

WILFRED MEXTED SCENIC RESERVE										GRID REF R 27 647032	
for: scenery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bush <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scrub/tussock etc <input type="checkbox"/> wetland <input type="checkbox"/> plants <input type="checkbox"/> animals <input type="checkbox"/> geology/soil <input type="checkbox"/> history/prehistory <input type="checkbox"/> water supply <input type="checkbox"/>											
LOCATION On Collins Avenue, Tawa. Porirua District.										AREA ha/acre 1.6683	
ACCESS Adjoining Collins Avenue.										L.D. No. Scenic	
OUTLINE & TOPS Remnant of tawa-kohekohe-mahoe forest in a small moderately steep sided gully and on adjoining slopes.										STATUS Scenic	
SURROUNDINGS Farmland, residential sections and gorse covered country with many native species establishing.										RES sub-Cities	
GEOLOGY Steep slopes on greywacke hill country.										CONTROL Tawa Borough Council	
SPR Greywacke colluvium.										GAZETTED 1939 P. 3022, 1959 P 618	
SOIL Makara steepland soils - central yellow-brown earth.										RESERVED Gifted to the Crown by J.W. Mexted in 1939.	
DRAINAGE										HISTORY In 1959 placed under the control of the Tawa Borough Council.	
										AIR PHOTO SN 5497 E/6 date 1980	
										nearby town 1.5 km	
										nearest reserve 2.5 km Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve	
										public road 0 km	
										sea (km) 6...	
										ALTITUDE m/ft 91	
										ASPECT North	
										RAIN mm/yr (approx) 1285	
										NAT FERTILITY Medium	

MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES										% area	area ha	native			ex	regen	NAT ¹	trend ²	exotic
RES	NOT	LD	ZL	LO	TL							1 ^o	2 ^o	ind					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					1.	Tawa - kohekohe - mahoe forest on moderately steep slopes.	92.7	1.55			✓				M	M	D	L
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					2.	Gorse shrubland on moderately steep slopes.	7.3	0.12			✓	✓	✓		H	L	I	M
						1.	A closed canopy forest up to 15m tall lacking an upper understorey. Some tree fuchsia are present in the canopy near the bottom of the main gully and near the entrance of the reserve young rimu and miro are present in the canopy. The shrub layer reaches 3m tall and is dominated by kawakawa, mahoe and hangehange are common associates. The ground floor vegetation is dominated in places by <i>Blechnum filiforme</i> and litter.												
						2.	Gorse dominated shrubland up to 2-3m tall which is also present outside the current reserve boundary. It contains a number of native tree and shrub species including mahoe, mapou, tawa, hinau, lancewood and poroporo.												

CONDITION
Fair - open understorey in places - Over use has lead to a degraded ground vegetation on steep slopes.

FENCING Good on boundary adjoining farmland. Adequate or unnecessary elsewhere under present adjacent land use.

PRIORITY Low for currently unfenced/poorly fenced portions of boundary unless the surrounding buffer zone of gorse is removed.

SCIENTIFIC 2... Few bush remnants of original vegetation left in the Tawa District.

SCENIC A...

RECREATION ...

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

This reserve is situated in a residential area and receives heavy use as a playing area for local children. Its small size renders it particularly vulnerable to understorey damage from intensive use of this type.

Recent efforts to purchase gorse covered land on the southern boundary of the reserve have been unsuccessful. Acquisition of this land is important to ensure its future development back into forest, to act as a protective zone (e.g. from fire) for the present forest and to increase the diversity of habitats included in the reserve.

An information notice emphasising the remnant nature of the reserve and briefly describing the vegetation should be posted at the entrance of the reserve. It should be pointed out to the public that this is the only reserved area of tawa in a borough where tawa forest was once the most common vegetation type.

REFERENCES Atkinson, I.A.E. 1972. "Scenic Reserves at Tawa". Estuary Division, DSIR, Report 4/72 unpublished.

