



# Pongaroa Scenic Reserve

Area: 20.4 ha

Provisional edition

**PONGAROA SCENIC RESERVE**

**GRID REF** 025 346741-345743

**for:** scenery  bush  scrub/tusssock etc.  wetland  plants  animals  geology/soil  history/prehistory  water supply

**LOCATION** The two sections of this reserve are in the township of Pongaroa, 43 km SE of Pahiatua.

**ACCESS** The larger area has road frontage onto River Bank Road. The smaller, more accessible area has a "Centennial Gate" on Makomako Street.

**OUTLINE & TOPO** The larger area forms a backdrop to Pongaroa township, on the end of a ridge with gentle to moderately steep slopes. Its western boundary is the meandering Taraiingahuata Stream which drains into the Pongaroa River. The smaller area is flat, with a steep bank rising along the Makomako Street boundary. Situated to the west of Pongaroa, it rises gently to the NW.

**SURROUNDINGS** Between the two areas is the residential and school zone of Pongaroa. Beyond the other boundaries is open farmland with the Pongaroa River flowing parallel to the River Bank Road frontage.

**GEOLOGY** Calcareous mudstone, muddy siltstone, sandstone.

**SPM** Mudstone.

**SOIL** Weakly clay illuvial, Makotuku-Maketuku central yellow-brown earths.

**DRAINAGE** Good in larger block, good to poor in smaller block.

**AREA ha/acre** 20.4 ha (originally 28.0146 ha)

**L.D. No.** Block IX, Town of Pongaroa, Block IV Mt Cerberus SD

**STATUS** Scenic B

**RES sub-Cities**

**CONTROL** Dannevirke CC

**GAZETTED** 1908, 1955, 1980, 1982 (0.74 ha revoked)

**RESERVED**

**HISTORY**

**AIR PHOTO** 5310 C14, C15  
date 21/2/74.

**nearby town** 45 km Pahiatua

**nearest reserve** 13 km Ohineriata SR

**public road**

**see (km)** 20

**ALTITUDE m/ft** 120-200

**ASPECT** NW

**RAIN mm/yr** 1170 (approx)

**NAT FERTILITY** High

RES			HOT			MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES									
LD	RI	NI	LD	RI	NI		% area	area ha	native	st	regen	RAT	intend	Remarks	
						1. Kahikatea-totara-rimu-matai emergent over <u>tawa</u> -rewarewa-lancewood-kanuka canopy. Well developed sub-canopy and understorey. Predominant vegetation of large hillside area. Area of <i>Tradescantia</i> ground cover opposite end of Whio Street.	41.2	8.4	✓			H	H		
						1a. Smaller area is same association but after logging and grazing has only immature podocarps pitched tawa canopy, with a denser understorey of divaricating shrubs and juvenile podocarps.	6.4	1.3	✓	✓		H	M	I	L
						2. Diverse broadleaved association alongside Taraiingahuata Stream. Canopy lacks emergent podocarps but some totara is present. Dense understorey and rich ferny floor.	22.5	4.6	✓			H	H	S	L
						3. Open area, heavily logged in the past. Predominantly divaricating shrubs, some broadleaved species, native and exotic grasses, sedges and herbs. Climbers are dense. Recent grazing.	2.2	2.5	✓	✓		L	L	S	H
						4. <i>Panicum rufifolium</i> plantation encroaching into reserve land and planted shelter belts.	6.8	1.4				N		H	H
						5. Rank grasses, exotic weeds, some scrub. Grazed pasture beyond reserve boundaries.	5.9	1.2	✓	✓				H	H
						6. Grassland with exotic conifer plantation, fenced off from native bush.	3.9	0.8	✓	✓				H	H
						7. Stream.	1.0	0.2							
							99.9	20.4							

**CONDITION** The larger area is in excellent condition apart from one area of *Tradescantia* (see map). The grazed, planted field is fenced off. The smaller area has been logged, grazed and used for dumping rubbish in the past. The remaining canopy is in good condition and regeneration is vigorous, especially of podocarps, where stock have been removed. Badly infested with noxious weeds.

**FENCING** Both areas are well fenced.

**PRIORITY** Low. Continued maintenance on farm boundary fences necessary.

**RATING 0-10**

**SCIENTIFIC** 7.... Includes an excellent, unmodified mixed podocarp/tawa stand close to a township. Numerous ferns.

**SCENIC** 5.... Very attractive backdrop to Pongaroa.

**RECREATION** 4.... Unmarked, loosely-formed tracks run through both areas. No easily accessible picnic sites.

**CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS** This reserve preserves what must be one of the best mixed-podocarp stands to be found so close to a township in the Wairarapa. The larger area on the eastern side of Taraiingahuata Stream, is stable, largely unmodified and contains excellent specimens of podocarps, tawa, kanuka, and lemonwood. It is unlikely to suffer from overuse, but the development of a single marked track is desirable to prevent casual over-tracking. *Tradescantia* is a problem (see map) requiring immediate attention. The smaller area has been neglected and is not an attractive patch of bush. However, the regeneration rate is high and control of noxious weeds will hasten the rehabilitation of the vegetation. Problem weeds here are blackberry, ivy, wandering jew, ragwort and honeysuckle. Perhaps local school children could become involved in a long-term weed control and rehabilitation programme.

(Continued..)



