

1950
NEW ZEALAND

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY
SCENERY PRESERVATION

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1950, TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND SCHEDULE OF LANDS ACQUIRED AND RESERVED DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE SCENERY PRESERVATION ACT

Presented to Both Houses of the General Assembly Pursuant to Section 17 of the Scenery Preservation Act, 1908

Department of Lands and Survey,
Wellington, 10th September, 1950.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit herewith a report on scenery preservation for the year ended 31st March, 1950.

I have, &c.,
D. M. GREIG,
Director-General of Lands.

The Hon. the Minister in Charge of Scenery Preservation,
Wellington.

REPORT

PROCLAMATIONS issued during the year setting apart land as scenic reserves under the Scenery Preservation Act throughout the Dominion covered a total area of 11,859 acres.

In the North Auckland Land District six blocks of land totalling 1,144 acres were reserved on the Great Barrier Island and in various other parts of the district. Two areas on the Great Barrier were dealt with, one of 164 acres and the other of 220 acres. The smaller area was Crown land through which runs the main road from Tryphena to the aerodrome. It contains a good stand of native bush well worthy of preservation. The other block is high stony land in light bush. Most of it was unoccupied Crown land,

but it includes an area of 60 acres generously donated to the Crown by Mrs. O. M. Medland, of Temuka. Arrangements were made some time ago for the surrender of a Crown leasehold of 469 acres in an isolated locality about two miles off the Whangarei-Russell Main Road, and the land has now been made a permanent reserve. About 400 acres is in virgin bush growing on steep broken country with cliff faces and sharp ridges. There is a considerable amount of kauri regeneration throughout, with bigger trees in the gullies. In last year's report reference was made to the acquisition of some 14 acres of bush at Birkenhead by co-operation between the Department, local authorities and other organizations, and the general public. This area has now been reserved and placed under the control of a special Board representative of the Department, local authorities, and educational and botanical interests. The Board is so constituted that it will be possible later on to include under its control further scenic areas that may be acquired in the locality or existing reserves which may be found to be in need of close local supervision. On the hillside overlooking the Town of Kaikohe an area of 131 acres of light bush was acquired from the Maori owners by way of an exchange of land and set aside for scenic purposes, for which it is well suited. The new reserve will be valuable also for water conservation, as it adjoins an area held by the Borough Council for that purpose. Control of the new reserve will be vested in the Borough Council. The land given to the Maoris in exchange comprised an area of 275 acres of provisional State forest which the Forest Service made available to complete the transaction. On the Takitua Road about 20 miles north of Dargaville an area of 141 acres of Crown land in light mixed bush was set apart under the Act. The reserve is part of a high ridge, and although at present the bush growth is not very strong, it is expected that natural regeneration will eventually result in a good forest cover. The land had at one time been held under lease, but proved unsuitable for farming. The last North Auckland reservation during the year was that of an area of about 3½ acres near Titirangi which became vested in the Crown as a recreation reserve on the subdivision of private property. The land is steep and unsuitable for organized recreation, but contains a fine kauri and other trees. It was therefore considered desirable that it should be brought under the provisions of the Scenery Preservation Act as a scenic reserve, and special legislation (section 7 of the Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act, 1949) was passed accordingly. Adjoining, there is another small area which contains some fine kauris and which it is expected will also become vested in the Crown and so available for reservation. A special Scenic Board of local residents will ultimately be appointed to control and safeguard these areas.

Reservations in the South Auckland Land District totalled 661 acres. When the country to the east of Lake Rotoma was subdivided and offered for selection, strips of bush land of adequate width adjacent to the lake were cut out and retained for scenic purposes, but the actual reservation of the land was overlooked. That omission has now been rectified, and the areas in question, some 200 acres in all, have been set apart as permanent reserves. Three attractive bush areas in the Waipa Valley (Otorohanga district) totalling approximately 333 acres were also reserved during the year. They formed portion of the Otoru Farm Settlement, and were withheld from disposal when the block was subdivided for the settlement of servicemen. Not very far away another area of 128 acres in the Waipa Valley was also reserved. This area, most of which is in bush of scenic value, formed portion of a Crown leasehold: but on account of its steepness arrangements were made whereby the lessee agreed to surrender it from his lease so that it could be made a scenic reserve.