% area	SUMMARY	HABITATS													ORGANISMS	INFER			OBSERVED																			
		WATER / SHORE			veg			substrate			pollution			access			N	S	M	N	L	M	H	initials														
93	tall conifer ¹ forest/trees	sw/fw coast																																				
	conifer ² forest/trees	sw/fw beach																																				
	bush forest/trees	sw/fw estuary																																				
	BL ³ forest/trees	sw/fw rockpool																																				
	scrub/shrubs < 6m	lake 120m +																																				
	tall tussocks/grassland	pool/tarn																																				
	short tussocks/grassland	river 5m +																																				
	grassland/grasses	stream																																				
	sedge/land/sedges	spring/seepage																																				
	rush/land/rushes/raupo																																					
herb/land/herbs																																						
"tussock" herb/land ⁴																																						
fern/land/ferns																																						
"moss" land																																						
bracken																																						
exotic grassland																																						
exotic herb/land/woodland																																						
exotic scrub/shrubs																																						
exotic forest/trees																																						
introduced "native" cover																																						
bog/swamp/pakihi																																						
marsh sw/fw																																						
mudflat sw/fw																																						
bluff/rocks																																						
bluffs/rocks in bush																																						
waterfall																																						
cave/gorge																																						
gravel habitat/scree																																						
dune/sand																																						
limestone																																						
ultrabasics																																						
geological site																																						
breeding ground																																						
rare/interesting animals																																						
rare/interesting plants																																						
historic site																																						
historic building																																						
prehistoric site																																						
camp /midden/pits																																						
terraces/earthworks																																						
burial/tapu																																						
100																																						

¹ tall conifer: kahikatea, kauri, matai, miro, rimu, totara ² remaining 11 tree-sized spp ³ broadleaved ⁴ e.g. flax ⁵ incl. rough grassland, pasture etc

Indicator sp? but not T.P.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Native

Alectryon excelsus
Brachyglottis repanda
Coprosma grandifolia
C. repens
C. rhamnoides
C. robusta
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Dysoxylum spectabile
Elaeocarpus dentatus

Fuchsia excorticata
Geniostoma rupestre var.
Hedyocarya arborea
Leptospermum ericoides
Macropiper excelsum
Melicytus ramiflorus
Myrsine australis
Pennatia corymbosa

Podocarpus dacrydioides
(=*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)
P. ferrugineus (=Prumnopitys
ferruginea)
Pseudopanax arboreus
P. crassifolius
Solanum laciniatum
Weinmannia racemosa

Adventive

Berberis glaucocarpa

Ulex europaeus

CLIMBERS, LIANES ETC.

Native

Clematis paniculata
Metrosideros perforata
Muehlenbeckia australis

Muehlenbeckia complexa
Parsonia heterophylla

Ripogonum scandens
Rubus cissoides

GRASSES, RUSHES AND LIKE PLANTS

Native

Microlaena stipoides

Uncinia uncinata

Adventive

Dactylis glomerata

HERBS

Native

Cardamine sp.
Hydrocotyle americana

Hydrocotyle moschata
Ranunculus hirtus

Senecio minimus
Stellaria parviflora

Adventive

Cirsium vulgare
Conyza sp.
Euphorbia peplus
Galium aparine
Geranium molle
G. robertianum

Gnaphalium sp.
Hypochoeris radicata
Phormium tenax cv.
Plantago lanceolata
Rumohra hispida
Senecio glastifolius

Senecio jacobaea
Solanum nigrum
Sonchus oleraceus
Taraxacum officinale
Vicia sativa

FERNS AND ALLIES

Native

Alsophila tricolor (=Cyathea
dealbata)
Polypodium bulbiferum
flaccidum
longifolium
lyodii
platyneuron

Blechnum discolor
B. filiforme
Lastreopsis glabella
Paesia scaberula
Pellaea obtusifolia
Polypodium scandens

Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrhosia serpens
Sphaeropteris medullaris
(=*Cyathea medullaris*)

iv

nestoriana

iv

sparrow

song thrush