(Larger Area)

NATIVE SPECIES

Trees and shrubs

*Alectryon excelsus*  
*Beilschmiedia tawa*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Carmichaelia arborea*  
*Carpodetus serratus*  
*Coprosma areolata*  
*C. grandifolia*  
*C. propinqua* X *C. robusta*  
*C. rhamnoides*  
*C. robusta*  
*C. rotundifolia*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*C. banksii*  
*Dacrydium cupressinum*  
*Elaeocarpus dentatus*  
*E. hookerianus*

Climbers and Lianes, etc.

*Clematis paniculata*  
*Metrosideros colensoi*  
*M. diffusa*  
*M. perforata*

Grasses, rushes and like plants

*Carex secta*  
*C. solandri*

Herbs

*Acaena anserinifolia*  
*Astelia fragrans*  
*Cardamine* sp.  
*Collospermum hastatum*  
*Dendrobium cunninghamii*

Ferns

*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Anarthropteris lanceolata*  
*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*A. flabellifolium*  
*A. flaccidum*  
*A. hookerianum* var. *hookerianum*  
*A. hookerianum* var. *colensoi*  
*A. oblongifolium*  
*A. polyodon*  
*A. bulbiferum* X *A. flaccidum*

blackbird  
fantail

(Smaller area)

Trees and shrubs

*Alectryon excelsus*  
*Beilschmiedia tawa*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Carmichaelia arborea*  
*Carpodetus serratus*  
*Coprosma areolata*  
*C. propinqua*  
*C. robusta*  
*C. rotundifolia*  
*C. propinqua* X *C. robusta*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Corokia cotoneaster*  
*Hebe stricta*

Climbers and lianes, etc.

*Muehlenbeckia australis*  
*Metrosideros diffusa*

Grasses, rushes and like plants

*Carex inversa*  
*C. lambertiana*

Herbs

*Acaena pallida*  
*Collospermum* sp.

Ferns and allies

*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*A. flaccidum*  
*Histiopteris incisa*

*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*  
*Hebe stricta*  
*Hebe* sp.  
*Hoheria populnea* var. *lanceolata*  
*Knightia excelsa*  
*Leptospermum ericoides*  
*L. scoparium*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
*Lophomyrtus bullata*  
*L. obcordata*  
*L. bullata* X *obcordata*  
*Macropiper excelsum*  
*Melicope simplex*  
*Melicytus micranthus*  
*M. ramiflorus*  
*Myrsine australis*  
*M. salicina*

*Muehlenbeckia australis*  
*Parsonsia capsularis*  
*P. heterophylla*  
*Passiflora tetrandra*

*Carex* sp.  
*Microlaena avenacea*

*Dianella nigra*  
*Earina autumnalis*  
*E. mucronata*  
*Gahnia pauciflora*  
*Hydrocotyle elongata*

*Blechnum chambersii*  
*B. filiforme*  
*B. fluviatile*  
*B. sp.* (*B. copense*)  
*B. sp.* (*B. minus* sensu Allan)  
*Cyathea dealbata*  
*C. medullaris*  
*Hymenophyllum* sp.  
*Hypolepis tenuifolia*  
*Lastreopsis glabella*

BIRDS

greywarbler  
shining cuckoo

*Nestegis cunninghamii*  
*N. montana*  
*Olearia rani*  
*Paratrophis microphylla*  
*Pennantia corymbosa*  
*Pittosporum eugenioides*  
*P. tenuifolium*  
*Plagianthus betulinus*  
*Podocarpus dacrydioides*  
*P. ferrugineus*  
*P. spicatus*  
*P. totara*  
*Pseudopanax anomalus*  
*P. arboreus*  
*P. crassifolius*  
*Sophora tetraptera*  
*Syzygium maire*

*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Rubus australis*  
*R. cissoides*

*Poa anceps*  
*Uncinia uncinata*

*Hydrocotyle moschata*  
*H. novae-zelandiae*  
*Microtis unifolia*  
*Oxalis* sp.  
*Stellaria parviflora*

*Leptopteris hymenophylloides*  
*Pellaea rotundifolia*  
*Phymatosorus diversifolius*  
*Polystichum richardii*  
*P. vestitum*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pteris tremula*  
*Pyrrosia serpens*

starling

*Hoheria populnea* var. *lanceolata*  
*Leptospermum ericoides*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
*Lophomyrtus bullata*  
*L. obcordatum*  
*Macropiper excelsum*  
*Nestegis cunninghamii*  
*N. lanceolata*  
*N. montana*  
*Olearia rani*  
*Paratrophis microphylla*  
*Pennantia corymbosa*  
*Pittosporum eugenioides*

*Parsonsia heterophylla*  
*Passiflora tetrandra*

*Carex secta*  
*Juncus gregiflorus*

*Dianella nigra*  
*Epilobium nummularifolium*

*Hymenophyllum demissum*  
*Pellaea rotundifolia*  
*Phymatosorus diversifolius*

*Pittosporum tenuifolium*  
*Podocarpus dacrydioides*  
*P. ferrugineus*  
*P. spicatus*  
*P. totara*  
*Pseudopanax anomalus*  
*P. crassifolius*  
*Melicope simplex*  
*Melicytus micranthus*  
*M. ramiflorus*  
*Myrsine australis*  
*M. divaricata*  
*M. salicina*

*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Rubus* sp.

*Uncinia uncinata*

*Haloragis erecta*  
*Hydrocotyle moschata*

*Polystichum vestitum*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pyrrosia serpens*