

## **Peter's Bush, PNAP site 720, Wairarapa Plains Ecological District.**

Grid: T26.365.155. Altitude 70 m. Owner: Hamish Buchanan.

The site was inspected on a couple of occasions in August 1997 by Aalbert Rebergen. On 17.08.97 Tony Silbery and Aalbert Rebergen visited the site and completed the list of woody plants and added the fern species, herbs, rushes etc. to the list.

Peter's bush has an interesting vegetation, with a podocarp canopy in the centre, and titoki, *Plagianthus regius* and tawa canopy in other parts (see map). The extent of divaricating shrubs in the undergrowth of the forest is spectacular, with *Coprosma areolata*, *C. rigida*, *Myrsine divaricata*, *Melicope simplex*, *Lophomyrtus obcordata* and *Melicytus micranthus* as the dominant species.

The area has been grazed with cattle for decades and as a result the soil has been trampled and the vegetation altered. However, it has not prevented a dense undergrowth of divaricating shrubs to establish. Some parts of the forest, especially the dark tawa forest, has not been affected significantly by grazing cattle. Jerusalem cherry is a common weed in Peter's Bush.

Peter's Bush is within a fenced paddock, but there are large areas with pasture grass between the forest and the fence, especially at the Northern site.

The vegetation type of Peter's Bush can be divided in five broad categories:

- titoki forest (Northern part);
- tawa forest (Southern part);
- modified podocarp forest with a dense undergrowth of divaricating shrubs (Centre);
- "open" *Plagianthus regius*/totara/kanuka/titoki forest (Western and Southern forest edge);
- grazed wetland (Eastern boundary).

A brief visit in March 1998, showed bad cattle damage in parts of the forest, as well as die-back in the canopy trees, especially of tawa. The extreme drought of the 1997/98 summer is no doubt responsible for this.

The owner Mr Hamish Buchanan also owns the neighbouring forest remnant Buchanan's Bush, PNAP site 721. The latter site has been fenced and protected for many years.

The forest is a key site and has been identified as an RAP 1.

Long term protection of (parts of?) the forest should be discussed with the land owner.

Aalbert Rebergen  
Conservation Officer  
DOC Masterton

## trees and shrubs

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki	a
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa	a
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	native broom	l
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>		a
<i>C. crassifolia</i>		c
<i>C. propinqua</i>		l
<i>C. rhamnoides</i>		c
<i>C. rigida</i>		c
<i>C. rotundifolia</i>		l
<i>C. rubra</i>		u
" <i>C. taylorii</i> "		l
<i>C. propinqua</i> x <i>C. robusta</i>		u
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	l
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydoides</i>	kahikatea	c
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau	l
<i>E. hookerianus</i>	pokaka	u
<i>Hoheria angustifolia</i>		u
<i>H. sextylosa</i>	long-leaved lacebark	l
<i>Korthalsella lindsayi</i>		l*
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka	l
<i>Lophomyrtus obcordata</i>	rohutu	l
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa	u
<i>Melicope simplex</i>		l
<i>Melicytus micranthus</i>		c
<i>M. ramiflorus</i>	whitey wood, mahoe	u
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou	l
<i>M. divaricata</i>	weeping matipo	c
<i>Neomyrtus pedunculata</i>		u
<i>Nestegis cunninghamii</i>	black maire	u
<i>N. lanceolata</i>	white maire	l
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako	l
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu	u
<i>Plagianthus regius</i>		c
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara	l
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai	l
<i>Pseudopanax anomalus</i>		l
<i>P. crassifolius</i>	lancewood	u
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	kowhai	c
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i>	small-leaved milk tree	l
<i>Urtica ferox</i>		c

\* on weeping matipo, *M. simplex*, and *L. obcordata*

## climbers

<i>Calystegia tuguriorum</i>		x
<i>Clematis forsteri</i>		x
<i>Metrosideros colensoi</i>		x
<i>M. diffusa</i>		x
<i>M. perforata</i>		x
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>		x
<i>M. complexa</i>		x
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>		x
<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>		x
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack	x
<i>R. schmidelioides</i>		x

### ferns

<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>		X
<i>A. flabellifolium</i>	necklace fern	X
<i>A. hookerianum</i>		X
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>		X
<i>Blechnum lanceolatum</i>		X
<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i>		X
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>		X
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>		X
<i>Polystichum richardii</i>	pikopiko, common shield fern	X
<i>Pteris tremula</i>		X
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern	X

