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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



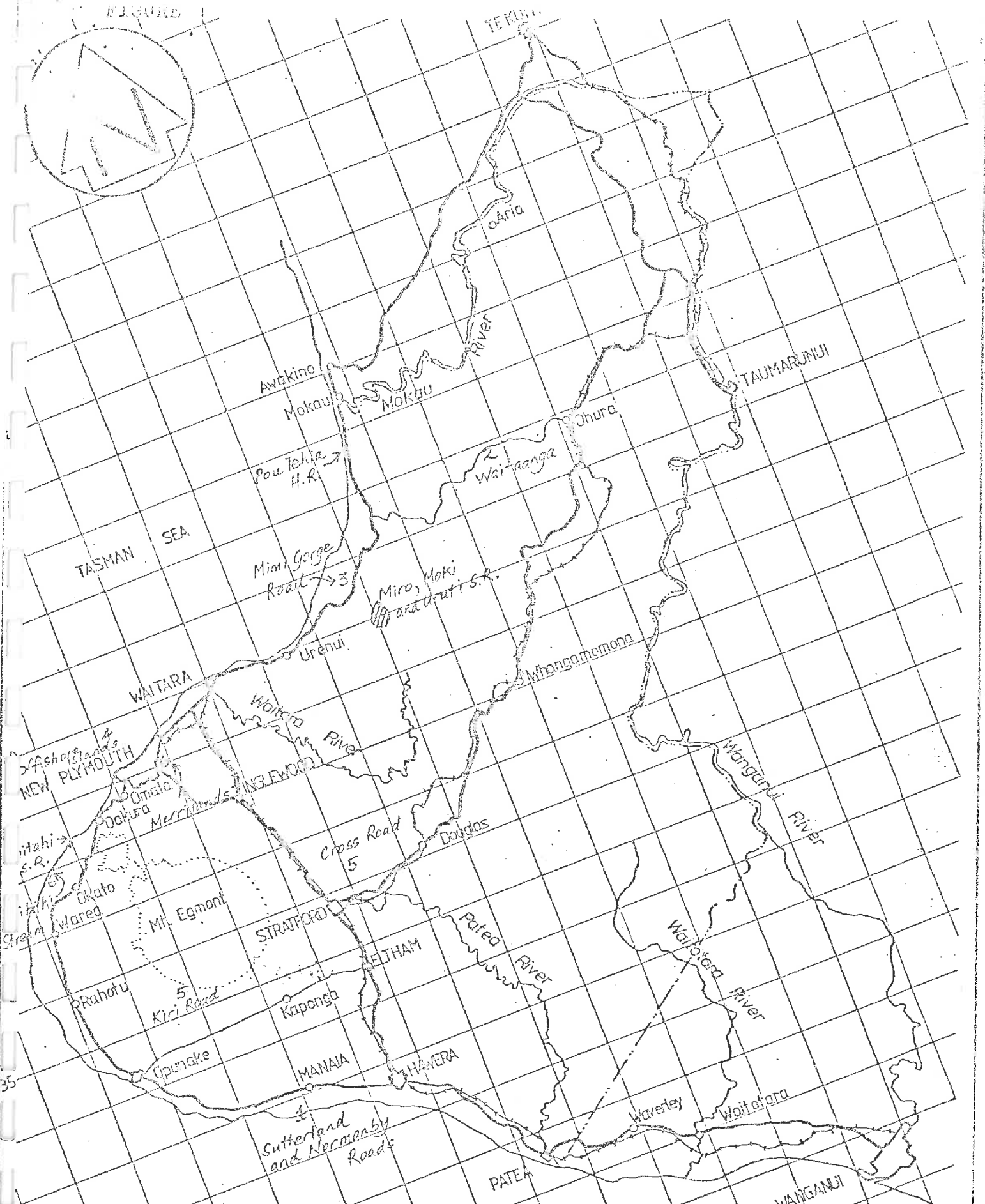
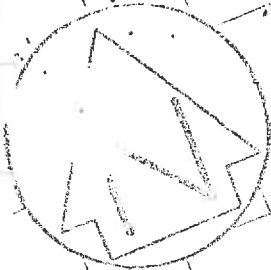
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POU TEHIA HISTORIC RESERVE

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wanganui CO
M333.78 POU

HR 12



TARANAKI LAND DISTRICT

Scale 1:750000

Grid Values 350000yds N. 150000yds E. etc.

