



Our Picturesque Heritage
100 years of scenery
preservation
in New Zealand

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FLAPS, TITLE PAGE, p. 68: Mt Cook lily, Fiordland, 2001. Rosalind Cole, DOC

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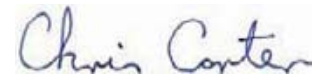
Foreword

New Zealand's nationwide reserve network is a product of an enduring and widespread passion for our unique landscapes. Over the past century four generations have chosen their special places and sought to protect them. Today there are more than 1,500 scenic and historic reserves. Central government, local bodies, and trusts administer them and maintain public access. These treasures are experienced, not locked away. They are promoted and visited. They are nurtured and handed down intact to future generations. We want visitors to see our best places so that they can understand this important part of our relationship with the land.

The Scenery Preservation Act 1903 was the first law that allowed the Crown to systematically establish a national series of reserves. Beautiful, interesting and significant places were reserved only after wide community consultation. The passing of the Act was remarkable because it had broad political support within parliament at a time when government was more accustomed to passing legislation to clear land for farming. Deciding to promote such legislation was a politically courageous move in

a country where private property rights were highly valued. The legislation was also bold in international terms. The Crown's power to establish reserves was much more extensive than in the United States, for example, which established federal legislation in 1906.

The story of our relationship with place is still being written. Today New Zealand is reaping the benefits of the foresight and energy of those who were responsible for establishing and expanding the scenic reserve network and we now recognise the indirect contribution that scenery preservation has made to the protection of biodiversity. As new reserves are created we augment and enrich our relationship with the land. We also provide unique recreational opportunities for both New Zealanders and international visitors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. Chris Carter
MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

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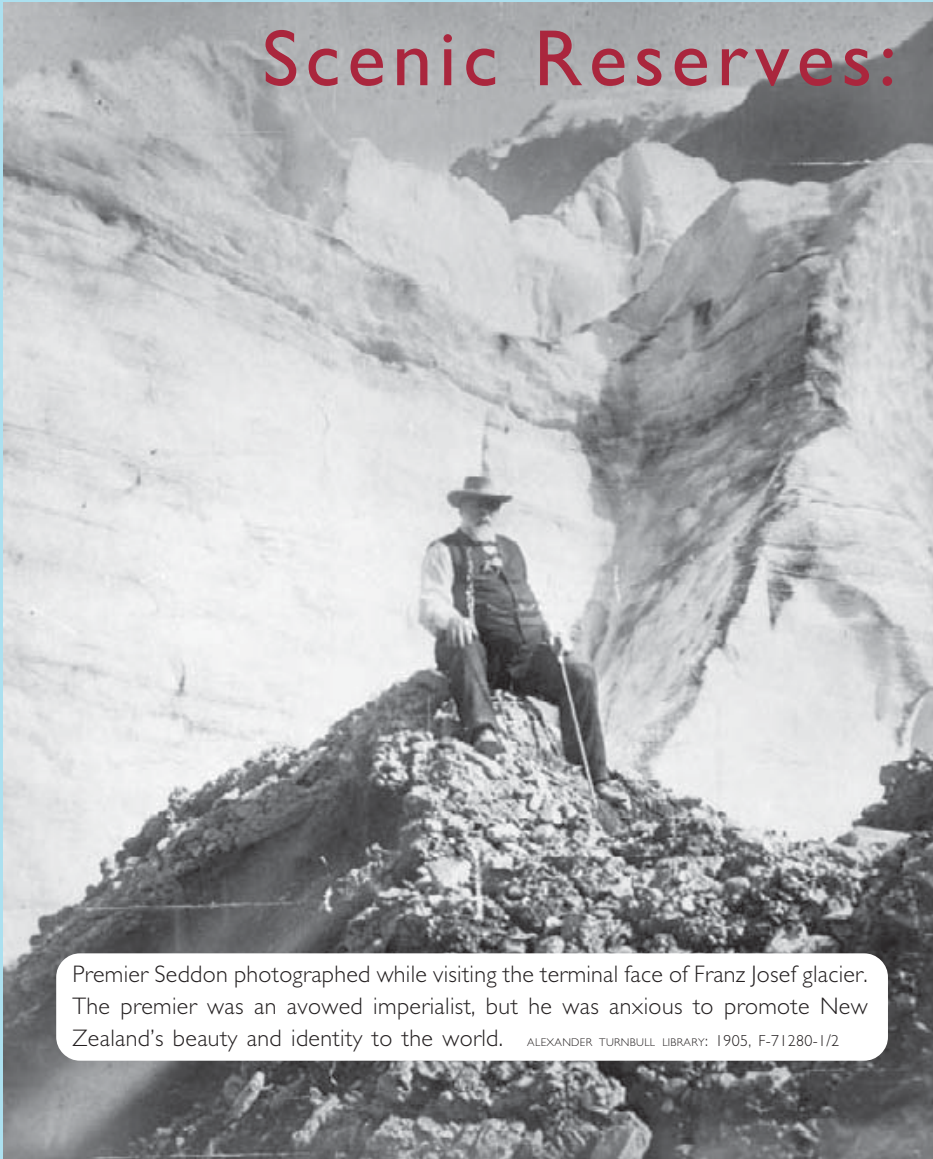
Massey in particular. Tonia Dingwall and Gabor Toth from Wellington Public Library also assisted with finding and providing images, as did Christchurch City Library staff.

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Scenic Reserves: a beautiful idea



Premier Seddon photographed while visiting the terminal face of Franz Josef glacier. The premier was an avowed imperialist, but he was anxious to promote New Zealand's beauty and identity to the world.

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: 1905, F-71280-1/2

A century ago the New Zealand Parliament passed the Scenery Preservation Act—our first law that permitted the government to set aside land for aesthetic, scientific, historic and natural curiosity values. Richard John Seddon, the populist Liberal premier, was at the peak of his power in 1903. The extrovert Seddon extolled the virtues of ‘God’s own Country’ and when introducing the legislation said:

The time has arrived in the history of our colony when our scenery should be preserved, when the historic and beautiful places should be for all time conserved, and when we should do something to protect the thermal springs, which are of so great value to the country, from being destroyed and from falling into the hands of private individuals.

In a parliament more accustomed to promoting legislation to clear areas for farming, the Scenery Preservation Act represented a new way

of looking at the land, one in which aesthetics were important and the New Zealanders' relationships with the landscape could be expressed. Many factors coincided to make this politically possible. Scientists were voicing concerns about losing indigenous flora and fauna even before many species were recorded. Authors such as John A. Lee and Blanche Baughan's writings about the period reflected a popular nostalgia for the bush as early settlers remembered it. The Liberals and particularly the Minister of Tourist and Publicity, Sir Joseph Ward, wanted to develop a successful in-bound tourist industry based on New Zealand's spectacular scenery. At the same time the Polynesian Society was enthusiastically supporting the reservation of pre-historic and historic sites. Robert McNab, historian and later Minister of Lands, emphasised the importance for New Zealand's sense of identity of reserving historic sites—particularly places where the Treaty of Waitangi had been signed. There were also those who recognised the value of scenic reserves for recreational activities for an increasingly urbanised and leisured population.

Romantic



William Fox painted the glacier named after him—Fox Glacier (Te Moeka o Tuawe at Weheka)—in 1872. The five-time premier was an extensive traveller who painted scenic wonders in the United States, Middle East, Europe and the Caribbean. Fox Glacier was made a scenic reserve in 1930. It was one of those incorporated into the Westland National Park in 1960 to commemorate the centennial of the Westland Province. It is now part of Te Wahipounamu—a World Heritage site designated in 1990. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: William Fox 1872,

B-113-018

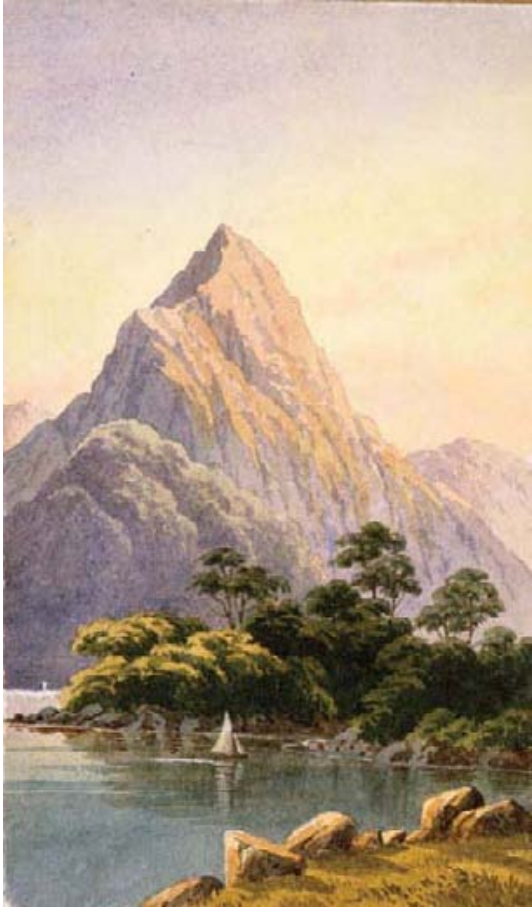
i m a g e s



John Backhouse painted this romantic view of Lake Taupo in the 1880s. The scene seems an unlikely one with a clear view of all three main volcano peaks: Tongariro, Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, now part of the Tongariro National Park and World Heritage Cultural Landscape. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: John Philemon Backhouse, 1880s, G-452-1-1

THE SCENIC IDEAL

Seventeenth-century landscape painters developed a strong sense of what was an ideal scenic landscape. As Europeans became more urbanised during the Industrial Revolution, the wealthy and middle classes increasingly valued rural tranquillity and beauty. The term scenery, which had referred only to theatre backdrops, was applied to the outdoors. Early tourists undertook grand tours to see the sites of rural England and Europe so that by the latter half of the 19th Century, when New Zealand was settled, there were the beginnings of a tourist industry. The concept of scenery and beauty allowed not only tourists, but also colonists, to rapidly identify with their new surroundings. By 1872 there were already over 400 published tourist diaries about visitors' New Zealand experiences. While tangata whenua knew their land intimately from time immemorial, by 1870 colonists had identified and valued scenic areas. It took another 30 years for a government to pass comprehensive legislation to reserve these special places.



