



E.C. HOLMES MEMORIAL SCENIC RESERVE		GRID REF S27 268660
for: scenery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bush <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scrub-tussock etc <input type="checkbox"/> wetland <input type="checkbox"/> plants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animals <input type="checkbox"/> geology/soil <input type="checkbox"/> history/prehistory <input type="checkbox"/> water supply <input type="checkbox"/>		
LOCATION Adjacent to Ruamahanga River, 20 km south-east of Featherston off Kahutara Road, Southern Wairarapa.	AREA ha/acre 1.3086	L.D. No. Lot 1 DP 14909, Block 11, Haurangi SD
ACCESS via "right-of-way" from Kahutara Road beside stop-bank, or "right-of-way" through gate off East-West Road.	STATUS Scenic	RES sub-Cttee
OUTLINE & TOPO The wedge-shaped reserve is on flat land separated from the Ruamahanga River by a gravel road and a stopbank. It is a remnant of flood-plain kahikatea semi-swamp forest, greatly modified by the planting of exotics and natives.	CONTROL CCL	GAZETTED 1974/427
SURROUNDINGS It is bounded on two sides by roads and pasture on the north-east side. Beehives are positioned along the eastern boundary. 5 km to the north is Lake Wairarapa.	RESEVED 1947	HISTORY Donated to Crown by Mr E.C. Holmes of Featherston in 1947.
GEOLOGY Undifferentiated alluvium in flood plain deposits.	AIR PHOTO 5497 M/11	nearby town 18 km Martinborough
SPM Alluvium, loess.	date 16.10.79.	nearest reserve 1.5 km Oporua
SOIL Central recent soils from alluvium.	public road East-West Road	sea (km) 17
DRAINAGE Impeded drainage.	ALTITUDE m/ft 3-4	ASPECT Flat
	RAIN mm/yr 964 (approx)	NAT FERTILITY High.

RES	NOT	LD	NZ	NZ	NZ	NZ	MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES										
							% area	area ha	1°	2°	ind	regen	NAT	trend	exotics		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Emergent reduced and eucalypt over a closed canopy of kahikatea, titoki, kowhai, karaka, cypress and birch. There is a dense broadleaved understorey and sparse floor cover. Planting of exotics began in 1932. Very dense climbers and vines.	91.7	1.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H	M	S	M
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Marginal zone of flax, cabbage tree, pohuehue, (<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>), grasses and weeds.	6.8	0.09	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L	L	S	H
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Grove of 12 or 13 mature kanuka, no undergrowth.	1.5	0.02	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L	H	S	
								100	1.3								

CONDITION Canopy in good condition with rapid growth of exotics and kanuka. Understorey is generally fairly open although *Parsonsia*, *Calceolaria* and *Muehlenbeckia* are dense in patches, especially on edges of bush. Marginal weeds are not a serious threat to interior. Karaka, kowhai and titoki seedlings are quite abundant.

FENCING Reserve is fenced, with wooden gate at southern end. It was fenced prior to 1947.

PRIORITY Medium. Surrounded by pasture but fence presently sound.

RATING 0-10

SCIENTIFIC ... 1

SCENIC ... 4 Tall stand very near to road, although not very attractive internally.

RECREATION ... 2 Grassed picnic area adjacent but no tracks or access to reserve itself - other than a gate. Beehives adjacent.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

Sixty years ago the bush was a scattered group of cattle-eaten trees. Now, in this small reserve, the natives are overshadowed by tall exotic trees and the major native species are regenerating freely. The reserve is of little scientific interest, but is pleasant visually and easily accessible from two roads. Along with other small reserves in the area this reserve warrants protection not only as it contains elements of the original local vegetation but because so few remnants of closed canopy remain in the vicinity.

The only serious weed threat is from silver poplars planted along the stopbank, and juveniles in the reserve should be exterminated as they appear.

Interest in the reserve, and the state of the bush interior probably doesn't warrant any track-cutting or access. However, development of the picnic site area and signposting have greatly improved the area as an attractive pull-off for motorists.