PREFACE

The Department of Lands and Survey has responsibility in terms of the Reserves Act 1977 of providing, for the preservation and management, for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand possessing recreational use or potential, wildlife, indigenous flora and fauna, environmental and landscape amenity or interest, and natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific, educational, community, and other special features and values. Historic reserves are an important part of the reserves system and embrace many types of objects, places and natural features. They exist to protect and preserve in perpetuity features of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational and other special interest which illustrate with integrity the history of New Zealand.

The classification of reserves as historic is governed by Section 18 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires that the administering body shall within five years of the commencement of the Act (i.e. 1 April 1978) prepare and submit to the Minister of Lands for his approval a management plan for the reserve under its control, management or administration. The management plan is to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified.

This Management Plan is concerned with setting objectives and policies for the management of the Pou Tehia Historic Reserve. It contains a description and assessment of the Pou Tehia Historic Reserve and an expression of the management objectives, policies and implementation practices considered suitable for its ongoing management. It is against these objectives and policies that specific proposals can be assessed. The policies have been designed to provide cohesion and a positive direction for management, but flexible enough to adapt to changing conditions. The Plan will be kept under continuous review and will be comprehensively reviewed if and when this should become necessary.

The opportunity for the public to involve itself in the management planning process is provided for in the Act.

This Management Plan has been prepared by the New Plymouth Office of the Department of Lands and Survey.

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C O N T E N T S

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Legal Description and Area

Section 42, Block I, Mimi Survey District. Area 0.8271 hectares.

1.2 Location

Pou Tehia Historic Reserve is located in the Clifton County, approximately 51 kilometres northeast of New Plymouth.

1.3 Access

Access to the reserve may be gained from State Highway 3, which adjoins the reserve.

1.4 Tenure

The reserved area was formerly a Crown road reserve, but in 1965 the Department of Lands and Survey had the land classified as a scenic and historic reserve because of the areas historical significance and scenic beauty.

Notice was published in the NZ Gazette on 11 November 1965 at page 2011 advising of the classification of this land as a scenic and historic reserve pursuant to the Land Act 1948.

1.5 Topography

The reserve is comprised of a Maori ancestral burial ground and former pa which are on a sharp sandstone knob rising 46 metres from State Highway 3 and the Tongaporutu River. The area is covered with coastal native forest.

1.6 Geology and Soils

Mount Messenger sandstone is present, and this is exposed on the steep cliffs above the Tongaporutu River.

The soils are comprised of skeletal soils of the steep hillsides and Tongaporutu sandy loam.

1.7 Climate

The Pou Tehia Historic Reserve experiences a moderate climate, with temperatures ranging from 25°C in summer to 9°C in winter. Rainfall ranges from 1600mm to 2250mm per annum.

1.8 Vegetation

According to B R Clarkson's 1980 Biological Survey Report () there are three distinct vegetation areas or habitats as follows:

A Rewarewa/karaka-kohekohe. Canopy dominated by coastal forest species such as karaka, kohekohe, kowhai, wharangi, titoki and puriri and overtopped in a few places by rewarewa. Kawakawa and hangehange are the common shrub layer species and *Polystichum richardii*, maidenhair fern and *Asplenium lucidum* occur frequently in the ground cover. The forest is in excellent condition with abundant regeneration of wharangi, karaka, kowhai and titoki throughout. Some hydrangeas have been planted around the burial ground on the top of the pa site adjacent to the Memorial to Thomas McLutchie et. al. At the time of my visit (December 1980), numerous ground orchids were recorded in this area - *Pterostylis trullifolia*, *P. banksii*, *Corybas trilobus*, *C. orbiculatus*, *Thelymitra* sp. (*longifolia*?). 0.737ha

B Mixed shrubs/perching lilies-rengarenga. On steep sandstone cliffs rising above the Tongaporutu River to the west and south and exposed to sea winds. A variety of shrubs such as *Olearia townsonii*, manuka, karamu, and kowhai mostly 1-2m in height occur along with large clumps of perching lilies (*Astelia solandri* and *Collospermum hastatum*), rengarenga, flax (*Phormium cookianum*) and *Machaerina sinclairii*. Other plants of particular interest growing on the cliffs include sea primrose, sea celery, *Lobelia anceps* and *Libertia ixioides*. 0.026ha