John Barr Hoyte produced this painting in the 1870s at a time when few Europeans visited Lake Waikaremoana. Such images began to create an understanding of New Zealand's less accessible scenery amongst the wider public. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: John Barr Clarke Hoyte, 1872, C-079-012

Mitre Peak has been captured in many representations. Hoyte's 1870s image softens its ridges and reduces its scale. Milford became accessible by track in 1888 and has remained a premier tourist destination ever since. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: John Barr Clarke Hoyte, 1870s, A-253-007



Premier William Fox painted Fort Michilimacknac during his visit to the United States in 1853. The British built the fort site during the American Revolution and it was one of the early national monuments. The island park is now a state park and there are five historic buildings associated with the fur-trade era. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: William Fox, 1853, WC-251

GRAND TOURS FOR ALL

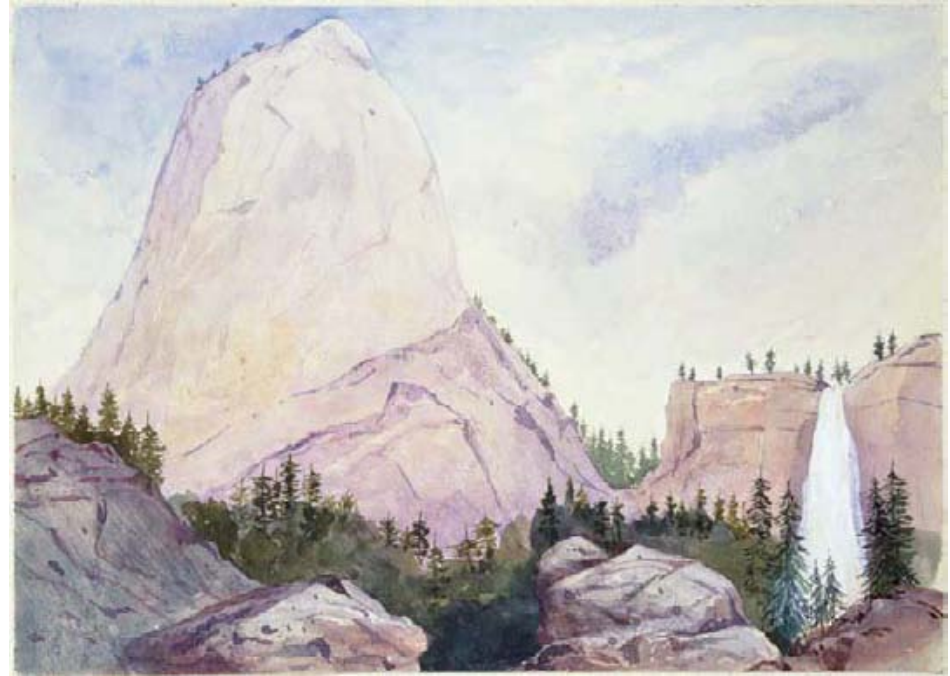
Popular tourism provided the services and products so that visitors could comfortably ‘experience’ New Zealand. Thomas Bracken may have been the lofty drafter of the poem ‘God Defend New Zealand’ that became the National Anthem; he earned his income as a journalist. Bracken wrote his florid and romantic guide *The New Zealand Tourist* in 1879 and this was updated periodically. However, the origins of popular tourism are probably most easily identified with the rise of the firm Thomas Cook. That British company organised its first international tour in 1841 and employed a New Zealand agent in Auckland from 1881.

Its early tours in New Zealand were promoted in a guide—*New Zealand as a Tourist and Health Resort: A Handbook to the Hot Lake District, the Southern Lakes, Sounds, etc.* The guide highlighted thermal attractions at Rotorua and Te Aroha in the North Island and mountain, lake and fiord scenery in the South.

INFLUENCES

New Zealand followed the example of the United States in reserving National Parks but preceded the United States by three years with its scenery preservation legislation. President Theodore Roosevelt (president 1901–09) was an outdoor enthusiast who rapidly created a series of national monuments (the American equivalent of the scenic reserve) after 1906, including natural curiosities such as Devil's Tower in Wyoming, the Petrified Forest in Arizona and the Muir Woods pines in California. Roosevelt also created a national monument at the Grand Canyon that was later expanded into a National Park. Amalgamation has also been seen in New Zealand. The Arthur's Pass and Westland National Parks began as a network of scenic reserves.

From 1840 on, there had been reserves created in New Zealand for public recreation areas and domains. The Land Amendment Act 1884 permitted the establishment of reserves for mineral springs and 'natural curiosities'. The earliest reference to scenery in legislation was in the Land Act 1892. However it was only with the



The Cap of Liberty at Yellowstone, California. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: William Fox, 1853, WC-222



Mt Vernon, the home of George Washington, was an early national monument. ALEXANDER TURNBULL

LIBRARY: William Fox, 1853, WC-305

Scenery Preservation Act in 1903 that the Crown could establish historic reserves. The legislation also provided for the compulsory purchase of some sites from private owners. The Liberal Government demonstrated genuine commitment to scenery preservation by providing £100,000 for land purchase.

A Scenery Preservation Commission and then Board made many recommendations for the creation of scenic reserves; it became impossible for the Crown to keep up. Early scenic reserve management was poor and sometimes sites were destroyed by uncontrolled burn-offs of adjacent land. While the number of scenic reserves grew steadily, some reserves that were no longer considered appropriate were removed from reservation. By 1940 there was a network of over 1000 reserves nationwide.

RESERVES

Seddon had a very broad vision of the types of reserves that should be made. It included virtually any 'special place'.

Geothermal areas were special places for many Europeans, both as scenic wonders and health resorts. The pink and white terraces at Tarawera had been internationally renowned by the time of the 1886 eruption. The loss of those attractions was deeply felt. Many of the painted images we now see of the terraces are romantic death masks. The Crown determined to purchase and protect public access to such areas even if it could not preserve them against overwhelming natural disaster. 🌊



Nugget Point Lighthouse. Illustrator: JM, *Illustrated New Zealand News*, 31 August 1885, p. 7; ATL: C-26575-1/2

Special places: the passing of the Scenery Preservation Act 1903

THE PREMIER'S PLACES

When introducing the Scenery Preservation Bill to Parliament, Premier Seddon noted that the proposed legislation was to halt the widespread destruction of beauty spots, an issue attracting increasing public, media and political attention. Extolling the beauties of the colony's rivers and bush, he observed that international visitors often recognised and valued the country's beautiful places more than New Zealanders themselves. He pointed out that it was necessary to preserve scenery on all land no matter what the tenure or ownership, and he stressed that reservation should be controlled by the highest authority in the country—the Parliament—to ensure absolute security of protection.

In December 1905 Premier Seddon laid the stone for the Christchurch International Exhibition held in 1906. Seddon wanted the world to know about New Zealand's resources and its beauty. The Tourist and Publicity Department had a high profile at the Exhibition and New Zealand's scenic areas were a feature of the display.

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Leslie Hinge, PAColl-3050, G-22032-1/1

The debate in the house that followed reflected the wide-ranging interests, motives and events that prompted the legislation. The diversity of these factors largely explains the innovative conservation measures introduced by the Act.



Historic Reserves recommended by the Scenery Preservation Commission 1906. MAP: Chris Edkins, DOC

SCENERY PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Act provided for the protection of historic places in addition to preserving scenery and thermal areas. However the distinction between historic, scenic and iconic should not be overstated. Members of Parliament commented that iconic images of bush-clad mountains and associated rivers and lakes were already familiar representations of the country's unique character. Beautifying societies and horticulturists were beginning to promote native plants for garden use, and a frequently expressed nostalgia for scenery as it had been in 1840 suggests the emergence of an interest in the indigenous character of the country. The identification of key places, events, images, flora and fauna were part of New Zealanders' national association with the landscape. This was reinforced by the emergence of the Polynesian Society in the 1890s, concerned with preserving Maori knowledge and places. New Zealand Natives Societies (meaning New Zealand-born Europeans) had been established in the 1880s and 1890s in an attempt to



The first landing site of James Cook's crew at Gisborne was commemorated with erecting a monument in 1906. This reserve contains a garden of the plants Joseph Banks collected on the East Coast on Cook's first voyage. The reserve is now landlocked because of reclamation. This site is also recognised as the landing place of the *Horouta* and *Te Ikaroa-a-Rauru* waka which brought Maori to Aotearoa several centuries before European explorers. When Captain Cook landed on 8 October 1769 the district was occupied by Rongowhakaata, Ngai Tahu (Ngai Tamanuhiri), Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki and Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti iwi. In 1990 the site was designated a National Reserve and placed under the guardianship of the Department of Conservation.

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: T. Adams, 1906, F-70446-1/2



differentiate between the generation of settlers who had migrated and their children who had known no other home.

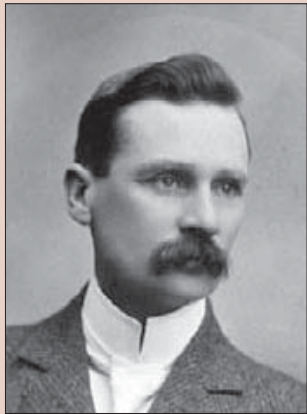
The origins of reserving lands can be traced right back to the 1840 Royal Instructions. The country's first Governor, William Hobson, was required to reserve areas for the purpose of public convenience, utility, health and enjoyment. By 1902, 105 scenic, historic and thermal reserves existed under the 1892 Land Act. These reserves were subsequently converted into reserves under the Scenery Preservation Act 1903. It was not always obvious how best to reserve land or whether an area would be more appropriately recognised with a scenic reserve or national park status. Peel Forest was initially created as a national park in 1902 but it soon became clear that it was too small. It subsequently became a scenic reserve.

SCENERY PROTECTION, ANIMALS AND PLANTS

Harry Ell, a Liberal Member of Parliament from 1899 to 1919, was a high-profile advocate of scenery preservation in Government at the turn of the 20th Century. He was strongly influenced by voices within the scientific community concerned about the wholesale loss of native plants and animals as well as about the impacts of introduced mammalian predators and pests. Taking their lead from Thomas Potts, who in 1878 proposed the establishment of 'national domains' as refuges for

Horahora Kakahu was an early historic reserve. It was at this Island Pa that the Proclamation of British Sovereignty over the Middle (now South) Island was made on 17th June 1840, by Major Bunbury, 80th Regiment, and Captain Nais, of HMS *Herald*, vide Major Bunbury's report to Governor Hobson: 'The Marines were landed, and the Union Jack hoisted on the Horikaka Pa under a salute of 21 guns. The yards were also manned, and three cheers were given.' Draftsman unknown, AJHR, vol 2, 1913, C-6, opp. P 10; ATL: C-26516-1/2

Henry George (Harry) Ell (1862–1934)



ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: William Henshaw Clarke, 1899–1908, PAColl-0838

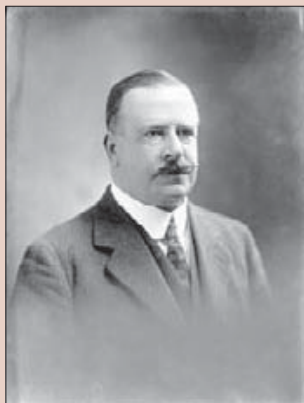
Ell was raised on the family farm at Halswell near Christchurch. In the period 1881–84, as a volunteer in the Armed Constabulary, he served at Parihaka in the Taranaki Wars. He worked in the printing trade, then as a salesman and surveyor. Ell began his involvement in politics from 1884, was a member of parliament for 20 years and briefly a cabinet minister in 1912. He was a Liberal with a strong interest in welfare and labour issues. An enthusiastic naturalist, he argued for retention of forests in the interest of soil and water conservation, and for reserves and afforestation programmes to ensure adequate timber supplies, along with improved training of scientific foresters. His visionary campaign for establishment of reserves on a systematic basis during land settlement was influential in the passing of the Scenery Preservation Act. Following his parliamentary defeat in 1919 he became passionately devoted to his Summit Road scheme—a

grandiose plan for a network of reserves on the Port Hills above Christchurch, linked by a specially constructed road with regularly spaced rest houses constructed of the local stone and modelled on English inns. Three rest houses, the Signs of the Kiwi, Packhorse, and Bellbird, as well as a substantial length of road were built. His last years were devoted fanatically to construction of the fourth rest house, the Sign of the Takahe, but it was not completed until 1949, 15 years after his death.

native birds, scientific societies played a significant role in the proclamation of offshore islands as flora and fauna reserves, notably over Resolution Island (1891), Secretary Island (1893), Little Barrier Island (1895) and Kapiti Island (1897). Another who influenced Ell was Leonard Cockayne, the country's leading botanist. When addressing the 1901 New Zealand Fruitgrowers and Horticulturalists Conference he expressed the view that the colony's greatest asset was its scenery. A conference resolution urged the Government to preserve certain portions of native forest of the colony for flora and fauna purposes. This prompted in 1903 a report by the Surveyor-General on the climatic and scenic aspects of forest conservation, which acknowledged the recent neglect of forests and the unsatisfactory state of many reserves.