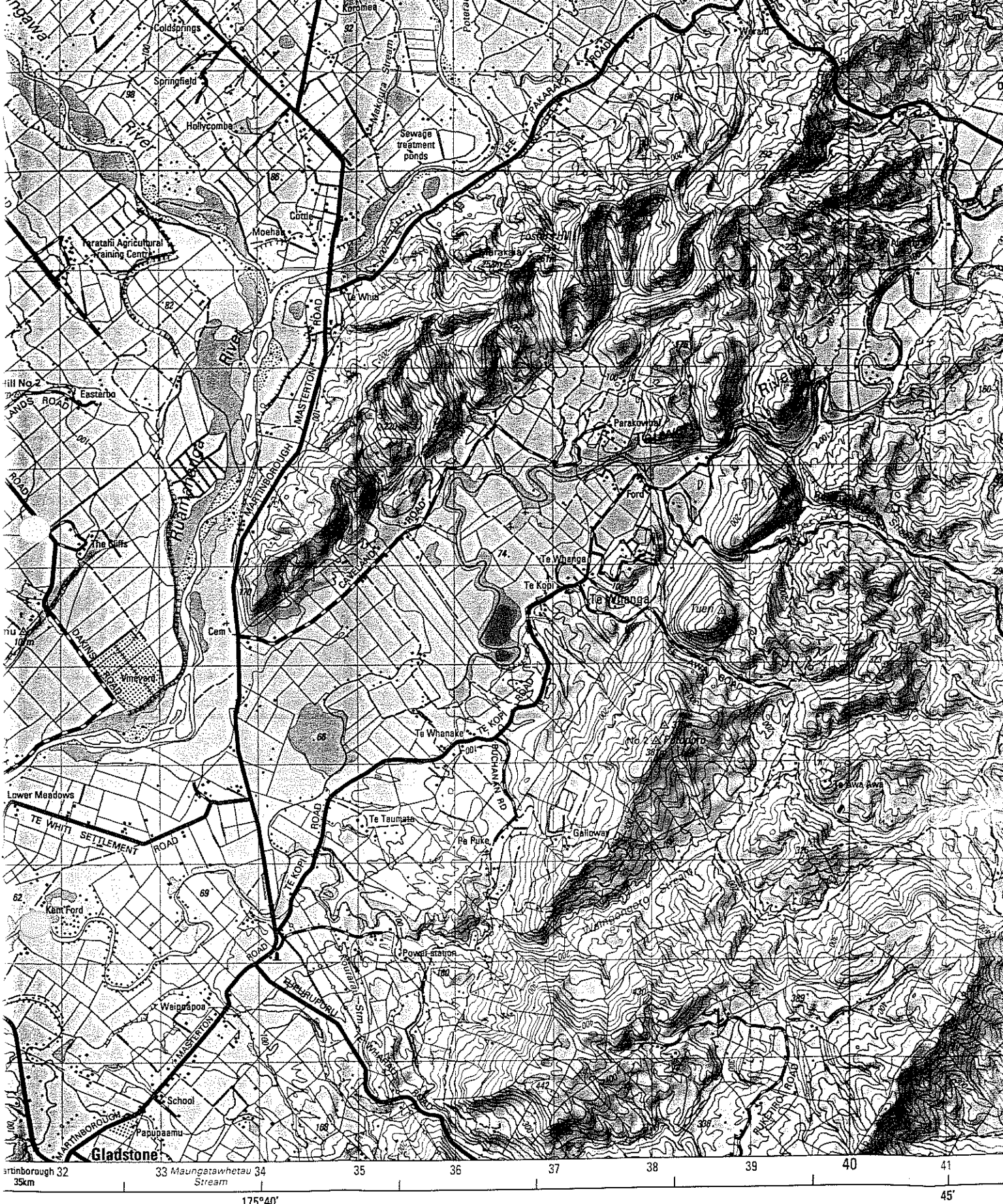
### herbs, grasses, sedges, rushes and orchids

<i>Australina pusilla</i>		X
<i>Carex dissita</i>		X
<i>Cardamine sp.</i>		X
<i>Galium perpusillum</i>		X
<i>Hydrocotyle elongata</i>		X
<i>H. heteromeria</i>		X
<i>Juncus sarophorus</i>		X
<i>Oxalis exilis</i>		X
<i>Schoenus nitens</i>		X
<i>Stellaria sp. (decipiens?)</i>		X
<i>Urtica incisa</i>		X