C Willow. A swampy area dominated by willow, and in canopy gaps, flax (*Phormium tenax*) and toetoe (*Cortaderia toetoe*). Common understorey species here include kiekie and *Carex dissita*. In this swampy area two shrubs of *Plagianthus divaricatus* were present, growing near the river. 0.064ha

TOTAL AREA 0.827ha

1.9 Background to Reservation

In 1957, the Taranaki Regional Committee of the National Historic Places Trust suggested to the New Plymouth Scenic Reserves Board that the attractive and historically interesting Pou Tehia burial ground be taken over by them as a scenic reserve. Therefore, the area, which was originally intended for roading was closed off by Gazette notice in 1961, and its designation as a scenic and historic reserve was officially notified in the NZ Gazette in 1965.

1.10 History of the District

Prior to the Public Works Departments investigation of the Pou Tehia area in 1946 (which occurred as a result of planning road realignment), there appeared to be no records nor any official knowledge of the existence of these burial grounds or their historical significance. In fact only the local Maori residents appeared to have any detailed knowledge concerning this area, and their information was most helpful.

Mr R L Kaye of the Public Works Department noted of Pou Tehia in 1946 that "there appears to have been a pa on the elevated area, and native burials in or near the old pa site. The tribe concerned is apparently the Ngati Tama tribe and Mr Jack Kapinga McClutchie of mixed Maori and Scottish ancestry has so far been the leading spokesman. I understand his father and grandparents are buried at this site, and possibly many others."

A few months later the Public Works Department excavated the burial site with the purpose of recovering any Maori remains and reintering them where they would be outside the road limits. However, no Maori relics were discovered, although three old cooking pits about three feet deep containing burnt stone and sea shells were unearthed between
Thus more visible evidence of the Pou Tehia areas historical significance was provided.

The following paragraphs are a combination of information obtained from the late Mr Rigby Allan of the Taranaki Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust, and from Taranaki Newspaper articles by A H Messenger and E Andrews.

The name of this burial ground is POU TEHIA, this being the name of a famous Chief buried on the top portion of this picturesque bush clad landmark. According to the present day Maoris there are nine burials on this ground. From the main road travelling north, a white cross above a headstone used to be clearly visible. This stone cross marks the grave of a half-caste Maori named McClutchie, who, as a scout for the garrison at Pukearuhe rendered great assistance to the Pakeha during the Maori Wars, and was accorded a military funeral. He had married a high ranking Maori woman and since then the chieftainship of the Ngati Tama and Ngati Mutunga tribes has been within the McClutchie family.

The origin of Thomas McClutchie is obscure. In 1842 Charles Heaphy was recorded as staying with an Irishman with the name McClutchie who was the superintendent of fishery and a farmer at Waikeri on the Chatham Islands. Part of the Ngati Mutunga and Ngati Tama tribes were in occupation of the Chathams at this time and it's probable that McClutchie married into the tribe and the half-caste Thomas McClutchie was his son.

Another account states that the original McClutchie who married into the Maori race was a whaler and trader stationed at Kawhia.

In the 1950's there was living at Urenui, Albert Kapinga McClutchie, who was the hereditary Chief of the Ngati Mutunga Tribe, and this Kapinga McClutchie was a grandson of the McClutchie buried on Pou Tehia. It is probable that the McClutchie descendants still reside at Urenui or nearby.

There is no recorded history of William Teoki Pitt Pou Tehia after whom the reserve is named, except that he was a great chief. Pou Tehia was featured in a drawing, and an article written in the Taranaki Herald by Mr A H Messenger some time ago, and illustrated 'McClutchie the Scout' watching from high, on the south side of the Tongaporutu, armed Maoris crossing the river in canoes.

1.11 Adjoining Land Use

The reserve is surrounded by hill country with regenerating native forest to the north, and the (tidal) Tongaporutu River and a township to the south.

1.12 Classification

This attractive bush-clad knoll is a scenic feature of the landscape and visible for some distance from State Highway 3 as well as Tongaporutu and environs. The extensive Maori fortifications (ditches, banks, terraces etc) are well preserved under the cover of re-establishing vegetation. Pou Tehia is not particularly recognisable as an old pa site to the passing motorist with the only obvious clue being shell-filled cooking pits which are exposed in the road cutting. Even the memorial on the top of the pa site - a white cross above a headstone - which was once visible from the main road is now obscured by the regenerating forest. Access to the track up is very steep and narrow. The situation which now prevails has many advantages, the most important being minimal public pressure on the reserve thus reducing damage to earthworks.