Scenery preservation societies

Scenery Preservation Societies were formed in the 1880s and the movement became popular in the 1890s. They were largely urban-based citizen groups, formed in Dunedin, Taranaki, Nelson, Wellington, Christchurch



Sir Joseph George Ward (1856–1930) was the Minister of Tourism and Publicity responsible for introducing and administering the Scenery Preservation Legislation. Tourism was only one of his many portfolios but it was one in which he, like Seddon, recognised the value of preserving scenery to encourage visitors from outside New Zealand.

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Herman John Schmidt, 1920s, PAColl-3059, G-1891-1/1

OPPOSITE PAGE BACKGROUND: Otari/Wilton's Bush from Wilton Bowling Club, 1996.

INSET: 1906. © Wellington City Council

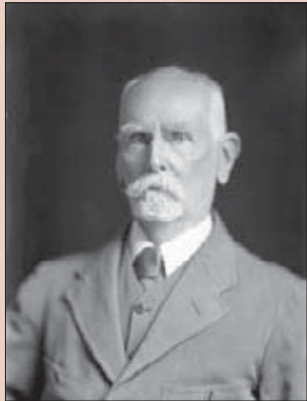
and Auckland. They influenced the establishment of reserves, particularly some urban reserves such as Christchurch's Kennedy's Bush. The Taranaki Society, headed by former Surveyor-General Stephenson Percy Smith, had an influence which extended beyond Taranaki. The Nelson Society led a popular call for the creation of a National Park in the Rai Valley in 1898. While the bid failed and reinforced the parochial tensions between Nelson and Marlborough, it was the first significant public campaign to create a national park. Some societies endured but most had waned by the 1920s, although the term 'scenery preservation' was widely understood until the 1960s.

Support from the public at large may not have been particularly influential in the passing of the legislation. Whereas specialist scientific and horticultural groups were active in the scenery preservation movement, a view was expressed in the parliamentary debate that public awareness of scenery needed raising through advertising, and through promotion of scenic assets overseas—everyone was aware that New Zealand produced frozen mutton, but few knew about its beauties. Another member suggested a contrary view that the colony's settler population had long known of the beauty spots and wanted protection legislation.

Scenery preservation as a means of halting forest loss

As colonial settlement took hold in a rapidly expanding agricultural economy, the Austrian Ferdinand Hochstetter drew the consequent wholesale loss of indigenous vegetation to world attention as early as the 1850s. He deplored the devastation of the country's forests. In 1868, Thomas Potts urged improved forest conservation to withstand the 'barbarous improvidence' of forest destruction and subsequent increased river flooding. During the next two years, W.T.L. Travers,

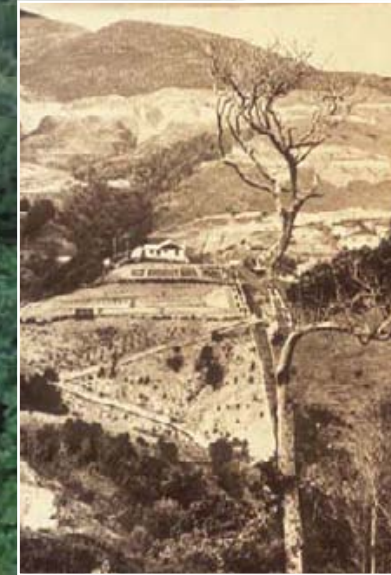
Leonard Cockayne (1855–1934)



ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Stanley Polkinghorne Andrew, 1928, PAColl-3739, F-18377-1/1

Cockayne is widely regarded as New Zealand's greatest botanist and among the country's leading scientists. Born near Sheffield, England, he was a lonely child who developed a keen interest in the natural world. With some grounding in botany from preliminary medical studies, he emigrated to Australia in 1877, where he taught for several years before moving to New Zealand to take up other teaching positions in Otago. An inheritance from his father allowed him to purchase a small farm at Styx near Christchurch, and later a property near New Brighton, where he established the experimental garden Tarata. He made contacts with eminent botanists both at home and abroad; he soon became a recognised authority on New Zealand plants and vegetation. Cockayne obtained some official support for botanical surveys, undertaking in the period 1901 to 1903 expeditions to the Chatham Islands, the

South Island West Coast, Fiordland and the subantarctic islands. He also produced major reports on Waipoua kauri forest, Tongariro National Park, and Stewart Island. His book *The Vegetation of New Zealand*, published in 1921, became the standard reference for 70 years. Cockayne won a host of awards and held many eminent positions in scientific and conservation organisations. He was the scientific voice behind Harry Ell's successful promotion of the cause of scenery preservation, and he was influential in persuading the Government to establish the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. In 1927 he was responsible for establishing the Otari Open Air Plant Museum at Wilton, Wellington. He and his wife are buried and commemorated there.



using comparisons from George Perkins Marsh's classic work *Man and Nature*, drew the attention of the New Zealand Institute to increased flooding resulting from land clearance and the intrusion of exotic animals. In 1873 Charles O'Neill observed in Parliament that through destruction of forests a fertile country was in danger of becoming a desert.

From 1874, successive governments introduced legislation to facilitate forest reservation to retain forests for timber. Some areas were reserved to retain soils and water. The most notable of these was the reservation of land around Mount Taranaki/Egmont. The Lands Department recognised the scenic values of forests at the time of the scenery preservation legislation. In his 1903/04 report, the Surveyor-General recorded that forest conservation was considered secondary to the profitable occupation and utilisation of land, except where milling of timber was involved or special beauty spots were to be found. Land legislation after 1884 was distinctive because it placed a value on land for its scenery value as well as its productive value.



From 1840 until the first decades of the 20th Century, mass burn-offs were a feature of farmland development. By 1920 the farmland area of New Zealand had reached its peak although fields of blackened stumps remained a feature for many decades thereafter.

ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Frederick Ashby Hargreaves, G-23274-1/1



The slopes of Mount Taranaki/Egmont were originally reserved to protect the surrounding farmlands from the effects of erosion and flash flood. In 1900 these reserved lands became New Zealand's second national park. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, F-117279-1/2

Scenery and tourism

Behind the Scenery Preservation Act was an explicit drive to promote the country's tourism industry. Sir Joseph Ward, the Minister of the fledgling Tourist and Health Resorts Department, was the Minister responsible for the legislation. Ward had a keen appreciation of the value of scenery for attracting international visitors. This was not the first political initiative to create scenic reserves. William Fox in 1874 had drawn the attention of Parliament to the desirability for preservation of Rotorua's thermal areas, a call echoed by Thomas Potts' concept of sanatoria in his paper on national domains in 1878. From the 1880s Rotorua had grown markedly as a tourist destination, especially under the stimulus of the Thermal Springs District Act 1881.

Public ownership of scenic reserves

Many settlers jealously guarded their private land rights, whereas some Maori were very suspicious of having any dealings with the Crown over land. The Crown had not sought powers of compulsory acquisition for scenic

reserves held in private hands in the 1892 Land Act. By 1903 Seddon and Ward wanted to be able to compulsorily acquire freehold and Maori freehold lands to ensure public ownership of key scenic areas. This legislative power remained controversial and was used mostly between 1910 and 1920.

The Member for Northern Maori, Hone Heke Ngapua, welcomed the legislation as a means of preventing further loss of kauri forests and for protecting totara, yet he objected to the way compensation was made available to Maori. He argued that the value of Maori lands should be assessed not by the Native Land Court but by the same courts that assessed general lands.

In one of his first speeches in Parliament in 1906, Apirana Ngata raised objections to the compulsory taking of Maori land for scenic reserves. He was particularly critical of the Commission's reluctance to meet with Te Arawa over proposed compulsory acquisition of land in the Rotorua area. In response to the concerns, provisions for acquiring Maori land for scenery purposes were removed in the 1906 legislation. The Scenery Preservation Act 1910 returned the

Thomas Edward Donne (1860–1945)



ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY:
photographer unknown, F-38683-1/2

Donne became Secretary of the new Department of Tourism and Publicity in 1900. He enthusiastically supported his minister, Joseph Ward, in tourism promotion; during Donne's nine years as manager of Rotorua, the town became a major tourist destination. He served as a member of the Scenery Preservation Board and the Tongariro National Park Board. He authored several important books on wide-ranging subjects, including *The Maori—Past and Present*, *Game Animals of New Zealand* and *Fishing in New Zealand Waters*. He established the rudiments of a nationwide accommodation network, and oversaw the establishment of the scenic reserve network. Despite his department's considerable efforts, tourist numbers did not grow as rapidly as had been anticipated. Donne left the department in 1909 and had a subsequent career in London working for New Zealand's diplomatic representatives. He died there at the age of 85, having survived the blitz and the V2 bombs.



Hone Heke Ngapua (1869–1909) was the Member for Northern Maori who, in the 1903 debate on the second reading of the Scenery Preservation Bill, sought an equivalent compensation assessment system for Maori and Pakeha land taken under the proposed legislation. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, PAColl-838



Apirana Ngata (1874–1950) was critical of compulsory acquisition of Maori land under the Scenery Preservation Commission. His efforts led to no Maori land being taken between 1906 and 1910, after which acquisition was resumed. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: William Henshaw Clarke, PAColl-838



The Union Steam Ship Company operated tours to Milford Sound from 1878. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Burton & Coxhead, P919.31 MACH 1892, B-K 569-opp. TITLE

right of the Crown to take Maori land. That Act also validated the previous land acquisition under the Public Works Act, and provided for appointment of the Under-Secretary of the Native Department to the Board.

There was considerable reluctance among some Maori to relinquish customary resource-use areas for scenic reserves. The 1910 legislation provided for Maori to have right of access to reserves over former ancestral lands to take birds and to bury their deceased in any urupa (burial place), but there is little evidence of these provisions being used. Crown officials generally treated reserves as places where hunting and fishing were prohibited. In 1920 notices were posted, in English and Te Reo Maori, notifying that unauthorised use of customary resources in reserves would be prosecuted.

In 1913, 59 reserves were gazetted of which 22 were formerly Maori land. By 1917, some 63 scenic reserves had been created from Maori lands. By 1920 the original purchase money had been spent and the acquisition of reserves from private owners slowed to a trickle.