In the Taranaki Land District the Forest Service made available for reservation under the Scenery Preservation Act an area of 91¾ acres of State forest on the Waitara River near Parangi Village, about twenty-five miles from Inglewood. It is steep and broken country mostly in tawa, and while the bush is not heavy it stands out attractively from the scenic point of view.

Reservations totalling 3,127 acres were made in the Marlborough Land District, particulars being as follows:

- (a) Three areas totalling 506 acres in Kaiuma Bay, Pelorus Sound, comprising 351 acres formerly held under Crown lease and 155 acres of freehold. The land is mostly steep hillsides on the shady side reverting rapidly to second growth. Its acquisition links up the Crown reserves in the locality, and will greatly assist in reducing the fire hazard.
- (b) An area of 727 acres mostly in birch bush and situated in the vicinity of the well-known Pelorus Bridge Reserves. Arrangements will be made to vest control of this new reserve in the Pelorus Scenic Board.
- (c) An area of 367½ acres in the Jordan Valley, Kaikoura County, acquired from a Crown lessee in exchange for other land. The new reserve is mostly in bush of scenic value, and will probably be placed under the control of the Hundalee Scenic Board.
- (d) An area of 286 acres in Temyson Inlet, comprising 28 acres of freehold and 258 acres formerly held under a Crown lease, and situated adjacent to the extensive and valuable bush areas acquired in that locality a good many years ago.
- (e) Three areas totalling 1,240½ acres in Queen Charlotte Sound, consisting of a block of 269 acres at Resolution Bay adjoining the Ship Cove Reserve and two areas of 737 acres and 231 acres respectively on Blumine Island. These areas will be placed under the control of the Ship Cove Reserve Board. The Blumine Island areas were formerly public reserves for other purposes, but were lately made available for reservation under the Scenery Preservation Act.

In the Nelson Land District four new reserves totalling 2,777 acres were constituted during the year. These comprise:

- (a) An area of 363 acres of bush land at Okiwi Bay in the Croixelles generously donated to the Crown by Mrs. Perrine Monerieff, of Nelson, together with an adjoining area of 58 acres of Crown land. Brief reference to Mrs. Monerieff's public-spirited action was made in last year's report, and I should like now to add that this gift of a fine block of bush country is further evidence, if such were needed, of the lively and practical interest she has always shown in the preservation of our native bush and birds. It is hoped to arrange for the acquisition of some more bush land in the locality to add to the gift reserve.
- (b) An area of 358 acres of steep country with limestone bluffs near the Paturau River south-west of Westhaven Inlet. The reserve consists of 301 acres acquired by purchase and 57 acres donated by the owners, Taitapu Lands, Ltd., in connection with the legalization of a certain road in the locality. The area has a fairly long road frontage, and the bush consists principally of rata and rimu, with pukatea along the road.
- (c) An area of 413 acres of bush land in the upper portion of the Buller Valley adjoining extensive reserves set apart many years ago.
- (d) An area of 1,589 acres of bush land on D'Urville Island running from sea-level to an altitude of approximately 2,300 ft. This land was acquired about two years ago, subject to survey, and has now been permanently reserved. Suitable bush areas on D'Urville are being acquired as opportunities offer, and further purchases are under contemplation.

Reservations totalling 4,018 acres were made in the Westland Land District. At Harihari, areas of 95 acres and 35 acres (formerly travelling stock and rifle range reserves respectively) were brought under the provisions of the Scenery Preservation Act. These are steep hillsides in heavy forest adjacent to the Main South Road. Farther south in

this district of unrivalled natural features six areas of Crown land of great scenic value, including Lakes Rasselas, Paringa, and Ellery, were set aside as permanent reserves. Lake Paringa is of unique shape and remarkable beauty, and is completely surrounded by forest, which will later be reserved to the skyline so as to preserve to the full the scenic value of the lake. The land concerned is State forest; but the Forest Service has willingly consented to hand the required areas over to this Department for reservation under the Scenery Preservation Act. Lake Ellery is an outstanding scenic gem of a beauty which it would be difficult to surpass. Here again large areas of surrounding State forest are being made available in order to worthily complete the scenic reservation.

