

pioneer women of Canterbury who passed over the spot when journeying from Lyttelton over the Port Hills to the plains, is much appreciated, and will add further interest to the attractions of the hills overlooking Christchurch.

An area of 371 acres of freehold land in the McKerrow Survey District, beyond Lake Wanaka on the Haast Pass Road, was, with the consent of the owners, Makarora Ltd., declared a private scenic reserve.

As far as possible under existing conditions, endeavours have been made to keep scenic reserves under observation. Valuable work has again been accomplished by Honorary Inspectors and members of Scenic Boards, although the Boards have had of necessity to curtail some of their operations in the way of general maintenance and improvement of reserves.

Two fires in the Wakatipu locality seriously damaged a considerable area of bush. The fires occurred in isolated localities, and could not be dealt with in time to prevent their spread. In other districts no fire damage of any moment was reported, despite prolonged spells of dry weather in various localities.

The usual maintenance and improvement work, including the planting of windbreaks, was carried out on the valuable and popular Trounson Kauri Park Reserve near Kaihu.

The well-known Cape Kidnapper Reserve continues to interest a great many people, and it is pleasing to be able to report that the area occupied by the gamets seems to be increasing year by year.

The following schedule gives details of the areas actually set apart during the year :—

RESERVES MADE IN 1943-44 UNDER THE SCENERY PRESERVATION ACT, 1908, AND AMENDMENTS

Local Name.	Description.	Area.	Date of Proclamation.
<i>Marlborough Land District</i>		A. R. P.	
Pelorus Bridge (addition)	Section 64, Block IX, Wakamarina Survey District	49 0 00	*
<i>Westland Land District</i>			
Lake Brunner (addition)	Reserve 1823 (formerly closed road), Blocks XI and XII, Hobou Survey District	22 0 00	12/2/44
“ “	Refuge Islands, situated in Block IX, Te Kinga Survey District	1 2 00	12/2/44
Lake Kaniere (addition)	Reserve 1824 (formerly Lot 1, D.P. 990), being part Sections 1699 and 1778, Block XI, Kaniere Survey District	12 3 15	12/2/44
“ “	Reserve 1825 (formerly Lot 2, D.P. 990), being part Sections 1699 and 1778, Block XI, Kaniere Survey District	7 3 26	12/2/44
Lake Wahapo (addition)	Reserve 1839 (formerly closed road), Block XVI, Okarito Survey District, and Block XIII, Wataroa Survey District	50 0 00	12/2/44
Total		143 1 01	

* Education-endowment land set apart for scenic purposes by section 10 of the Reserves and other Lands Disposal Act, 1943.

The reservation over three areas totalling 37 acres 1 rood 36.6 perches was revoked during the year. The number of scenic reservations in the Dominion is now 1,197, covering a total area of 850,160 acres.

Expenditure during the year amounted to £1,994, details being as follows :—	£
Acquisition of land	747
General administration, maintenance charges, improvements, and grants to Scenic Boards	263
Trounson Kauri Park: Charges in connection with improvement, maintenance, and protection	367
Waitangi Endowment: Tree-planting, &c	617
Total expenditure for year	<u>£1,994</u>

The total expenditure to date since 1904 is £260,863, including £185,367 spent on the acquisition of land.

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