White terraces, 1885. James Anthony Froude, an English historian and travel writer, stayed with his friend Sir George Grey at Kawau Island during his visit in 1885. He wrote about the pink and white terraces a year before they were destroyed. His book *Oceana* was a positive account and travel guide that many New Zealanders took as an endorsement of the colony's beauty and uniqueness. SC PEARSON, ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: P919 FRO 1886, B-K 569-opp. p. 246



When Charles Bloomfield painted the pink terraces they were already long gone. His highly romantic paintings strove for an aesthetic ideal. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Charles Bloomfield, 1890, G-597

Maintaining scenic reserves

Premier Seddon stressed the importance of providing absolute long-term security for scenery preservation through central government (and parliamentary) control. Robert McNab went further in deploring the prospect that control of reserves might be vested in local authorities, which he described as often acting like environmental ‘vandals’. One idea favoured was the establishment of quasi-official, voluntary groups, such as amenity societies, throughout the country to care for scenic reserves.

Several members of parliament questioned the validity of small bush reserves, suggesting that small isolated areas would be difficult to maintain. They recounted episodes where small areas were destroyed because of exposure to wind, fire or inappropriate grazing.

From 1915 the Government appointed locals as honorary inspectors of scenic reserves, especially in areas where settlement was sparse. Eventually, Scenic Boards were established. These comprised local residents, with powers to provide for the maintenance of reserves and improvements where necessary. 🍷



The Waimangu landscape was created by the Tarawera eruption. A scenic reserve was created in 1907 but tourist operators found the active site difficult. Frying pan crater erupted so violently in 1917 that it destroyed the villa built to accommodate sightseers. ALEXANDER TURNBULL

LIBRARY: Shepherd, c. 1903, F-38135-1/2

Donald Sutherland identified The Sutherland Falls in 1880 while searching for gold. The government financed the cutting of a track in 1888 from Milford Sound to the falls and the erection of huts along the way. This was the genesis of the world-renowned Milford Track. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: artist unknown, C-26574-1/2



The Otari/Wilton's Bush Scenic Reserve was established in March 1906 and was administered first by the Tourist and Publicity Department and then the Lands Department. In 1918 the enlarged reserve was transferred to Wellington City Council. Botanist Leonard Cockayne was closely associated with the establishment of the Otari Open Native Botanic Garden in 1927. Cockayne also instigated possum control at Otari in 1928—possibly the first systematic attempt to manage the pest on a reserve. The distinguished botanist and his wife are buried and commemorated in the reserve. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Harold Stephens Hislop, 1906, C-2459-1/2

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 VIA
CLINTON VALLEY.

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**Boats on Lakes Te Anau, Ada, and
 Milford Sound.**

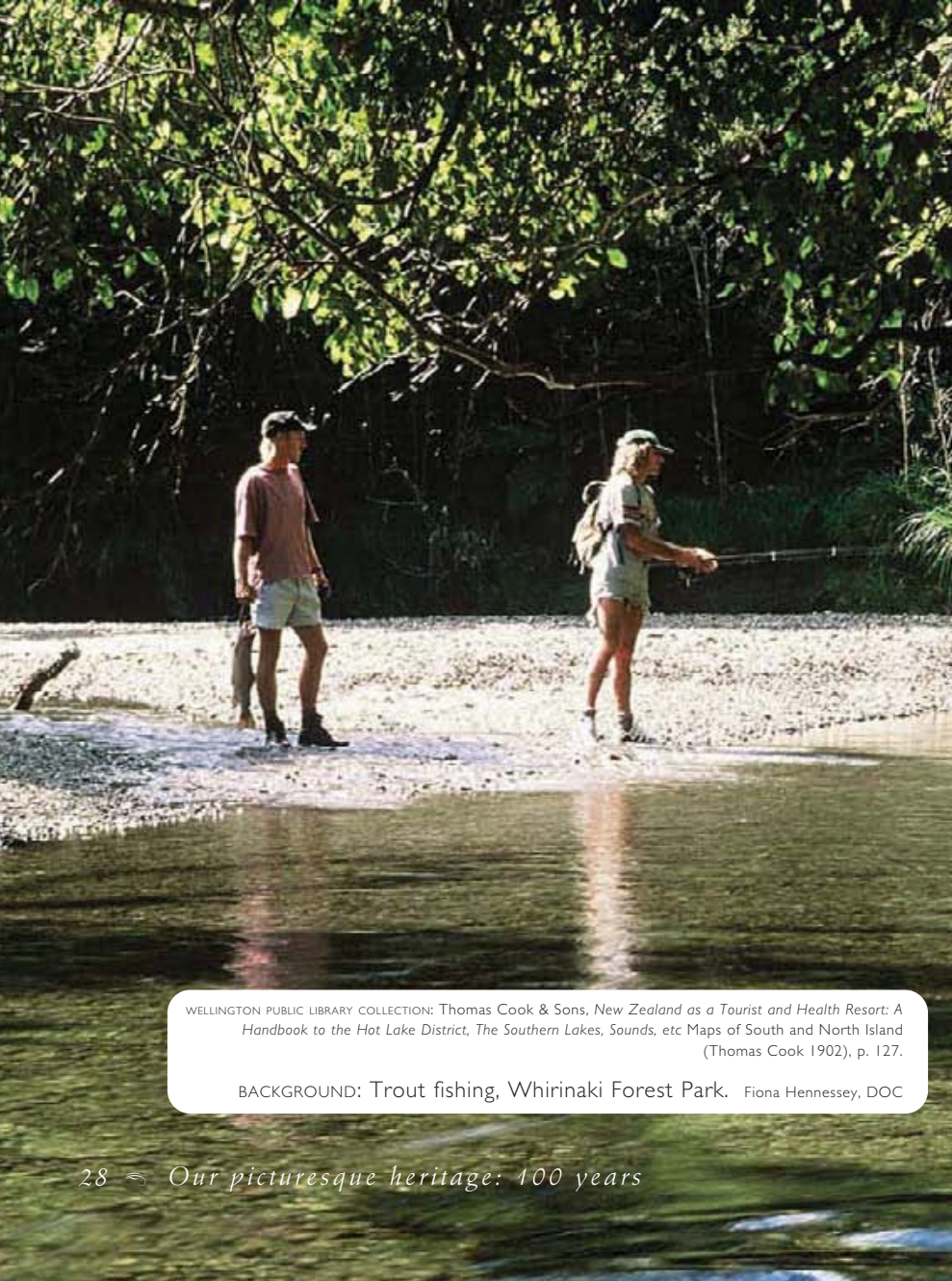
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J. WATSON, Grand Hotel, Dunedin.
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ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: P919.31 MACH 1892, B-K 569-134



WELLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION: Thomas Cook & Sons, *New Zealand as a Tourist and Health Resort: A Handbook to the Hot Lake District, The Southern Lakes, Sounds, etc* Maps of South and North Island (Thomas Cook 1902), p. 127.

BACKGROUND: Trout fishing, Whirinaki Forest Park. Fiona Hennessey, DOC

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THE SANATORIUM OF THE EARTH !

THE HOME OF THE MAORI ! THE DEERSTALKERS' DELIGHT !

THE ANGLERS' PARADISE ! THE TOURISTS' ELYSIUM !

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Visit the Thermal Wonders of Tikitike, Whakarewarewa, Tarawera, Rotomahana, Waioatapu, Wairakei, Taupo, etc., etc.

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Visit the home of the Tattooed Maori Warriors and their handsome, dusky daughters. Visit this wonderful country, with its endless variety of beautiful and magnificent scenery, which charms the senses, inspires the imagination, and challenges comparison. Stalk its thousands of Wild Red Deer and Fallow Buck. Whip its rippling streams, teeming with Rainbow, Loch Leven and Brown Trout.

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Superintendent:—T. E. DONNE, Wellington, N.Z.

Picking the places: the Commission 1904–06



Scenery Preservation Commission. LEFT TO RIGHT: Major H. Tunuiarangi (Ngati Kahungunu); W.J. Marchant (Surveyor-General); S. Percy Smith (Former Surveyor-General and co-founder of the Polynesian Society); H.J. Matthews (Government Forester); W.W. Smith, (expert horticulturist and curator of the Ashburton Domain and Pukekura Park). CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION: *The Weekly*

Press, 27 April 1904, p. 35

THE SCENERY PRESERVATION COMMISSION

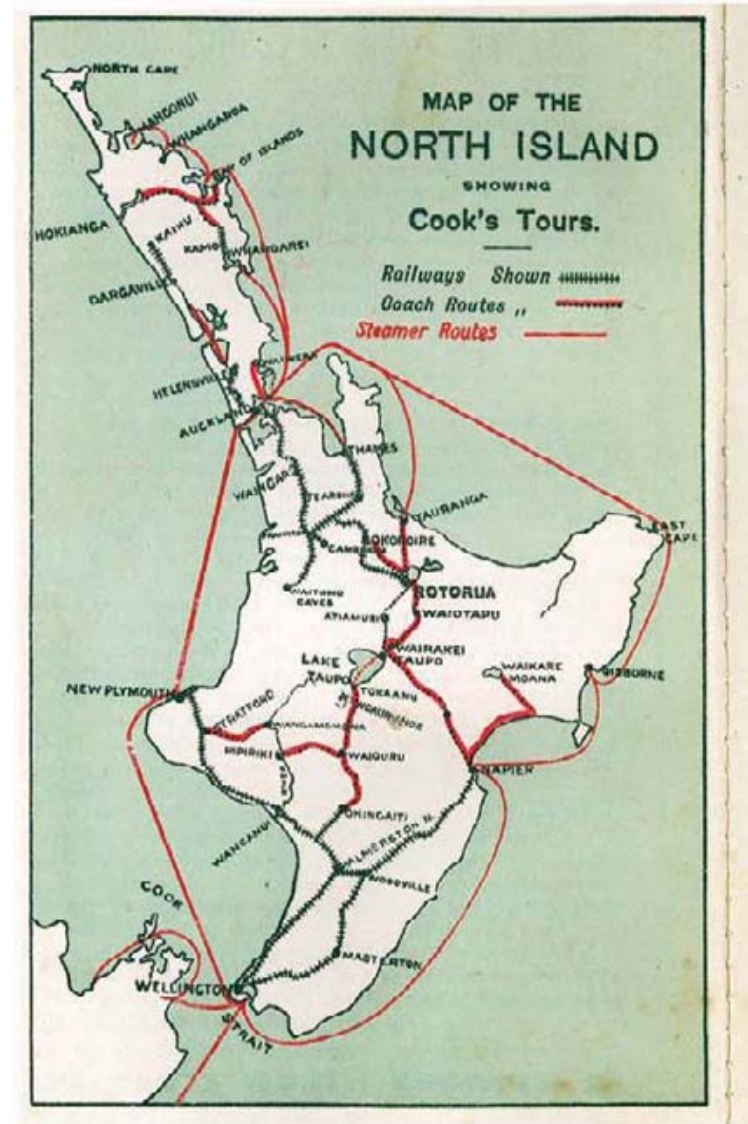
The Scenery Preservation Commission was appointed in March 1904 under the chairmanship of a former Surveyor-General, Stephenson Percy Smith. The other four members of the Commission were Henry Matthews, the Government's Chief Forester; John Marchant, Surveyor-General; William Smith, horticulturalist and amateur ethnologist; and Major Hoani Tunuiarangi, a Rangitane and Ngati Kahungunu leader and member of the Maori Parliament (Kotahitanga).