Reservations in the Canterbury Land District were limited to a few small areas in South Canterbury, including an area of $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres in the Waihi Gorge donated by members of the Barker family for the purpose of providing ready access to a scenic reserve across the river and an area of 5 acres near the junction of the Opuha and Opihi Rivers containing some small limestone caves with rock paintings and carvings of some historic interest. The latter area was surrendered by a Crown lessee from his lease to facilitate action for reservation, and has been set apart for scenic and historic purposes. The Mackenzie County Council has undertaken to securely fence part of the area with a netting fence.

Near the coast in the Taieri district, Otago, an area of 60 acres of Crown land was reserved under the Act. It consists largely of a steep-sided gully, and carries a fair stand of native bush of some scenic value. The land was applied for by an adjoining owner as an addition to his holding; but it was decided that it would be a mistake to attempt to clear the bush and that the area should be made a permanent reserve.

The areas set apart throughout the Dominion during the year may be roughly classified as follows:—

	Class of Land.	Area (Acres).
Gift areas	487
Land purchased by the Crown	2,073
Crown land areas	6,145
State forest land	92
Crown leasehold areas made available in various ways	1,870
Public reserves	1,104
Land purchased by the Crown assisted by local bodies, &c.	14
Maori land acquired by way of exchange	132

11,917

The reservation over three areas totalling 199 acres was cancelled during the year. The Rochfort Scenic Reserve of 136 acres at Ohakune has for many years given the Department a great deal of concern. At one time it carried a magnificent stand of bush; but unfortunately through exposure, gales, and fires such inroads have been made into the reserve that hope of saving the bush has had to be abandoned. The remaining trees have reached maturity, and as they are growing in shallow soil over an iron pan and have no protection from the prevailing winds they are exceedingly liable to be uprooted by severe gales from time to time. It was therefore reluctantly decided that the reservation should be cancelled and the remaining trees disposed of to the best advantage. The reserve was, with others in the district, controlled by the Ohakune Lakes Scenic Board, which agreed to relinquish control of the Rochfort Reserve in order that the reservation might be cancelled. The proceeds from the sale of timber will be used towards the purchase of bush land in the locality for addition to the Tongariro National Park. The reservation over an open area of 50 acres 3 roods 23·6 perches of the Brown River Scenic Reserve under the control of the Pelorus Scenic Board was revoked, and the land incorporated in the adjoining State forest. The area so dealt

with will be planted by the Forest Service, and adequate fire protection will be given to the remainder of the scenic reserve. In South Westland many years ago the bush on an area of 12 acres of a scenic reserve a mile or two south of Lake Mapourika was felled in error by an adjoining owner when clearing and grassing his land. Grazing licences have been issued from time to time over the 12 acres in favour of the adjoining owner, who lately applied for a permanent title. It was decided that there was nothing to be gained by keeping the area under scenic reservation, and a revoking Proclamation was therefore issued.

The number of scenic reservations in the Dominion is now 1,292, covering a total area of 938,213 acres.

SUPERVISION OF RESERVES

Special Scenic Boards were appointed or reappointed during the year as follows: The Manginangina Scenic Board to control the Manginangina Scenic Reserves, North Auckland, which contain some very fine kauris; the North Shore Scenic Board to control the Le Roy's Bush and Kauri Glen Scenic Reserves on the North Shore, Auckland; the Urenui Pa Scenic Board to control the Urenui Pa Scenic and Historic Reserve on the North Taranaki coast; and the Willsher Bay Scenic Board to control the Willsher Bay Scenic Reserve on the South Otago coast. The Department is represented on the Manginangina, North Shore, and Urenui Pa Boards by the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the land district concerned.

In addition, the control of the reserves listed hereunder was vested in the local authorities named:—

Name of Reserve.	Local Authority Concerned.
Whangarei	Whangarei Borough Council.
Mangaokewa Gorge	Te Kuiti Borough Council.
Puketoki	Tauranga County Council.
Makirikiri (part)	Dannevirke Borough Council.
Silverhope	Rangitikei County Council.
Silverstream	Hutt County Council.
On Wanganui River	Taumarunui Borough Council.
Ururakau and Dun Mountain	Nelson City Council.
Titeremoana	Peninsula County Council.

