pyrrhosia serpens*

EXOTIC SPECIES

blackberry  
convolvulus  
Himalaya honeysuckle

honeysuckle  
iris

nightshade  
willow

BIRDS

blackbird  
fantail

greywarbler  
silveryeye

wood pigeon