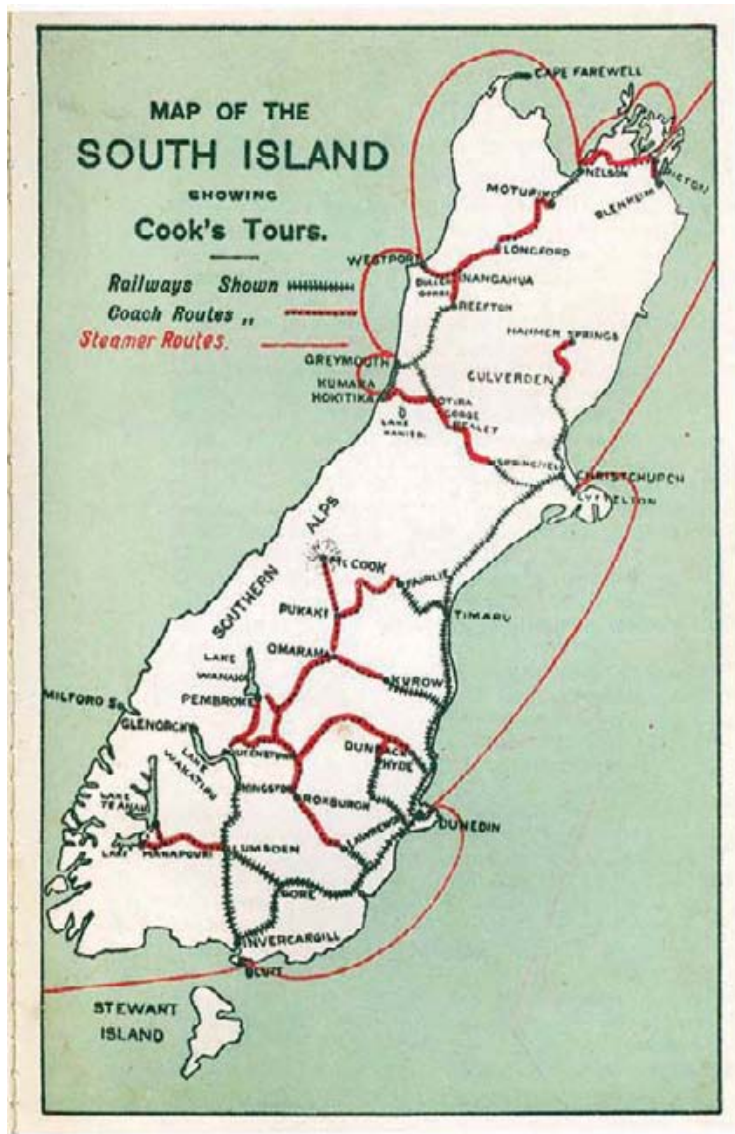
The Commission's legal mandate was to inspect any lands considered to possess scenic interest and to recommend scenic, thermal or historic reserves be acquired regardless of

whether they were in Crown, private or Maori ownership. The Commission was administered under the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts and initially operated from Wellington. In its second year it visited 74 localities from Northland to Southland, convening in seven different centres.

Suggestions for reserves came from a variety of sources, including from MPs keen to promote the scenic attractions of their local electorates, and from the Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, who submitted a list of 18 potential reserves from throughout the country. Percy Smith had a preference for making reserves along large navigable rivers, which he considered to be of interest to tourists and travellers. Rail and road routes were also a focus of attention. At their first meeting, members decided that hundreds of roadside beauty spots would be reserved and that each reserve would have an open area cleared for holding bush picnics. Tunuiarangi and Smith, in particular, drew attention to pa sites as potential historic reserves.

During the two years of its existence, the Commission furnished 14 interim reports





containing 383 recommendations, but only 61 reserves were gazetted, totalling 15 000 acres (6075 ha), at a cost of £7,000. Most were small and located on land unsuited for settlement, with a strong emphasis on bush-covered areas. Several of these were high-profile sites such as Otari/Wilton's Bush in Wellington and Kennedy's Bush in Christchurch. Other early reservations included the Waitomo Caves in Te Rohe Potae (King Country) and Flagstaff Hill near Dunedin. By 1906, only a few pre-historic and historic sites had been established: Motukaraka Island, a Ngati Paoa pa site near Beachlands was gazetted in March 1905, thereby becoming the first historic category scenic reserve. Te Kawau Pa and Turuturu-mokai Pa in Taranaki, and Ship Cove—Cook's landing site in the Marlborough Sounds—were also early reservations.

The Commission and then the board were mindful to make scenic reserves in areas frequented by tourists. Quite a few tourist routes were already recognised. This Cook's Guide of 1902 shows the national tours featuring the geothermal districts in the North Island and the Southern Lakes and Fiords.

WELLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION: Thomas Cook & Sons, *New Zealand as a Tourist and Health Resort: A Handbook to the Hot Lake District, The Southern Lakes, Sounds, etc* Maps of South and North Island (Thomas Cook 1902)



Robert McNabb, historian and former Minister of Lands in the Liberal Government, was closely associated with the development of the Ships Cove monument in Queen Charlotte Sound. This is where Cook spent the most time in New Zealand throughout his voyages. The monument was unveiled on 11 February 1913 and can still be seen on the Queen Charlotte Walkway. The reserve pre-dates the Scenery Preservation Act and was established in 1896. The area remains of continuing interest to historians and anthropologists. AJHR: AJHR, vol 2, 1913, C-6, opp. p. 10, T. Adams;

ATL: C- 26516-1/2

BACKGROUND OPPOSITE: Otatara and Hikurangi Pa sites (see p. 64). Kevin Jones, DOC

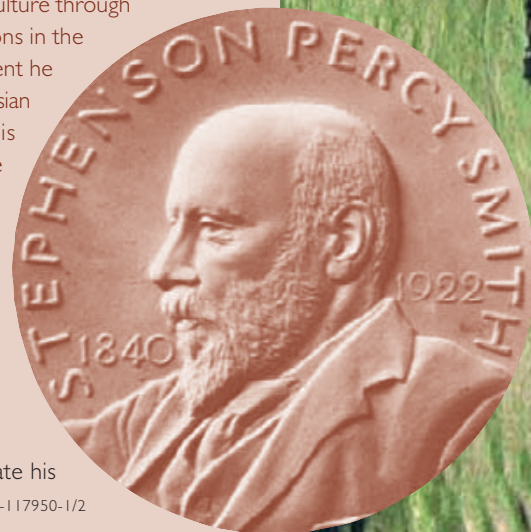
Stephenson Percy Smith (1840–1922)



ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, 1905, F-4600-1/2

Smith grew up on a family farm in Taranaki from 1850, trained as a survey cadet and worked as a professional surveyor throughout much of the northern half of the North Island. During a long career in the civil service he became Chief Surveyor and Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Auckland district, and from 1889 until his retirement in 1900 he was Surveyor-General and Secretary of Lands and Mines. He acquired an extensive knowledge of plants, animals and landscapes, and a strong interest in Maori history and culture through surveying and private excursions in the countryside. After his retirement he became recognised as a Polynesian

scholar of note, although his reputation in this area has come under considerable scrutiny since his death and many of his conclusions have now been rejected. He served on numerous local and national bodies involved with surveying, land and Native reserves. He was chairman of the Scenery Preservation Commission 1904–06 and undoubtedly influenced the Commission's interests in acquisition of Maori pa sites for reservation.



The New Zealand Institute struck this coin to commemorate his achievements. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, F-117950-1/2

Hoani (Hone) Paraone Tunuiarangi (1833/4–1933)



Hone with his granddaughter. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY:

photographer unknown, F-4158-1/2

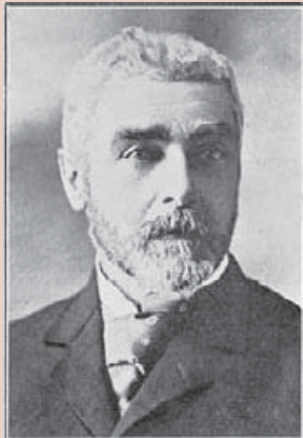
Born in southern Wairarapa to a Pakeha whaler and Maori mother, he became a chief of Ngati Kahungunu, and a professional soldier, known in later life as Major Brown. As a young man in the 1860s he acted as guide and interpreter for the Government forces. Appointed as an assessor in the Native Land Court, he spent much time during the 1880s and 90s presenting his own claims and those of his people. He was also a member of the Kotahitanga (Maori Parliament) from 1892. Partly in recognition of his role in the sale of the Wairarapa lakes he accompanied Premier Seddon to Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee celebrations in 1897. While in London he petitioned the British Government over reserving in perpetuity all remaining Maori land in the colony, which influenced the passing of the Maori Land Administration Act 1900. Recognised among the most influential leaders of Wairarapa and the wider Maori society, he served on many committees and councils, and was an administrator for the Wairarapa Lake Reserves. In 1901 he established a school near his Pirinoa property. During his time on the Scenery Preservation Commission he published several papers in the *Journal of the Polynesian Society* on Maori lore and history. It is likely that he particularly influenced the recommendations for reserving pa sites in the Wairarapa and Hawke's Bay.

Henry John Matthews (1859–1909)

Matthews was the son of a prosperous Dunedin nurseryman, taking over the management of the family horticulture business in 1880. Through pioneering efforts in mail-order operations, he fostered both at home and abroad the use of New Zealand species as garden plants. He collected plants extensively from the wild, especially from the mountains of western Otago, and is credited with the discovery of several new species and contribution to knowledge of plant distributions. In 1896 he was appointed as the country's Chief Forester, and was responsible for establishing government nurseries that supplied major exotic forest plantations, including those on the Kaingaroa Plains. His practical handbook on tree growing, written to encourage private afforestation, was published in 1905, four years before his death at the age of 49.