Additional members were appointed to the Kirk's Bush, New Plymouth, and Willsher Bay Scenic Boards.

The Department's relations with the various Scenic and Historic Reserve Boards throughout the Dominion and with those local authorities which have accepted the responsibility of controlling reserves in their districts have continued to be most cordial. The Boards and local authorities are carrying out work of great value, and every endeavour is being made to give them such advice and assistance as lie within the power of the Department.

Twenty-nine gentlemen were appointed as honorary Inspectors of scenic reserves. Here again the country owes a debt of gratitude to those public-spirited citizens, who, by accepting appointment as Inspectors, are showing in a practical way their keen desire to assist in the preservation of the natural beauties of the Dominion.

Inspections of scenic reserves have been carried out by members of the Department's field staff whenever possible, although the heavy calls made on them in connection with land-settlement and other activities have prevented comprehensive inspections of all reserves from being made. Valuable assistance has been given by officers of the Forest Service and other Departments, while organizations such as the Forest and Bird Protection Society have been most helpful and co-operative in many ways.

Caretakers are in residence on the Trounson Kauri Park Reserve north of Dargaville, and on the Hutchinson and Ball's Clearing Reserves at Puketitiri, Hawke's Bay. They have done good work during the year, as also has the ranger on Stewart Island.

GENERAL

Very dry summer weather was experienced in some districts, and fires were more than usually prevalent. In North Auckland some fairly serious fires broke out on or near scenic reserves, but fortunately they were kept within reasonable bounds principally by the efforts and vigilance of local residents and Government officers. In the Marlborough Sounds considerable damage was done by fires at Ngaruru, Cullen's Point, and Edgecombe Point. The prevalence of fires throughout considerable portions of the Sounds is causing much concern, and it is apparent that some effective and generally acceptable method of control of burning operations will have to be decided upon and put into being as soon as possible if further destruction of scenic reserves is to be prevented. The absence of serious fires in the more popular Marlborough reserves such as those controlled by the Hundalee, Pelorus, and Ship Cove Scenic Boards is probably due to the vigilance of the honorary Inspectors and caretakers and the respect the general public show for these beautiful spots, and it is a great pity that other reserves should have suffered damage by fire.

The Cape Kidnapper Bird Sanctuary continues to prove a source of interest to large numbers of visitors each season. Reports indicate that the gannet colony is on the increase, the birds in recent years being more numerous than hitherto. The facilities of the Rest Hut on the area are being maintained, and members of the Royal Society during the season spent some time on the sanctuary in observing the habits of the gannets.

Firebreaks at the Ball's Clearing Reserve at Puketitiri will be extended as soon as possible to completely cover the most dangerous points.

As reported last year, the establishment by the New Plymouth Scenic Reserves Board of a kauri park as a memorial to the late William Henry Skimmer was intended, and this is now an accomplished fact. Through the assistance and advice of a well-known Taranaki horticulturist who is also a member of the Board, the kauri trees have been successfully planted.

Work at Trounson Kauri Park included the maintenance and repair of forest tracks, the discing and maintenance of firebreaks, fencing along the eastern firebreak road frontage, and cultivation of further areas prior to grassing them down.

A few grants were made to Scenic Boards for improvements to the reserves under their control. Improvements were carried out on the Lake Kaniere and Lake Mahinapua Reserves, which, being easily accessible, are patronized by large numbers of visitors.

Fencing is required on many reserves to keep them free from stock. It has not been possible to do much in this way of late years; but it is hoped to gradually arrange for a good deal of fencing work from now on.

