



# Tuhitarata Bush Scenic Reserve

Area: 10.0742 ha

TUHITARATA SCENIC RESERVE										ERID REF S27 268659	
for: scenery ✓ bush ✓ scrub/tussock etc wetland plants animals geology/soil history ✓ archaeology ✓ water supply											
<b>LOCATION</b> On the east side of Lake Wairarapa, 25 km east of Featherston on Kahutara Road.										AREA ha/ek 10.0742	
<b>ACCESS</b> There are R.O.W.'s off Kahutara Road to the two blocks but these are unusable due to drainage ditches along their lengths and only Lot 2 has a gate.										I.D. No. Lots 1 and 2, Block II, Mairangi SD	
<b>OUTLINE &amp; TOPO</b> The reserve comprises two separate stands of remnant swamp forest on flat, poorly drained swamp and sand-dune farmland. Both lots support dense vegetation; Lot 1 contains a mature kahikatea/broadleaved forest association with some kahikatea possibly 300 years old. Most exotics are restricted to the bush fringes.										STATUS Scenic RES sub-Cttee	
<b>SURROUNDINGS</b> Both lots are surrounded by farmland and separated by the Tuhitarata homestead road. The reserve is equidistant between the eastern foothills and Lake Wairarapa. The only nearby trees are exotic shelter belts.										CONTROL CCL	
<b>GEOLOGY</b> Undifferentiated alluvium in fluvial flood plain deposits.										GAZETTED 1981/2254	
<b>SPM</b> Alluvium and silts.										RESERVED T427851.6	
<b>SOIL</b> Recent soils from alluvium: Kairanga and Manawatu silt and clay loams.										HISTORY Sold to the Crown by Mr Mason in 1978. Historical significance of Tuhitarata farm and McMaster graveyard.	
<b>DRAINAGE</b> Poor natural drainage. Lot 2 receives drainage off sand dunes to the east. Both lots have artificial drainage channels along the W boundaries and N boundary of Lot 2.										AIR PHOTO SN 5497 M/11 date	
										nearby town 17 km Martinborough nearest reserve 2 km Holmes SR public road Kahutara Road see (km) 15	
										ALTITUDE m/ft 5-10	
										ASPECT W	
										RAIN mm/Yr 960 (approx)	
										NAT FERTILITY High. Excellent market gardening soil.	

RES			MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES										% area	area ha	native			ex	regen	NAT	trend	exotics
LD	NZ	NZ	LOT 1											1 <sup>o</sup>	2 <sup>o</sup>	ind						
✓	✓	✓	1. Scattered emergent kahikatea and pukatea in a canopy of kahikatea-pukatea-titoki. Swamp maire in wetter sites at the S end. Broadleaved forest species form the subcanopy and understorey with tree ferns common on the E side. Dense supplejack and kiekie. Swampy underfoot with innumerable seedlings and hen and chicken ferns. Kahikatea reach 1.8m diameter and 45m in height.	52.2	5.2	✓	✓											H	H	I	L	
✓	✓	✓	2. Marginal broadleaved scrub including vigorously regenerating kahikatea, cabbage tree, bracken, flax. Scrub overwhelmed by <i>Mushlenbeckia</i> on E boundary by cottage.	6.3	0.6	✓	✓											H	H	I	L	
✓	✓	✓	3. Rank grasses, sedges, flax and convolvulus along drainage ditch and fencelines.	5.2	0.5	✓	✓											H	H	I	H	
✓	✓	✓	LOT 2																			
✓	✓	✓	4. Immature kahikatea-pukatea canopy on eastern side; <u>maire</u> sub-canopy with dense broadleaved understorey and juvenile canopy species. Dense fern floor cover.	8.4	0.8	✓	✓												H	H	I	
✓	✓	✓	5. Open scattered trees in the centre; young kahikatea, pukatea, rewarewa, cabbage tree and scrub smothered by supplejack, passionvine and <i>Parsonsia</i> species.	4.2	0.4	✓	✓												L	L	D	
✓	✓	✓	6. Broadleaved scrub species 3-4m high, smothered by vines, climbers and bracken.	8.8	0.9	✓	✓												L	L	D	
✓	✓	✓	7. Pure stand of young tawa, light understorey almost free of vines; luxuriant ferns.	6.2	0.6	✓	✓												H	H	I	
✓	✓	✓	8. Low, dense canopy of <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> .	2.5	0.2	✓	✓												H	L	S	H
✓	✓	✓	9. Laurels and <i>Elaeagnus</i> bushes amongst natives along fencelines.	1.2	0.1	✓	✓															
✓	✓	✓	10. Pines planted as shelter belts. Badly damaged along exposed boundaries.	4.7	0.5	✓	✓															
				99.7	9.8																	

**CONDITION** Excellent regeneration of canopy species on swampy ground. Pseudo-acacia has smothered native growth in Lot 2. Pines planted on W and S boundaries have suffered severe wind-throw and damaged marginal native vegetation. Possum damage is evident but not severe. Dense climbers are a problem, especially in Lot 2.