William Walter Smith (1853–1942)

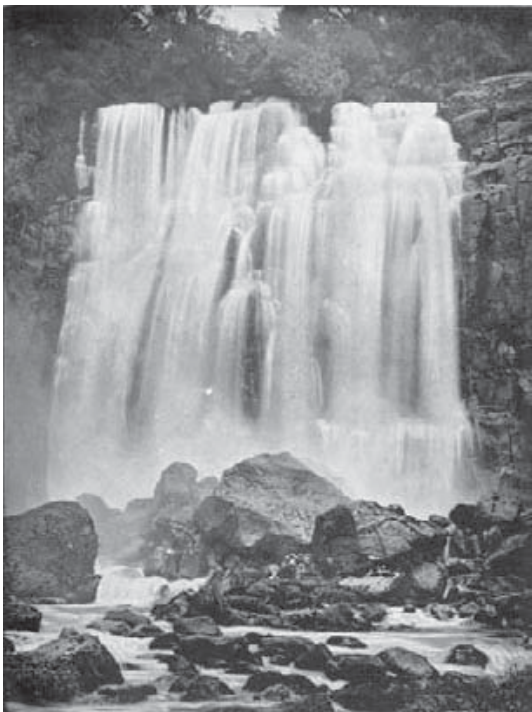
Smith was born in Scotland and in his youth worked as a gardener in several English country houses. His family emigrated and took up a pioneering farm in the Ashburton area of Canterbury, where William was to be employed on the Mt Peel and Albury pastoral stations. Developing an interest in natural history and archaeology he became an avid collector, particularly of fossil moa bones that he supplied to Julius von Haast and Walter Buller. He recorded the Opihi and Totara Valley rock-paintings and excavated floors of rock shelters and caves. His large collection of stone tools was deposited in the Canterbury Museum. In 1894 he was appointed as resident custodian of the Ashburton Domain, and became a prominent member of local beautifying and horticultural societies. His appointment to the Scenery Preservation Commission was the climax of his efforts in promoting the protection of native species. Later, he was appointed as curator of Pukekura Park in New Plymouth, where he developed the park and successfully bred kiwi. A founding member of the Polynesian Society, he served as its secretary for 11 years and published seven papers on prehistory in professional journals. In 1931 he was appointed an honorary life member of the New Zealand Native Bird Protection Society.



John W.A. Marchant (1841–1920)

Marchant settled in New Zealand in 1863 and practised as a surveyor in Invercargill. He joined the Department of Lands and Survey and rose through the ranks to become Surveyor for Wellington Province in 1879, a Commissioner of Crown Lands in 1884, and was appointed Surveyor-General in 1902. He held this post while serving on the Scenery Preservation Commission, retiring in 1906.

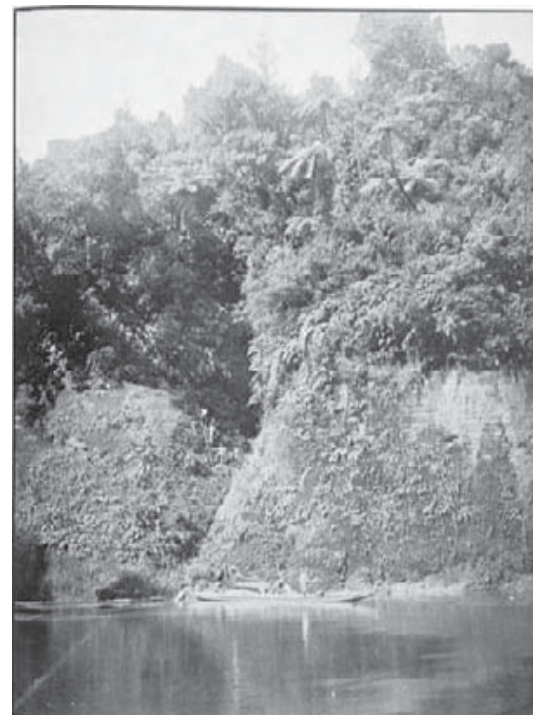
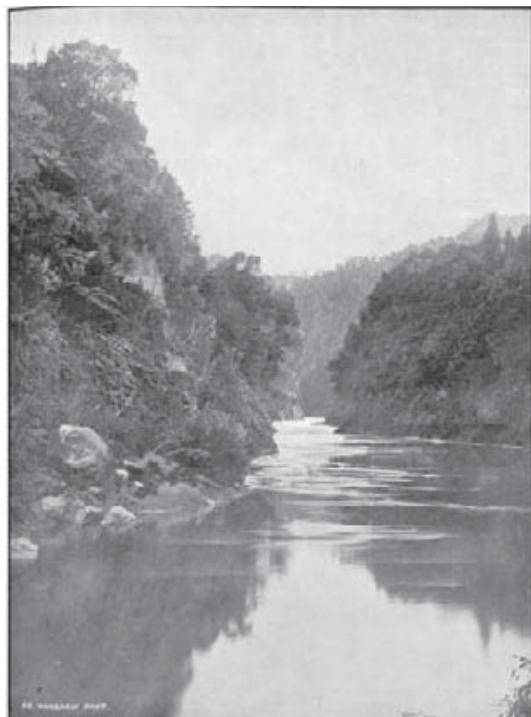
ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, F-27772-1/2



Many waterfalls have been reserved for scenic purposes. The Marokopa Falls near Kawhia were first reserved in 1925. AJHR: photographer unknown, AJHR, vol 2, 1908, C-6, opp. p. 12; ATL: C-26509-1/2



Rangitoto Island was gazetted as a public domain in 1890. Rangitoto's name is derived from the phrase 'Te Rangi i totongia a Tamatekapua'—the day the blood of Tamatekapua was shed. Tamatekapua was chief of the Arawa waka (canoe) and he was engaged in (and lost) a major battle with Tainui at Islington Bay. As a scenic reserve the island reflects multiple values, including its recent volcanic evolution, its significance to tangata whenua, its pohutukawa forest, its historic bach/cottage community and its high recreational use. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, F-16627-1/4



River scenery was highly prized. The Whanganui River was already developing a reputation as 'the Rivera of the Pacific' by the late 19th Century. Although the claims were exotic, the river was part of the main route from Auckland to Wellington. This detour was unavoidable as long as access to Te Rohe Potae (King Country) was restricted during and after the New Zealand Wars. The main trunk railway line between Auckland and Wellington was completed in 1908 and river traffic declined. AJHR: A. Martin, vol 2, 1908, C-6, opp. p. 12; ATL: C-26511-1/2

Whanganui River—Mangaeo. AJHR: photographer unknown, vol 2, 1908, C-6, opp. p. 12; ATL: C-26510-1/2

Delays in gazetting reserves were created by the need to negotiate land prices with owners and the time required for surveys. The Commission encountered several other problems in reserving areas. Policies of the Lands Department confined reserves to rugged lands of poorer quality, to avoid compromising land suited to agriculture. Some Maori were opposed to the taking of their land (whenua) and resources for scenery purposes, objecting in particular to the manner and method of reservation. Some settlers opposed reserves because they considered them a fire hazard or source of noxious weeds. Farmers objected to the loss of tax relief they derived

A scenic corridor of small reserves was created along the main trunk railway line through the Upper Whanganui and Te Rohe Potae (King Country) districts in the decade following the opening of the main trunk railway in 1908. These included such reserves as the Ohinetonga, Whakapapa and Manga Te Pahi Scenic Reserves.

AJHR: Weekly Press, AJHR, 1907, C6, opp. p. 38; ATL: C-26960-1/2






Premier Seddon was nostalgic about his first views of the Buller Gorge in the 1870s in his speech introducing the scenery preservation Bill. Scenic reserves were established in the Upper and Lower Buller Gorge in 1907 and these have been added to since that time. ALEXANDER TURNBULL

LIBRARY: Tyree Brothers, PAColl-3064, G-626-10 8

from clearing the bush, which was considered a land improvement measure. Many landowners complained that they received insufficient compensation for loss of their land. Some MPs complained that the Commission had neglected their local districts, while others criticised the Commission for reserving areas without actually inspecting them.

Despite these criticisms the Commission created a strong basis of the reserves network and many recommendations for reserves that were adopted later. The Commission's work remains highly visible in the reserves system of today. 



South Island saddleback, 1979. Dick Veitch, DOC



Ulva showing 20 the first Southern in the World Stewart Island Journal Series 1176
The Scenic Reserve at Ulva Island, Patterson Inlet on Stewart Island was established in 1922. As the result of an extensive eradication programme, the island was declared rat-free in 1997, and South Island saddlebacks were released there in 2000. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Frederick George Radcliffe, PA Coll-4950, G-7344-1/2, F.G. Radcliffe Collection

Administering the picturesque: 1906–52



This photograph of the 1912 Scenery Preservation Board, the Minister, and Inspector, was taken just before the fall of the long-term Liberal Ministry. The Prime Minister, Thomas McKenzie was the Minister of Scenery Preservation. He was an enthusiast for the outdoors, plants and animals. His successor was the Reform Prime Minister, William Massey. BACK ROW FROM LEFT: W.R. Jourdain (Secretary), E. Phillips Turner (Inspector), F.S. Pope (General Manager of the Tourist Resorts and Board Member). FRONT ROW: T.W. Fisher (Under Secretary, Native Department and Board Member), James McKenzie (Surveyor-General and Chairman of the Board), Hon Thomas McKenzie (Minister in charge of Scenery Preservation), John Strauchan (Under Secretary for Lands and immediate past chairman 1910–12). AJHR: AJHR, vol 2, 1912, C-6, opp. p. 1; ATL: C-26514-1/2

NEW LEGISLATION

Under the Scenery Preservation Amendment Act 1906, the Commission was disbanded. It was replaced by a Board of government officials including the heads of the Lands Department and the Tourist and Health Resorts Department, augmented by the Commissioner of Crown Lands in whose Land District reserves were being considered. The Secretary for Native (Maori) Affairs was later added to the Board. Administration of scenic and historic reserves shifted to the Lands Department. The official reason given for the changes was that simpler machinery was necessary. But this may have concealed a wish to reduce the administrative costs. The Commission's annual expenses were almost £2,000, largely because of extensive travel costs. The

new Board comprised salaried government servants, while local departmental officers undertook inspections, surveys and reporting.

1912—THE BOARD

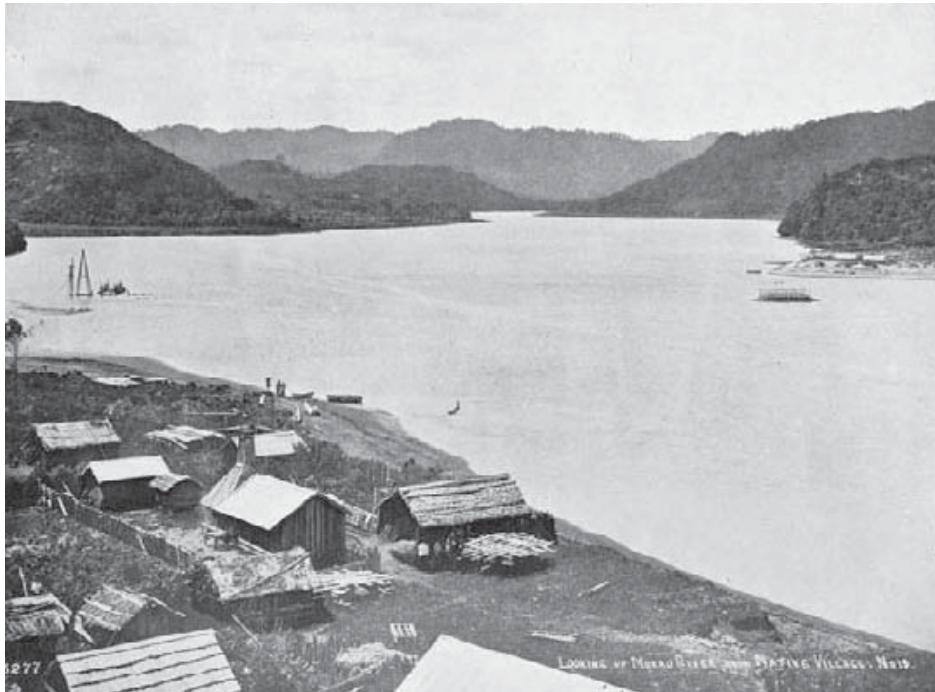
The Board established explicit criteria for scenic reserves; they were to be located on main travel arteries so as to be accessible and they were not to be on land that was potentially productive farmland. Scenic Reserves were to be distinguished from Domains. Where reserves were near the outskirts of towns the residents were to contribute a portion of the purchase cost.