(Continued..)

1 hours Fine conditions IG 1981

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)

The original forest cover probably consisted of scattered kahikatea, kowhai, lacebark and cabbage tree with scrub understorey. Many species may have disappeared with ground drying and past grazing.

As well as planting of exotics, natives have been introduced that are not indigenous to the locality. These are lemon-wood, karo, flax, lancewood, rangiora, rengarenga, miro, rimu and lacebark. Other plants have become established again with seeding and planting, including titoki, karaka, rewarewa, narrow-leaved maire, akeake, kawakawa, tarata and tanekaha.

It is no longer possible to distinguish the introduced flora from what was growing there naturally. The removal of a pine border in the SW side exposes the bush but shrubs are well established along the fenceline and in time should provide adequate shelter to the bush margin.

Flooding occurs frequently with peak floods 4-5 years apart up to two feet deep. This has apparently checked kawakawa regeneration.

There has been some defoliation of eucalypts by the tortoise beetle.

REFERENCES

% area	SUMMARY	HABITATS													ORGANISMS														
		WATER/SHORE			veg			substrate			pollution			access			INFER			OBSERVED									
		large	small	several	fill/cut/stable	overhang	emergent	herbac.	cliff	rock	stony	s-shingle	mud	organic	rubbish	eutrophic	foot	boat	car	a = adjoins reserve	N	S	M	N	L	M	H	initials	
45	tall conifer ¹ forest/trees																												
	canifer ² forest/trees																												
2	beach forest/trees																												
✓	BL ³ forest/trees																												
	scrub/shrubs < 6m																												
	tall tussocks/grassland																												
	short tussocks/grassland																												
6.8	grassland/grasses																												
✓	sedge/land/sedges																												
	rushland/rushes/raupo																												
	herbland/herbs																												
	"tussock" herbland ⁴																												
	fernland/ferns																												
	"moss" land																												
	bracken																												
✓	exotic grassland ⁵																												
✓	exotic herbland/woodland																												
	exotic scrub/shrubs																												
45	exotic forest/trees																												
	introduced "native" cover																												
	bog/swamp/pakihi																												
	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																												
	terrace/earthworks																												
	burial/capu																												
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

Trees and shrubs

Alectryon excelsus
Brachyglottis repanda
Carmichaelia arborea
Coprosma propinqua
C. robusta
C. spathulata
Cordyline australis
Dacrydium cupressinum
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Hoheria populnea var. *populnea*

Climbers and lianes, etc.

Calystegia tuguriorum
Clematis paniculata
Muehlenbeckia australis

Grasses, rushes and like plants

Carex sp.

Herbs

Phormium tenax

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum
A. bulbiferum var. *gracillimum*
A. flaccidum
A. oblongifolium

buttercup
convolvulus
elder
eucalypt
galium

blackbird
fantail

Hoheria populnea var. *lanceolata*
(incl. *sexstylosa*)
Leptospermum ericoides
Macropiper excelsum
Melicope simplex
Melicytus micranthus
M. ramiflorus
Myrsine australis
Nestegis cunninghamii
Paratrophis microphylla

* *Muehlenbeckia complexa*
Parsonsia capsularis

Microlaena stipoides

Asplenium polyodon
Cyathea medullaris
Hypolepis tenuifolia

EXOTIC SPECIES

hawthorn
Jerusalem cherry
macrocarpa
mint
plantain

BIRDS

tui

Pennantia corymbosa
Pittosporum crassifolium
P. eugenioides
P. tenuifolium
Podocarpus dacrydioides
P. ferrugineus
P. spicatus
Pseudopanax arboreus
P. crassifolius
Sophora microphylla

Parsonsia heterophylla
Ripogonum scandens

Pellaea rotundifolia
Polystichum vestitum
Pyrrhosia serpens

redwood
selfheal
silver poplar
thistle
grasses

silvereve