**FENCING** Medium priority at present as both Lots are well fenced but W boundary of Lot 2 is deteriorating.

**PRIORITY** High priority long term since the reserve is surrounded by heavily grazed pasture and has a sensitive soil structure.

**RATING 0-10**

**SCIENTIFIC** 3. An excellent regenerating remnant of kahikatea swamp forest. This is the best remnant reserved around Lake Wairarapa and still contains mature kahikatea specimens on a largely unmodified swampy site.

**SCENIC** 4. High canopy; attractive when viewed from the road.

2. Presently surrounded by private land, with restricted access and mostly impenetrable bush, but it could withstand development as a picnic area with attractive bush walks.

**RECREATION**

**CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS**

This relict swamp forest represents the vegetation cover once extensive on the swampy flood-plain of Lake Wairarapa. Although many of the millable trees were removed from Lot 2 and stock were once allowed entry, the fencing of these stands 20 years ago has enabled young stands of kahikatea and tawa, with many of their associated species, to re-establish. If the land is not drained further, this example of the original forest composition has a chance of perpetuity.

Of the two Lots, Lot 1 is the better example of kahikatea forest. Individual trees reach 1.8m diameter and 45m in height, with vigorous seedling growth.

Near the centre of Lot 1 are patches of *Tradescantia* which is spreading over the naturally bare ground and requires immediate eradication. A gale has damaged approximately 1 ha at the S end. Although the ground is swampy, a track through the mature kahikatea stands would be very worthwhile.

In Lot 2 the effect of milling and wind damage has been serious. Much of the exposed scrub and young kahikatea is now smothered by native climbers and vines. Bordering pines have been neglected and many have been toppled by storms damaging vegetation. Future shelter belts will need continued management to be successful in this exposed area. At the NW corner a stand of shade

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)

tolerant pseudoacacias poses a threat to native vegetation. Removal and replanting with natives would be advisable as regeneration of this exotic is vigorous under natives.

Esler, in his 1969 report, suggests weed control by clearing marginal vine areas, grassing them and moving the fenceline back to the bush edge. If possible acquisition of land by Kahutara Road for use as a carpark and picnic site would increase public awareness of this valuable remnant of S. Wairarapa swamp forest.

1. This area has historical significance: the original owner of the land, Angus McMaster, took 11 days in 1845 bringing his stock around the coast from Wellington to his new 9,000 acre farm, Tuhiatarata. His son, Hugh, was the first white child born in the Wairarapa. The family graveyard is on sand dunes to the east of Lot 2. Here Angus McMaster and the Paramount Maori Chief Hikio Mokoia are buried together, as they pledged to be, to epitomise the vision these two men had for the land and the two races, to mutually benefit New Zealand as a nation.
2. *Robinia pseudo-acacia* is a threat to native juveniles which grow in its shade in summer, but are damaged by frost and wind in winter. This shade-tolerant exotic is spreading into semi-open areas so should be exterminated, preferably by poisoning.
3. Nikau and karaka present might have been planted in the reserve. (Esler, 1969).

REFERENCES Esler, 1969. Report written for Lands and Survey.