Pou Tehia is important botanically because it is one of the very few reserves in the Taranaki Land District that supports true coastal vegetation (others in this category are Maitahi, Pukearuhe and Tataraimaka H.R.). As well, there are unusually high densities of such species as kowhai, wharangi, rengarenga and *Phormium cookianum* which are all relatively uncommon in Taranaki Reserves.

By NZ Gazette of 11 November 1965, pursuant to the Land Act 1948, this reserve was classified as a reserve for scenic and historic purposes. However, this reserve is not yet classified in terms of the Reserves Act 1977.

Section 18 of the Reserves Act 1977 provides for the protection and preservation in perpetuity of such places, objects, and natural features and such things thereon or therein contained as are of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational and other special interest that illustrate with integrity the history of New Zealand.

Scenic Reserves, as provided by Section 19 of the Reserves Act are :

- a For the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest: or
- b For the purpose of providing in appropriate circumstances, suitable areas which by development and the introduction of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, will become of such scenic interest or beauty that their development, protection, and preservation are desirable in the public interest.

Although the reserve has yet to be formally classified in terms of the Reserves Act 1977, it will be clear from the foregoing that the attraction of the reserve lies heavily in its historic associations for the Maori people and that its present reservation as "Scenic and Historic" would be difficult to justify in terms of the very clear definition for each reserve type in the Reserves Act 1977. The Act does not make provision for the dual classification of reserves, except as to parts, and the historic classification is considered to be the most appropriate for Pou Tehia, because historic, archaeological, and cultural values are paramount and these require a particularly sensitive approach to management.

2 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT FEATURES

2.1 Potential Addition

Plagianthus divaricatus, although only two plants were recorded and these were outside the reserve in the swampy area, is rare in Taranaki Reserves. There are fewer and fewer swamp habitats remaining in the Taranaki Land District as they are being drained and mainly converted to pasture. Plants and animals which depend on this type of habitat are, therefore, becoming scarcer. For these reasons the whole of the area between the pa site and Tongaporutu bridge should be included in Pou Tehia Scenic and Historic Reserve.

This area is Crown land, being part of the old Tongaporutu riverbed and was recommended to be included when the reserve boundaries were initially proposed (). Although the canopy is dominated by willows, most of the understorey layers comprise native vegetation. It would be an expensive venture (both in terms of time and money) to remove the willows without using poisonous chemicals which would kill or injure native flora and fauna. The area therefore should remain untouched, at least for the meantime. Another very small area on the northern boundary, through which a stream now flows and again part of the old Tongaporutu riverbed, was also originally recommended to be included in the reserve. This area should also be added to Pou Tehia.

2.2 Inaccessibility and Provision of Facilities

The inaccessibility of the reserve (e.g. no parking area, steep track) is important for continued protection of the vegetation and earthworks. Approaches to form a parking area adjacent to Pou Tehia were turned down by the Clifton County Council on the grounds that a bad traffic hazard would be created as the reserve is situated on a blind bend ().

This situation which now prevails has many advantages, the most important being minimal public pressure on the reserve thus reducing damage to the earthworks.

() File 13/163, folio 37

() File 13/163, folio 71

3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

3.1 The management objectives for the reserve as derived from the Reserves Act 1977 are:

- a To protect and preserve Pou Tehia and the surface evidence of former Maori occupation, forever, retaining and improving the integrity of the site as far as possible.
- b To show the utmost respect for the graves on the reserve and to consult with the Maori people from time to time with a view to as far as possible complying with their wishes.
- c To the extent compatible with objective (a) to manage and protect the scenic, archaeological, geological, biological and scientific features of the site and its indigenous flora and fauna and wildlife.
- d To the extent compatible with objectives (a) (b) and (c), to maintain its value as a soil, water and forest conservation area.
- e To encourage research into the history of the reserve, the publication of such research, and to the extent compatible with objective (b), to interpret the history and other values of the reserve.
- f To permit freedom of entry and access to the reserve for people on foot subject to such conditions and restrictions as the administering body considers necessary for the protection and general well-being of the reserve as expressed in objectives (a-e) and for the protection and control of the people using it.

