

McPherson's Bush, Turakina Valley

HELD IN TRUST BY THE SOCIETY

IN 1949, Mr. Alexander McPherson, of Turakina Valley, in the Marton District, gave an area of bush to the Rangitikei Scenery Preservation and Tree Planting Society. The members of that Society, whose headquarters are in Marton, feeling that such an area should be held by a Dominion-wide, rather than a local body, has transferred the gift to the Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, as Trustees, with the consent of the original donor. It has also capped this generous gesture by agreeing to be responsible for the maintenance of the area in the meantime.

The bush is held in trust for the perpetual use and enjoyment thereof by the public as a

scenic reserve and generally for the public benefit in such manner as the Society may deem proper.

The property contains about 22 acres and is composed of mixed bush, chiefly kahikatea, rimu, matai, tawa, titoki, and rewarewa.

After having lost most of its undergrowth by grazing, it was fenced by Mr. McPherson about ten years ago and is an outstanding illustration of how our forest will recover if browsing animals are kept out, and, apart from its beauty, will be a valuable example of natural regeneration.

We publish a photograph of this bush on this page.



It is related to the common garden honeysuckle and in season its colourful and fragrant flowers are in delightful contrast with the predominant green of the environment. *Drimys axillaris* (horopito), pepperwood, is seen, but only around the misty summit of the headland. On the seaward side of the main ridge a veronica, with pale lilac flowers and standing at times well over six feet in height is associated with

Pseudopanax, the predominant growth on the exposed side of the headland.

These notes are the results of a couple of days of random meanderings at the Whangarei Heads; but at the Heads you could spend weeks, each day encountering some unusual plant, or perhaps some common specimen growing in a form sufficiently variable to warrant special attention,