% area	SUMMARY	HABITATS													ORGANISMS										
		WATER / SHORE													INFER		OBSERVED								
		u - adjoins reserve													N S M		N L M H initials								
64	tall conifer forest/trees	large	small	several	fill/cut/stable	overhang	emergent	herbacc	cliff	rock	stony	s-shingle	mud	organic	rubbish	eutrophic	foot	boat	car	higher native plants	98				✓
	conifer forest/trees																		lower plants					✓	
6	beach forest/trees																		exotic plants	12					
	BL forest/trees																		bush					✓	
12	scrub/shrubs < 6m																		exotic plants					✓	
	tall tussocks/grassland																		in native					✓	
	short tussocks/grassland																		higher freshwater plants					✓	
	grassland/grasses																		lower freshwater plants						
	sedge/land/sedges																								
✓	rushland/rushes/raupo																		native mammals		✓				
	herbland/herbs																		native birds						
	"tussock" herbland																		introduced birds						
	fernland/ferns																		waterfowl s.l.						
	"moss" land																		introduced waterfowl						
✓	bracken																		reptiles					✓	
																			native/introduced amphibia		✓				
5	exotic grassland																		fw native fish					✓	
	exotic herbland/woodland																		fw introduced fish					✓	
✓	exotic scrub/shrubs																		fw invertebrates					✓	
	exotic forest/trees																		terrestrial invertebrates					✓	
8	introduced "native" cover																		saltwater life					✓	
	bog/swamp/pukihi																								
	marsh sw/fw																								
	mudflat sw/fw																								
	bluff/rocks																								
	bluffs/rocks in bush																								
	waterfall																								
	cave/gorge																								
	gravel habitat/scree																								
	dune/sand																								
	limestone																								
	ultrabasics																								
	geological site																								
	breeding ground																								
	rare/interesting animals																								
	rare/interesting plants																								
	historic site																								
	historic building																								
	prehistoric site																								
	camp/midden/pits																								
	terraces/earthworks																								
	burial/tapu																								
100																									

1 tall conifer: kahikatea, kauri, matai, miro, rimu, totara 2 remaining 11 tree-sized spp 3 broadleaved 4 e.g. flax 5 incl. rough grassland, pasture etc

NATIVE SPECIES

(Lots 1 and 2)

Trees and shrubs

*Alectryon excelsus*  
*Beilschmiedia tawa*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Carmichaelia flagelliformis*  
*Carpodetus serratus*  
*Coprosma areolata*  
*C. grandifolia*  
*C. propinqua*  
*C. robusta*  
*C. rotundifolia*  
*C. tenuifolia*  
*C. propinqua* X *C. robusta*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Coriaria arborea*  
*Corynocarpus laevigatus*  
*Dacrydium cupressinum*

*Elaeocarpus dentatus*  
*Fuchsia excorticata*  
*F. excorticata* X *F. perscandens*  
*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*  
*Hebe stricta*  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Hoheria populnea* var. *lanceolata*  
(incl. *sexstylosa*)  
*Knightia excelsa*  
*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*  
*Macropiper excelsum*  
*Melicytus ramiflorus*  
*Myoporum laetum*  
*Myrsine australis*  
*M. salicina*  
*Nestegis cunninghamii*

*Nestegis lanceolata*  
*Paratrophis microphylla*  
*Pennantia corymbosa*  
*Pittosporum eugenoides*  
*P. tenuifolium*  
*Podocarpus dacrydioides*  
*P. ferrugineus*  
*P. spicatus*  
*P. totara*  
*Pseudopanax arboreus*  
*P. crassifolius*  
*Rhopalostylis sapida*  
*Schefflera digitata*  
*Solanum aviculare*  
*Sophora microphylla*  
*Syzygium maire*

Climbers and lianes, etc.

*Calystegia tuguriorum*  
*Freycinetia baueriana* ssp. *banksii*  
*Fuchsia perscandens*  
*Metrosideros perforata*

*Muehlenbeckia australis*  
*M. complexa*  
*Parsonsia heterophylla*  
*Passiflora tetrandra*

*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Rubus cissoides*  
*R. schmidelioides*

Grasses, rushes and like plants

*Carex lambertiana*  
*C. secta*  
*C. virgata*  
*C. geminata*

*Cortaderia toetoe*  
*Juncus* sp.  
*Microlaena avenacea*

*Microlaena stipoides*  
*Poa anceps*  
*Uncinia uncinata*

Herbs

*Astelia fragrans*  
*Phormium tenax*

*Stellaria parviflora*

*Typha orientalis*

Ferns and allies

*Anarthropteris lanceolata*  
*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*A. flaccidum*  
*A. oblongifolium*  
*A. polyodon*  
*A. flaccidum* X *A. bulbiferum*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*B. filiforme*  
*B. fluviatile*

*Blechnum* sp. (*B. capense*)  
*Cyathea dealbata*  
*C. medullaris*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
*Hypolepis tenuifolia*  
*Lastreopsis glabella*  
*L. hispida*  
*L. velutina*  
*Leptopteris hymenophylloides*

*Pellaea rotundifolia*  
*Phymatosorus diversifolius*  
*P. scandens*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Polystichum richardii*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pteris tremula*  
*Pyrosia serpens*

EXOTIC SPECIES

broom  
buttercup  
clover  
convolvulus

*Eleagnus*  
false acacia  
Jerusalem cherry  
mint

pinus  
thistle  
*Tradescantia*  
yarrow

BIRDS

fantail  
hawk  
magpie

silvereye  
swallows

tui  
wood pigeon