4 MANAGEMENT POLICIES

4.1 Administration

Policy Administration and control of the reserve is the responsibility of the Taranaki Reserves Board, acting in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

4.2 Plan Amendment and Review

Policy The management plan will be kept under continuous review and will be comprehensively reviewed if and when this should seem to be required so that it is adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge.

4.3 Reserve Boundaries and Fencing

Policy As the reserve is protected by steep terrain, no fencing is required at present. However, it is proposed that the two adjoining areas of Crown Land be acquired and included in this reserve. These are: the area which adjoins the reserve's southern boundary and extends to the Tongaporutu bridge, and the small area on the northern boundary which now includes a stream and was formerly part of the old Tongaporutu riverbed. Should these areas be acquired, fencing of the reserve may be necessary and this should be carried out in accordance with the reserve's needs.

Explanation See paragraph 2.1.

4.4 Adjacent Land Use

Policy The administrative authority will seek the support and co-operation of adjoining land owners so that land management practices are sympathetic to the reserve and its values.

4.5 Interpretation

Policy To erect such signs as are necessary for locating and identifying the reserve and interpreting its significant features in a sensitive and meaningful manner.

Explanation There is a historic reserve sign located near the entrance to the reserve's steep track, on its eastern border. At present, no further signs are considered necessary for this reserve.

4.6 Provision of Facilities

Policy No facilities of any kind are planned for this reserve, as it is desirable to avoid public pressure on it in order that the earthworks do not risk being damaged. See paragraph 2.2 for further explanation.

4.7 Compliance with General Policy

Policy To the extent that the General Policy for Historic Reserves in New Zealand has not been covered in this management plan, and is not inconsistent with it, that policy will be complied with.

4.8 Research, Works and Excavations

Policy Archaeological sites within the reserve may be excavated only for good and considered reasons, to seek answers to carefully thought-out questions for definite and specific research purposes but excavations will take place only when no other means of study will do and only if the consent of the administering body, the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, and the Maori people, represented by the Taranaki Maori Trust Board, has been given.

4.9 Exotic Trees

Policy To leave standing the exotic trees such as wattles, alders and crack willows which grow in the reserve, but to prohibit the planting of further exotic trees. However, the wattles and willows should be checked on occasionally as they are capable of becoming nuisances, in that willows may restrict the flow of the nearby stream which is in the proposed northern addition, and wattles can spread very quickly, choking native vegetation. If these situations should arise the troublesome exotics will be removed.

Explanation At present, the exotic trees which grow in the reserve do not detract from its scenic and historic values.

4.10 Other Exotic Plants

Policy To aim at the control and, if possible, the elimination of exotic plants from the reserve, using the method of hand pulling and regular review and follow-up.

Explanation There are a variety of exotic plants within the reserve such as Scotch thistle, yorkshire fog, blackberry and docks, however these exotics have not yet caused any noticeable problems.

It is an offence to introduce any plants into a scenic reserve without the consent of the Minister of Lands.

However, the control of noxious weeds is dependant upon adjoining lands being similarly kept cleared.

4.11 Introduced Animals

Policy To aim at the elimination of opossums should their numbers increase and should they become a pest by using means which are safe for wildlife and for people using the reserve.

Explanation Although opossum are probably present in the reserve, no apparent damage in the reserve could be attributed to opossum. However, appropriate controls could be implemented if damage to existing vegetation warrants such measures.

4.12 Domestic Animals

Policy To prohibit the taking of domestic animals into the reserve.

Explanation These could be harmful to the wildlife and perhaps some plantlife which inhabits the reserve.

4.13 Taking of Specimens

Policy To sympathetically consider requests from any qualified person with the necessary credentials, to take limited numbers of specimens of flora for scientific and educational purposes, provided that the taking of specimens does not unduly deplete the number of the species, damage ecological associations, or spoil scenic attractions.

Explanation Unlimited approvals to the taking of specimens could result in the depletion of some species which would be contrary to the purpose of the reserve.

4.14 Camping

Policy To prohibit overnight camping in the reserve.

Explanation Camping is a use considered detrimental to the preservation and well-being of the reserve.

4.15 Appointment of Honorary Rangers

Policy The administering body will appoint a selected few suitably qualified local residents to be honorary reserves rangers.

A P P E N D I X I

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- 1 L&S File 13/163 (one volume spread over period 1946 to 1980)
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- 3 New Zealand Meteorological Service, *Summaries of Climatological
 Observations to 1970*, published 1973, Govt. Printer, Wellington.