Priority was given to the creation of reserves along the North Island main trunk line and the Whanganui River. A lesser and more general priority was given to reservations in the Marlborough Sounds and West Coast, to encourage tourism. It was agreed that once these four areas had been addressed, the Board would consider places not visited by the Commission. In 1915 they published a list of rare ferns and flowering plants assembled by Dr Leonard Cockayne. This list facilitated the



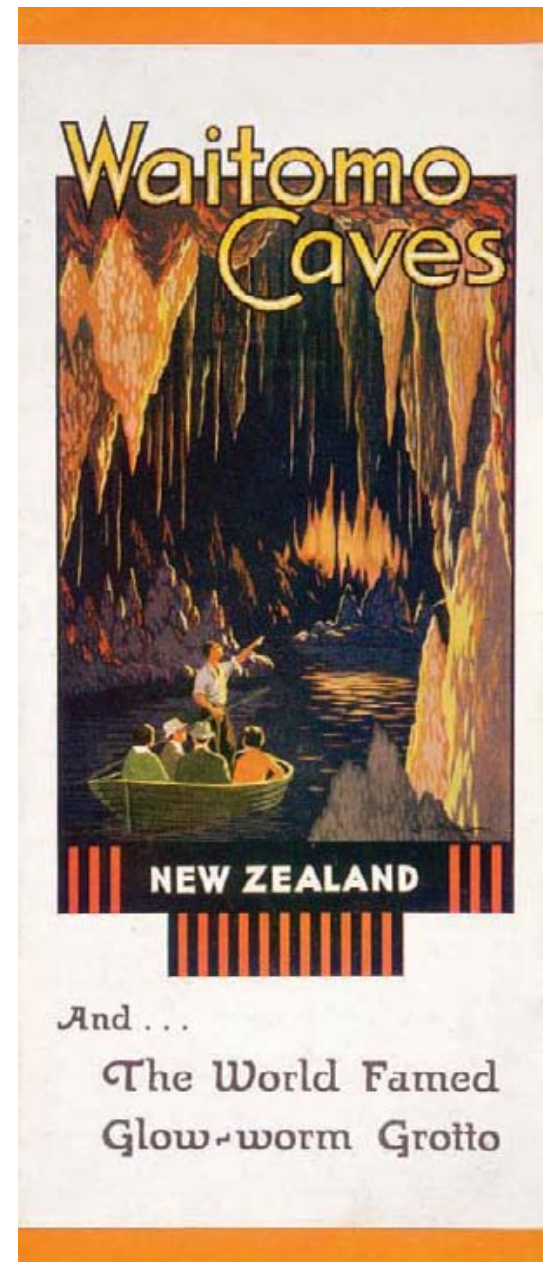
The main trunk line between Wellington and Auckland was officially opened by Prime Minister Joseph Ward on 6 November 1908. It was bounded by several scenic reserves as well as much land that is now part of the conservation estate. AJHR: Weekly Press, AJHR 1907, C6, opp. p. 9;

ATL: C-26676-1/2



Looking up the Mokau River, one mile from its mouth. In 1909 S. Percy Smith and James Cowan produced accounts of the scenery and history of the Mokau River. This work influenced subsequent reservations. AJHR: William Andrews Collis, AJHR, vol 2, 1908, C-6, opp. p. 12; ATL: C-26512-1/2

The Waitomo Caves were reserved in 1906 and remain a major and significant tourist attraction. This Art Deco poster advertising the boat trip through the caves dates from the mid 1930s. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: L.C. Mitchell, Eph-A-Tourism-Waitomo Caves- 1930s - cover



development of the reserve network on the Christchurch Port Hills and encouraged the promotion of other reserves for specific flora and fauna values. Cockayne's and Dr Ebenezer Teichelmann's images feature in several annual reports in the late 1920s.

From the 1920s most new scenic reserves were created on Crown land. From about the same time the Board increasingly became aware that it was not enough to simply reserve lands but that reserves had to be managed. The Board turned to volunteers and by the late 1940s there were over 600 honorary reserve rangers. From the mid 1920s Lands and Survey commenced limited pest control, initially against deer but increasingly against possums.

The reserve network was nationwide and extensive by World War II. The Scenery Preservation Board was disbanded in 1941 because of the war so the challenges of developing sustainable reserve administration had to be forestalled until the end of hostilities. Thereafter most reserves were administered by the Department of Lands and Survey. 🌿



Mokau Steamer 18 miles up the Mokau River. AHJR: AJHR, Session 2, vol. 2, 1909, C6, opp. p. 12; ATL: William Andrew Collis, C-26884-1/2

OPPOSITE LEFT: New Zealanders' love affair with the coastline was reflected in the reservation of a considerable number of coastal sites. Stafford Point Scenic Reserve in Pelorus Sound was established in 1903. AHJR: AJHR, vol 2, 1909, C-6, opp. p. 8 T. Humphries c. 1909; ATL: C-26513-1/2



ABOVE RIGHT: Trounson Kauri Park. In 1890, when the kauri timber industry threatened to wipe out all significant areas of Northland kauri forest, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres (3.34 ha) was set aside by the government. James Trounson, an early settler, added a further 54 acres (22 ha) to this and established a Scenery Preservation Club. Trounson offered a further 900 acres (364 ha) of forest to the government and it was officially opened as Trounson Kauri Park in 1921. The nearby Waipoua Forest reservation of 1952 increased the scenic reserve area to 1447 acres (586 ha). Today the park is one of the predator-free mainland islands and is an enduring example of community and government cooperation. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, F-79965-1/2

PRESERVATION OF NATIVE FOREST IN NEW ZEALAND.

KENNEDY'S BUSH:

A portion of the Ancient Forest of Banks Peninsula, from Cass's Peak.
A fine Totara Tree in the foreground.

Steps towards this basis for the people of New Zealand are now being taken, the Government finding two-thirds of the cost, leaving one-third to be raised by public subscription.



Wheat "The Manly Press," May 26, 1906.

A. J. G. (Opposite page)

Christchurch is the only City in New Zealand without a Native Bush Reserve. The above pretty piece of native forest can be secured as a Public Reserve, and the citizens are asked to contribute one-third of the cost of acquiring it.

SUBSCRIPTIONS MAY BE PAID TO

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Hon. Treasurer: DR. CHAS. CHILTON.

Christchurch Press Co. Ltd., Printers, Christchurch, N.Z.

Kennedy's Bush was the first Summit Road reserve established by Henry Ell in 1906. Ell was a campaigner for preservation of scenery, for the protection of native birds and a promoter of the Port Hills walkway. His group was responsible for the building of an accommodation house known as the 'Sign of the Bellbird'. The reserve was purchased with contributions from the Canterbury public. It is administered by the Christchurch City Council and has been extensively replanted with native plants.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY: Harry Ell Scrapbook,
2 Arch, 202, p. 103 (this page) and p. 6 (opposite)

BACKGROUND: Dean's Bush, Christchurch. Ruth Munro

Kennedy's Bush Reserve Extension.

COMMITTEE:

W. REECE, Esq. (Chairman)
Geo. T. BOOTH, Esq.
J. A. FROSTICK, Esq.
Dr. L. COCKAYNE.
W. DEVENISH MEARES, Esq.
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HON. TREAS.:

Dr. CHAS. CHILTON

HON. COLLECTOR:

H. G. ELL, M.H.R.

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THE area of Kennedy's Bush already acquired, and set aside as a Public Reserve, covers 53 acres, but does not include all the bush. The proposed addition will not only take in several very pretty pieces of bush, but will carry the reserve to the top of the Hills, from which a very beautiful view of the plains and bays may be enjoyed. The addition will bring the area of the reserve up to 100 acres.

The Government are contributing one-half of the total cost (£354), leaving one-half (£177) to be raised by public subscription.

The Bush is the home of many of our pretty and interesting native birds, the korimako (bell bird), tui, the ruru (morepork), ti-waka-waka's (pied and black fantails), the riro-riro (grey warbler) and tau-nou's (silver eye) are very numerous. The pretty ngrirungiri (yellow-breasted tit) is always to be found in the bush.

The reserve is now being well and securely fenced against cattle.

Kennedy's Bush, said Dr. Cockayne, who was interviewed on the botanical value of the reserve, is a very fair example of the forest that once clothed nearly the whole of the Banks Peninsula. The area to be reserved contains 36 species of trees and shrubs, and many of them are of considerable size. There are full-grown totaras and black pines, and large examples of fuchsia, broadleaf, lacebark (a tree with beautiful white flowers), mahoe, ivy tree, ngalo, lancewood, the milk tree, the tree manuka, the kowhai, and the kaikomako. This last tree bears profusion of white flowers, and is specially remarkable in having a juvenile form totally distinct

from that of the adult. The bush is very rich in woolly lianas (climbing plants), of which there are 13. Amongst them there are four species of *Rubus* (familiarily known as lawyers), several clematites, the climbing lily (commonly called supplejack), and two species of *Parsonsia*. This last plant can easily be recognised by its long kidney-bean-like fruit.

Among the under shrubs are the well-known pepper-tree, with its blotched leaves, *Melicope simplex*, whose small leaves have something of the smell of parsley, a number of coprosmas, and, here, too, may be mentioned the ferns, of which the bush still contains 15 species. About two years ago cattle were excluded from the bush, and since then the ferns have commenced to reassert themselves in many places. Besides the smaller ferns, such as the black shield fern, the common spleenwort, the drooping spleenwort, the creek fern, the various hard ferns, and some others, there are still a few examples of the beautiful silver-tree fern. The more lowly plants, that is, the herbaceous plants, including the grasses and sedges (34 in number), need little description, being what are usually met with in similar forests.

As indicating the size of some of the ancient trees in this bush, the following are the measurements of circumference, taken by Dr. Cockayne and Mr. H. G. Ell, M.H.R.:

Black Pine, 10 ft. 8 in. ; Broadleaf, 10 ft. 6 in.
Fuchsia, 6 ft. 7 in. ; Treefern, 2 ft. 6 in. ; Lemon-wood, 4 ft.
Mahoe, 4 ft. ; Totaras, 6 ft. 3 in. and 11 ft. 8 in.