PROPOSED PURCHASES AND RESERVATIONS

A statement of expenditure is attached to Appendix A of this report. It will be seen by reference thereto that very little was spent in the purchase of land during the year. However, that does not mean that purchases of suitable areas are not being made. In fact, the acquisition of several comparatively large areas involving a very considerable expenditure was well advanced at the end of the period under review, and other purchases are under contemplation. Particular attention is being paid to the acquisition of scenic areas along the Taumarunui Tokaanu Road, the Rotorua-Waikaremoana Road, and other highways which are or will be popular tourist routes. Nor is the reservation of Crown-owned areas of scenic interest being neglected, and in this connection many areas of Crown land and State forest, particularly in South Westland, have been selected for setting apart as permanent scenic reserves.

APPENDICES

The Appendices to this report are listed hereunder:

- A. Schedule of reserves made during the year, together with a statement of expenditure.
- B. Brief notes on Kapiti Island.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

RESERVES MADE IN 1949-50 UNDER THE SCENERY PRESERVATION ACT, 1908

Local Name.	Description.	Area.	Date of Proclamation.
NORTH AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT			
Great Barrier	Allotments 226 and 227, Aotea Parish, Blocks III and V, Tryphena Survey District	A. 164 R. 0 P. 9	21/7/49
Helena Bay	Section 23, Block I, Opuawhanga Survey District	469 0 00	21/7/49
Le Roy's Bush	Parts Allotments 56, 57, and 58, Parish of Takapuna (D.P.s 18382, 98, 10208), Block XII, Waitemata Survey District	14 1 14.51	5/9/49
Kaikohe	Section 22, Block XV, Omapere Survey District	131 2 33	21/11/49
Takitu	Sections 3 and 4, Block III, Tutamoe Survey District	141 0 00	4/3/50
Great Barrier	Allotments, N.W. 101, N.W. 102, M. 102, S.E. 102, and N.W. 103, Aotea Parish, Blocks III and V, Tryphena Survey District	220 2 26	4/3/50
John Bishop Memorial (Titirangi)	Lot 28, D.P. 33024, being part Allotment 26, Waikomiti Parish	3 1 33.3	*
SOUTH AUCKLAND LAND DISTRICT			
Lake Rotoma	Section 15, Block VII, Rotoma Survey District	56 0 00	21/7/49
"	Section 1, Block XI, Rotoma Survey District	40 0 00	21/7/49
"	Section 6, Block XI, Rotoma Survey District	72 0 00	21/7/49
"	Section 12, Block XI, Rotoma Survey District	25 3 00	21/7/49
"	Section 13, Block XI, Rotoma Survey District	6 1 00	21/7/49
Waipa River	Section 28, Block X, Mangaorongo Survey District	128 1 16	4/3/50
"	Sections 41, 42, and 43, Block X, Mangaorongo Survey District	332 3 30	23/3/50
TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT			
Waitara River	Section 44, Block II, Ngatimaru Survey District	91 3 00	14/6/49
NELSON LAND DISTRICT			
Okiwi Bay	Part Subdivision 1A of Section 19, Square 91, Okiwi Maori Reserve, Block X, Whangamoa Survey District	363 2 20	21/7/49
"	Section 25, Block X, Whangamoa Survey District	57 3 00	21/7/49
Paturau River	Lot 1 and Part Lot 2, D.P. 3655, being Part Section 1, Square 17, Block VII, Pakawau Survey District	358 1 23	21/11/49
Buller Valley	Part Section 4, Block X, Howard Survey District	413 0 00	4/3/50
D'Urville Island	Lot 2, D.P. 3893, being Part Rangitoto 4B, Blocks XI and XII, D'Urville Survey District	1,589 1 10	23/3/50

* Section 7, Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Act, 1949.

RESERVES MADE IN 1949-50 UNDER THE SCENERY PRESERVATION ACT, 1908—*ctd.*

Local Name.	Description.	Area.	Date of Proclamation.
MARLBOROUGH LAND DISTRICT			
Pelorus	Section 5 and Part Sections 7 and 18, Block VIII, Wakamarina Survey District	A. 351 0 00	21/7/49
.. ..	Part Section 1 of 16, and Part Section 17, Kaiuma District, Pelorus Sound, Block VII, Wakamarina Survey District	R. 72 1 12.4	21/7/49
.. ..	Sections 15 and 2 of 16, Block VIII, Wakamarina Survey District	P. 83 0 00	21/7/49
.. ..	Section 2, Block VIII, Heringa Survey District	727 0 00	21/7/49
Jordan River	Sections 9 and 10, Block XV, Kaitarau Survey District	367 1 00	21/11/49
Tamukaiwawi Bay	Lot 1 of Section 1 and Lot 2 of Section 3, Block VIII, Orieri Survey District	286 0 00	21/11/49
Resolution Bay	Sections 44, Block XI, and 6, Block XV, Gore Survey District	269 2 00	4/3/50
Blumine Island	Section 128 and Part Section 139, Block XIV, Gore Survey District	737 0 00	23/3/50
.. ..	Sections 45 and 46, Queen Charlotte Sound Registration District, Block XIV, Gore Survey District	234 0 00	23/3/50
WESTLAND LAND DISTRICT			
Harihari	Part Reserve No. 345, Block I, Poerua Survey District	95 1 27	21/7/49
.. ..	Part Reserve 765, Block I, Poerua Survey District	35 0 1	21/7/49
Lake Ellery	Blocks V and VI, Arawata Survey District	920 0 00	23/3/50
Lake Paringa	Blocks VI and VII, Abbey Rocks Survey District	980 0 00	23/3/50
Lake Rasselas	Block VI, Abbey Rocks Survey District	90 0 00	23/3/50
Paringa River	Block VIII, Abbey Rocks Survey District	230 0 00	23/3/50
Copland River	Blocks XIV and XV, Karangarua Survey District	1,450 0 00	23/3/50
Karangarua River	Reserve 1221, Block IX, Karangarua Survey District	217 3 13	23/3/50
CANTERBURY LAND DISTRICT			
Opihi	Part Lot 5, D.P. 5006, and being Part Reserve 1200, Block IX, Opihi Survey District	5 0 15.3	2/8/49
Pareora River	Reserve 4564, Block XI, Opawa Survey District	5 2 2	21/11/49
.. ..	Reserve 4565, Block XI, Opawa Survey District	7 2 16.8	21/11/49
.. ..	Reserve 4566, Block XI, Opawa Survey District	8 1 20.2	21/11/49
Waihi Gorge	Reserve 4563, Block XVI, Four Peaks Survey District	5 2 20	21/11/49
OTAGO LAND DISTRICT			
Waihola	Section 41, Block XI, Clarendon Survey District	60 0 27	21/11/49
		11,917 0 9.51	

STATEMENT SHOWING EXPENDITURE ON SCENERY PRESERVATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH, 1950

	£
Acquisition of land	272
General administration, maintenance charges, improvements, and grants to Scenic Boards	3,851
Trounson Kauri Park: Charges in connection with improvement, maintenance, and protection	1,875
	<hr/>
	£5,998
	<hr/> <hr/>

The total expenditure to date since 1904 is £295,400, including £196,281 spent on the acquisition of land.

APPENDIX B

KAPITI ISLAND

Routine maintenance work has been carried out through the year on all plant and equipment, including such major work as repairs to the slipway which have just been completed. The caretaker's duties have increased greatly in scope during the last few years. Valuable assistance has been given when asked for by people who are interested in the island.

The past year has seen a good deal of publicity given to the sanctuary, both in New Zealand and in American publications such as *Nature* and *Audobon Magazine*. As a consequence, much local interest has been shown in the island and visitors have been numerous. It is obvious that public interest in the sanctuary and its ideals is steadily growing.

Bird-life remains stable in most species, while observation seems to show a fairly constant increase in the numbers of kakas and green parakeets. Kiwis, which have not been in evidence around the cottage area for some months, are again regularly heard and have been reported both at the north end and south end of the island.

A prominent trained observer stated, after a visit to Kapiti, that it carried the biggest bird population he had observed anywhere in New Zealand, and he thought that possibly it might be close to its maximum carrying-capacity.

Opossums have not increased to any noticeable extent and damage is negligible. No trapping was done during the year, but it is planned to start again in June, 1950.

Tree-planting has been confined to kowhais and totaras donated by the Taihape Borough Council and others. Some of the kowhais arrived late in the year, and of these only about 70 per cent. survived, otherwise the take was excellent.

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