### birds

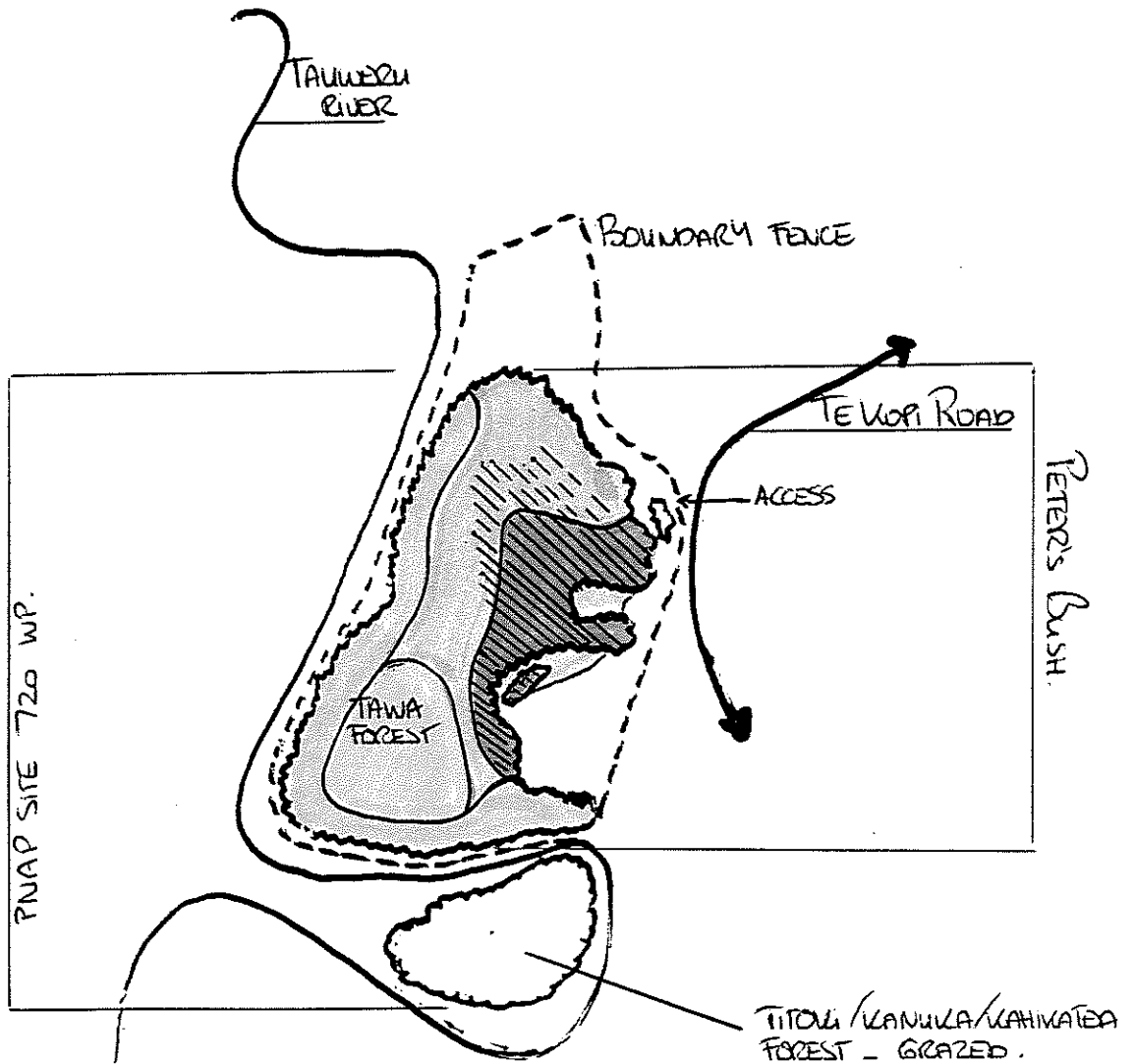
tui	X
NZ pigeon	X
fantail	X
grey warbler	X
white faced heron	X
king fisher	X
grey teal	X
grey duck	X

a = abundant, c = common, u = uncommon (or actual no. of individuals), l = local (may be common in small areas), x = recorded, no information about abundance.








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PNAP SITE 720 WAIRARAPA PLAINS Ecol. DISTR.



//// = DENSE DIVARICATING SHRUB COVER.

-  - TITOKI FOREST, WITH SOME PODOCARP.  
TITOKI > 50%. SOME HOHEZIA SECT. TOTARA, MAIRE, KŪWHAI, MATAI.
-  - TAWA FOREST  
TAWA > 50%. SOME BLACK MAIRE, TOTARA, MAHDE, KAHIKATEA
-  - MODIFIED PODOCARP FOREST WITH DENSE DIVARICATING UNDERSTOREY.  
DIVARICATING SHRUBS 50-80% COVER. GRASS < 50%.
-  - PLAGIANTHUS REGIUS / TOTARA / TITOKI / KANUKA "FOREST".  
OPEN FOREST EDGE
-  - GRAZED WETLAND.

A. REGEREN 31/4/98.