Road over Mt Hercules. Reservations on the West Coast were made with a view to opening up the Coast for tourism. Many reserves were incorporated into the Westland National Park. ALEXANDER TURNBULL

LIBRARY: photographer unknown, C-26887-1/2



Franz Josef Glacier. This and the neighbouring Fox Glacier are major tourist attractions on the West Coast and are now part of the Westland National Park and Te Wahipounamu—World Heritage Area. AJHR: AJHR, vol. 2, 1911, two pages back from end of C6; ATL: C-26888-1/2



Blue Lake Waiotapu. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Josiah Martin PAColl-0444-1-2-19



Champagne Pool, Waiotapu Scenic Reserve. doc

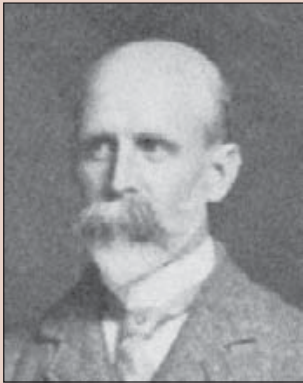


Pancake rocks, Punakaiki, 1984. John Greenwood, DOC



There were many areas of limestone formations reserved as natural curiosities under the Scenery Preservation Act such as these outcrops at Waro in Northland near the railway line to Whangarei. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, PAColl-0444-1-2-09

Edward Phillips-Turner (1865–1937)



AJHR: AJHR, vol 2, 1912, C-6, opp. p. 1;
ATL: C-26514-1/2

Born in England, Phillips-Turner grew up in Tasmania before settling in New Zealand in 1884. He trained as a surveyor and worked in various parts of New Zealand as well as in Tasmania and New South Wales. In 1894 he joined the Department of Lands and Survey and over the next 12 years undertook surveys in several regions, especially in the Rotorua, Tarawera and Waikato areas. In 1907 he was appointed Inspector of Scenic Reserves and travelled the length of the country, gaining a very good knowledge of the vegetation and landscape. In 1908 with Leonard Cockayne he surveyed the central volcanic region and recommended on the boundaries for Tongariro National Park, and during the following years was responsible for delimiting scenic reserves on the Mokau and Whanganui Rivers and along the main trunk railway. Phillips-Turner was appointed permanent head

and secretary of the newly established Forestry Department in 1919, and from 1928 until his retirement in 1931 was Director of Forestry. He published numerous works on botany and forestry, the most important of which was *The Trees of New Zealand*, written collaboratively with Cockayne. He was a distinguished member of many professional societies and conservation organisations. In his final years he advocated for establishment of a bureau to administer national parks, and he argued for a balance in policy between protection and recreation—a dual objective echoed in the 1952 national parks legislation.

Mt Tongariro crater. C. Rudge, DOC

James Cowan (1870–1943)



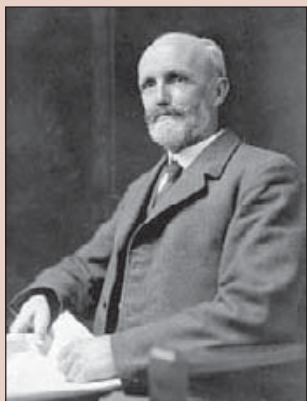
ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Stanley Polkinghorne Andrew, F-18597-1/1

Cowan spent his childhood on a King Country farm, on land confiscated from Maori. Events after the New Zealand Wars dominated life and society in the area at the time, and this engendered his life-long fascination for Maori and colonial history. His working life as a journalist, commencing with the *Auckland Star* in 1888, enabled him to pursue a passion for bush exploration and historical research. From 1903, when he was appointed journalist for the new Department of Tourism and Health Resorts, he publicised areas being opened up for tourism, writing three books on South Island attractions and a comprehensive New Zealand tourist handbook. Subsequently, as a freelance writer, he had six books published in the space of four years, notably *The Maoris of New Zealand* in 1910. Under commission from the Department of Internal Affairs from 1918 to

1922, he wrote his best-known work on the New Zealand Wars, which remains a classic in New Zealand literature and history. A prolific writer, he produced more than 30 books and wrote hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, mainly on Maori ethnography, frontier stories and descriptive accounts for tourists and immigrants. His writings on Maori included both popular and scholarly works, some of which were published in the *Journal of the Polynesian Society*. His sympathetic view of Maori fostered the use of the Maori language and the rebuilding of Maori society and economic well-being. As one of the country's most widely read non-fiction authors during the first half of the 20th Century, he strongly influenced the way people viewed their history and obtained a sense of nationhood.

D'Urville Island 1997. Kevin Jones, DOC

William Skinner (1857–1946)



ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY:
photographer unknown, PAColl-6277,
F-55714-1/2

Skinner was the son of pioneer settlers in Taranaki. He trained as a survey cadet and surveyed much of the bush-clad areas of Taranaki. From 1888, ill-health required a change in roles to draughtsman and inspecting surveyor. He was then successively Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor for Marlborough, Hawke's Bay and Canterbury. Frequent contact with Maori during field surveying aroused an interest in Maori history and culture, which flourished particularly after his retirement from the civil service in 1919. He was a founding member of the Polynesian Society in 1892, serving as its president and in other posts. He edited the Society's journal from 1901 to 1925, and contributed many papers on Maori architecture, religion and mythology, some in collaboration with Percy Smith. He also published extensively on European history and settlement in Taranaki. Among

his many community roles, William Skinner was a founding member and chairman of the Taranaki Museum, to which he donated his collection of Maori artefacts. During his time as a member and president of the Taranaki Scenery Preservation Society, he secured the reservation of several scenic and historic places—both locally and further afield, such as the gannet rookery at Cape Kidnappers in Hawke's Bay and Horahora Kakahu—the island near Ocean Bay, Marlborough, where British sovereignty was proclaimed over the South Island.

Australasian gannet colony, Cape Kidnappers Gannet Reserve, 1985. © C. Rudge, DOC





In 1915 Leonard Cockayne and Ebenezer Teichmann reported on indigenous vegetation on the Port Hills of Canterbury. The report facilitated the first creation of scenic reserves for primarily botanical reasons. In this 1929 photograph Cockayne is surveying manuka forest.

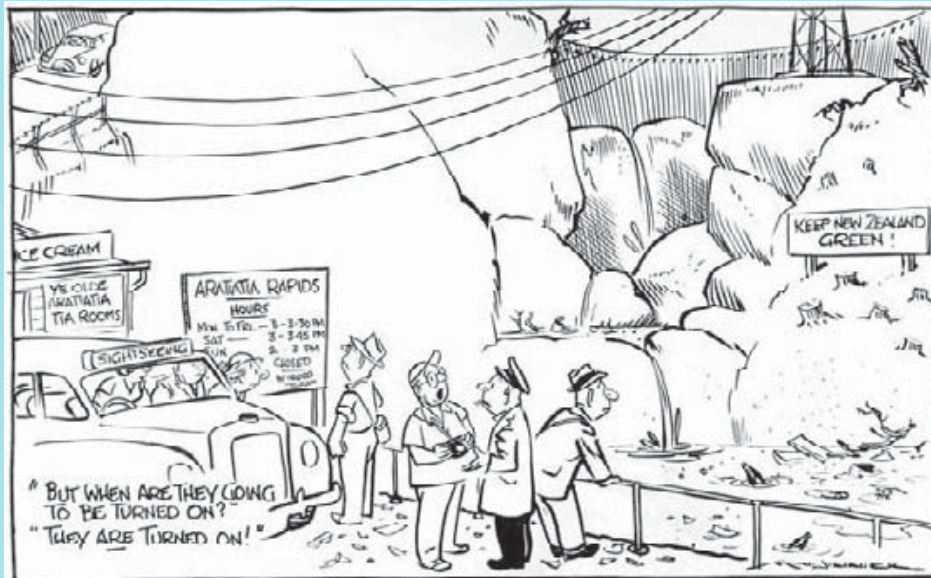
AJHR: W Boardman, AJHR, vol 2, 1929, C-6, opp. p. 8; ATL: C-26522-1/2



Lake Kaniere, Westland. Lakes, which were popular recreation and tourist destinations, were prominent focal points for early scenic reserves. AJHR: AJHR, Session 2, vol. 2, 1912, C6, overleaf from p. 14; ATL:

C-26885-1/2

Our beautiful environment: 1953 to the present



The Aratiatia Scenic reserve near Taupo was considerably altered in the building of the Aratiatia powerhouse. The scenic reserve was first established in 1906 and was widely regarded for its beauty. Gordon Minhinnick's cartoon captures some of the issues that arose in the 1950s debate. Auckland Regional Museum and *New Zealand Herald*; Gordon Minhinnick 'The March of Progress', *New Zealand Herald*, 22

August, 1958

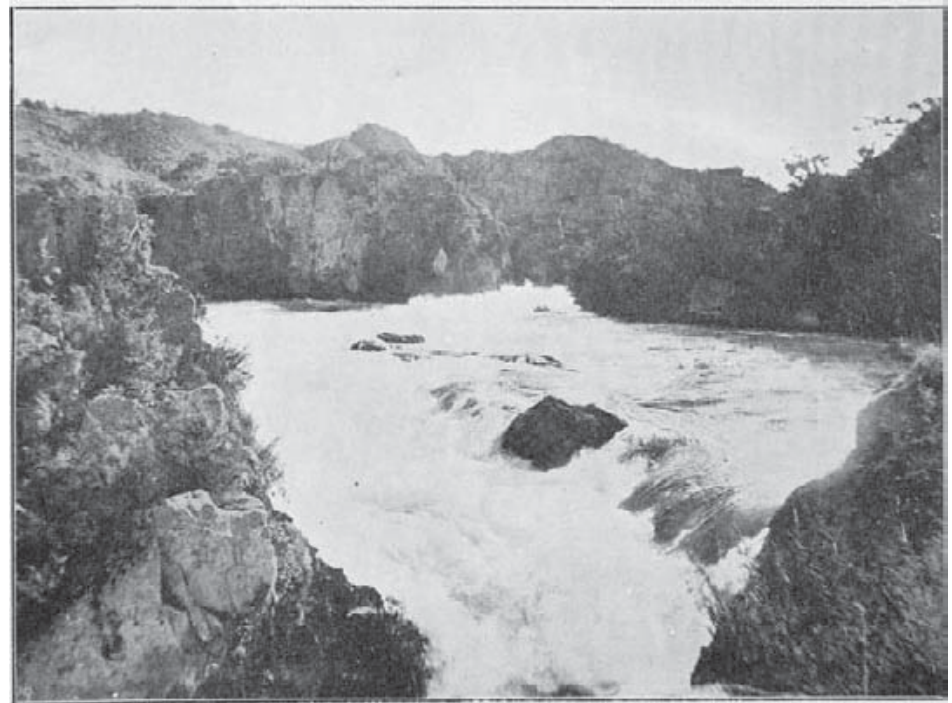
The Reserves and Domains Act 1953 amalgamated the town domain and scenic reserve legislation. At the time of the Act there were more than 1300 reserves and domains nationwide. Reserves covered 947 000 acres (384 000 ha) and domains accounted for a further 83 000 acres (33 600 ha). The Act proved innovative despite being described as a consolidating measure at the time.

This reserves legislation was passed a year after the National Parks Act. Both Acts emphasised that reserved areas were to be protected, to be maintained in their natural state, that introduced plants and animals were to be eradicated where possible and that reserves were to be enjoyed by the public. Reserves were to be managed by a committee or the Department of Lands. A Scenic and Allied Reserves Committee was

established under the National Parks Authority to develop an overall picture of reserve administration and management.

Legislative change was overshadowed by a substantial shift in public opinion. In 1959 there was a conference on the 'Conservation of New Zealand Scenic Attractions' that facilitated the establishment of the Nature Conservation Council in 1962. