



# Putangirua Scenic Reserve

Area: 116.0934 ha

NATIVE SPECIES

Trees and shrubs

Alectryon excelsus  
Aristotelia serrata  
Brachyglottis repanda  
Carmichaelia arborea var.  
Carpodetus serratus  
Cassinia leptophylla  
Coprosma areolata  
C. grandifolia  
C. lucida  
C. microcarpa  
C. propinqua  
C. repens  
C. rhamnoides  
C. robusta  
C. robusta X C. propinqua  
Cordyline australis  
C. banksii  
Coriaria arborea  
Corynocarpus laevigatus  
Cyathodes juniperina  
Dacrydium cupressinum

Climbers and lianes, etc.

Calystegia tuguriorum  
Clematis forsteri  
Freycinetia baueriana subsp. banksii  
Metrosideros colensoi  
M. diffusa

Grasses, rushes and like plants

Agropyron sp. (a) (A. scabrum agg.)  
(rocky sites)  
A. sp. (b) (A. scabrum agg.)  
(grassland)  
Carex dissita  
C. flagellifera  
C. forsteri  
C. lambertiana  
C. pumila  
C. raoulii  
C. secta  
C. solandri  
C. sp.  
Cortaderia fulvida  
C. toetoe  
Cyperus ustulatus  
Dichelachne crinita

Herbs

Acaena anserinifolia  
A. novae-zelandiae  
Aciphylla squarrosa  
Apium australe  
Arthropodium candidum  
Astelia fragrans  
A. solandri  
Australina pusilla  
Caladenia carnea  
Calystegia soldanella  
Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg.)  
Corybas macranthus  
C. trilobus  
Cotula australis  
C. coronopifolia  
Craspedia uniflora var. grandis  
Crassula sieberiana  
Dendrobium cunninghamii  
Dianella nigra  
Dichondra repens  
Disphyma australe  
Earina autumnalis  
E. mucronata  
Epilobium brunnescens  
E. cinereum  
E. komarovianum  
E. mycrophyllum

Dodonaea viscosa  
Elaeocarpus dentatus  
Fuchsia excorticata  
Gaultheria antipoda  
Griselinia littoralis  
G. lucida  
Hebe stricta var atkinsonii  
H. stricta var macroura  
H. stricta var macroura  
X H. stricata var. atkinsonii  
Hedycara arborea  
Helichysum aggregatum  
Hoheria populnea var. lanceolata  
Hymenanthera crassifolia  
Knightia excelsa  
Laurelia novae-zelandiae  
Leptospermum ericoides  
L. scoparium  
Leucopogon fasciculatus  
Lophomyrtus obcordata  
Macropiper excelsum  
Melicytus ramiflorus

Metrosideros perforata  
Muehlenbeckia australis  
M. complexa  
Parsonsia capsularis  
Passiflora tetrandia

Juncus australis  
J. caespiticus  
J. gregiflorus  
J. pallidus  
J. planifolius  
J. sarophorus  
Luzula picta  
Lachnagrostis filiformis  
L. richardii  
Microlaena avenacea  
M. stipoides  
Notodanthonia clavata  
N. gracilis

Epilobium nerteroides  
E. nummularifolium  
E. pubens  
E. rotundifolium  
Euphrasia cuneata  
Galium propinquum  
Gastrodia cunninghamii  
Geranium microphyllum  
G. sessiliflorum var. novae-zelandicum  
Gnaphalium audax  
G. gymnocephalum  
G. involucratum  
G. kerriense  
G. limosum  
G. sphaericum  
G. sp. (G. luteo-album agg.)  
Gonocarpus sp.  
Gunnera monoica  
Haloragis erecta  
Hydrocotyle americana  
H. elongata  
H. moschata  
Lagenifera pumila  
Libertia ixioides  
Linum monogynum  
Lobelia anceps  
Microtis unifolia

Myoporum laetum  
Myrsine australis  
Nestegis cunninghamii  
Nothofagus solandri var solandi  
Olearia arborescens  
O. paniculata  
O. rani  
O. solandri  
Pennantia corymbosa  
Pittosporum eugenioides  
P. tenuifolium  
Podocarpus ferrugineus  
P. spicatus  
Pseudopanax arboreus  
P. crassifolius  
Pseudowintera colorata  
Rhopalostylis sapida  
Schefflera digitata  
Solanum aviculare  
Sophora microphylla  
Urtica ferox

Ripogonum scandens  
Rubus cissoides  
R. squarrosus  
Tetragonia trigyna

Notodanthonia penicillata  
N. racemosa  
N. unarede  
Oryzopsis lessoniana  
Poa laevis  
P. anceps  
P. sp. (aff. P. imbecilla)  
P. anceps X P. laevis  
Scirpus cernuus  
S. nodosus  
S. pottsii  
Spinifex hirsutus  
Trisetum sp.  
Uncinia leptostachya  
U. angustifolia  
U. scabra  
U. uncinata

Nertera depressa  
Oxalis exilis  
Parietaria debilis  
Phormium cookianum  
Plantago raouli  
Pratia angulata  
Pterostylis alobula  
P. foliata  
P. banksii  
P. graminea  
Ranunculus hirtus  
Raoulia glabra  
R. tenuicaulis  
Senecio glomeratus  
S. hispidulus  
S. lautus  
S. minimus  
S. quadridentatus  
Sonchus kirkii  
Stellaria parviflora  
Thelymitra longifolia  
Urtica incisa  
Vittadinia australis  
Wahlenbergia colensoi  
W. sp. (W. gracilis agg.)  
W. marginata  
W. rupestris

Ferns and allies

*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Anarthropteris lanceolata*  
*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*A. flabellifolium*  
*A. flaccidum* subsp. *flaccidum*  
*A. hookerianum*  
*A. oblongifolius*  
*A. polyodon*  
*A. terrestre*  
*A. bulbiferum* X *A. flaccidum*  
*A. bulbiferum* X *A. hookerianum*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*B. discolor*  
*B. filiforme*  
*B. fluviatile*

*Blechnum minus*  
*B. penna-marina*  
*B. sp. (a)* (*Lomaria latifolia*)  
*B. sp. (b)* (*B. capense* agg.)  
*Ctenopteris heterophylla*  
*Cyathea dealbata*  
*C. medullaris*  
*Grammitis billardieri*  
*Hymenophyllum multifidum*  
*H. cupressiforme*  
*H. sanguinolentum*  
*H. demissum*  
*H. dilatatum*  
*H. rarum*  
*Hypolepis tenuifolia*

*Lastreopsis glabella*  
*L. hispida*  
*L. velutina*  
*Lycopodium volubile*  
*Paesia scaberula*  
*Pellaea rotundifolia*  
*Phymatosorus diversifolius*  
*P. scandens*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Polystichum richardii*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pteris macilenta*  
*P. tremula*  
*Pyrosia serpens*

PUTANGIRUA SCENIC RESERVE		GRID REF S28 264641 - 267641
for: scenery ✓ bush ✓ scrub tussock etc wetland plants animals geology ✓ ✓ history prehistory water supply		
<b>LOCATION</b> 16 km by road from the Lake Ferry Rd-turnoff, on Whatarangi Rd, Palliser Bay, Southern Wairarapa. <b>ACCESS</b> Reserve adjoins Whatarangi Rd; access to Pinnacles is a 3/4 hr walk up Putangirua Stream.	<b>AREA</b> ha/acs 116.0934 <b>L.D. No.</b> Pt. Section 4 and 5, Block XIV, Haurangi SD <b>STATUS</b> Scenic <b>RES sub-cttee</b>	
<b>OUTLINE &amp; TOPO</b> The reserve follows the stretch of the Putangirua Stream from the coast to the main tributary creek where the main pinnacle area is. The broad shingle valley has a small stream which floods readily, carrying detritus from steep, rapidly eroding cliffs along the length of the valley. The surrounding hills rise steeply to a height of 150-200m. See additional notes about pinnacle formation. <b>SURROUNDINGS</b> The bush-clad land around the reserve is State Forest. The ranger's accommodation is 100m from the reserve entrance. Surrounding vegetation is a mixture of beech forest, 2° regenerating broadleaved bush and pasture.	<b>CONTROL</b> Featherston County Council. <b>GAZETTED</b> 1967/318, 1969/1944, 1979/1822 <b>RESERVED</b> 1967 In 1930, at request of Tararua Tramping Club, acquisition of the Maori land was explored but not undertaken until 1967. <b>HISTORY</b> <b>AIR PHOTO</b> 5497 18 date 11.10.79.	
<b>GEOLOGY</b> Late Miocene conglomerate unconformably overlying greywacke, argillite and sandstone beds, faulted against fossiliferous marine sandstone-limestone beds. <b>SPM</b> Sandstone, mudstone, conglomerate - colluvium and alluvium. <b>SOIL</b> Central yellow-grey earth steepland soils - Pohangina, Tangoio; central yellow-brown steepland soils - Makara, Pahaoa. <b>DRAINAGE</b> Very good.	<b>nearby town</b> 32 km Martinborough <b>nearest reserve</b> 18 km Tuhitarata SR <b>public road</b> Whatarangi Rd <b>sea (km)</b> 0 <b>ALTITUDE</b> mxx 0-300 <b>ASPECT</b> N,S,E,W <b>RAIN</b> mm/mxx 1400 (approx) <b>NAT FERTILITY</b> Moderate	

RES	NOT	ID	NZ	ID	NZ	MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES	%	area	native			EX	regen	NAT	trend	exotics
									1°	2°	ind					
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1. Mature mixed broadleaved association of rewarewa, hinau, lancewood and titoki above mahoe. <i>Olcarra paniculata</i> , five-finger, tree tutu, karamu etc., with occasional tall manuka and black beech. Dense understorey of divaricating shrubs and ferns on gentler slopes.	19.3	22.4	✓					H	H	S
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2. Pure black beech forest, along northern ridges and hillslopes at the eastern end.	18.2	21.1	✓					M	H	S
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3. Mixed, low broadleaved bush and scrub, with tree ferns, cabbage trees and flax. Occasional manuka.	19.0	23.1	✓		✓			H	H	I L
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4. Largely pure manuka growth, with some kowhai and broadleaved species, extensive along southern hillslopes and regenerating stream terraces.	11.5	13.4	✓		✓			H	H	S L
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5. A transitional association of mature manuka above dense broadleaved association.	0.6	0.7	✓					H	H	S
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6. Steep erosion faces or cliffs with open scrub vegetation; predominantly toetoe, flax, tutu, tauhinu, karamu, hebe, NZ broom and mingimingi.	11.7	13.6			✓			M	H	I
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7. Cliff faces in pinnacles area and eroded banks have native herbs amongst <i>Poa anceps</i> , flax, heather, mingimingi, koromiko and toetoe clinging to the steep surfaces.	1.9	2.3			✓	✓		H	H	I L
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8. Scattered plants in streambed shingles include <i>Epilobium</i> , <i>Raoulia</i> , introduced <i>Scirpus</i> and <i>Gnaphalium</i> ; where islands of vegetation have stabilised, gorse, tauhinu and <i>Leptospermum</i> seedlings.	12.5	14.5	✓		✓			L	H	I L
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9. Gorse and tauhinu forming bush margins along southern banks and picnic area.	0.7	0.8	✓	✓	✓			M	L	S H
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10. Open grass and scrub, scattered cabbage trees, flax.	1.9	2.3			✓			L	L	D H
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	11. Bushes and sedges, both native and introduced.	0.2	0.2	✓	✓	✓			L	M	S H
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	12. Beach.	1.9	2.3								
							99.4	115.7								

**CONDITION** Regeneration in bush areas is very good and succession is taking its natural progression. Beech canopy is in good condition. Eroding cliff faces, banks, and creekbeds are very unstable, condition deteriorating naturally. Stock throughout easier land in reserve. Few weeds.

**FENCING** None.

**PRIORITY** High priority to fence road and coastal boundaries to prevent easy access for stock.

**RATING 0-10**

**SCIENTIFIC** 5 Pinnacles up to 19m high are unusual erosion features, although not permanent. Area regularly visited by VUW, Geology Dept. to study structure and stratigraphy. Limestone is fossiliferous. Vegetation succession.

**SCENIC** 7 Pinnacles are unique attraction - walk down valley has attractive vistas of Palliser Bay between bushed ridges.

**RECREATION** 6 Walk to Pinnacles, good picnic area, fishing, access to State Forest.

**CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS** Even without the attraction of the pinnacles, this reserve is a valuable biological area. The only other scenic reserves in the Wairarapa which preserve the black beech forest are Wairarapa Lake Show and the proposed Tora Bush. None has the broad range of habitat from ridge-top forests (beech-broadleaved species, manuka), shingle valley flats and unstable erosion surfaces to coastline. Regeneration after fires earlier this century provide a dynamic succession study. The main pinnacle formation is subject to continuous erosion and therefore not, perhaps, a permanent feature, with ease of access changing seasonally. The streambed often floods, which has prevented the formation of an access track up the valley floor, so the 2 km walk can take 3/4 hr. Near the pinnacles area a benched track is being cut through the bush margin. It is against the policy of this scenic reserve to encourage access to the surrounding State Forest Park. Sheep present in low numbers are nevertheless forming tracks through the bush to the head of the reserve. Fencing off of the coastal and roadside areas would reduce numbers. With the proximity to a permanent Forest Service ranger, and the surrounding State Forest Park, it may be advantageous to transfer control to the Forest Service in the future, retaining its Scenic Reserve status.

(Continued..)

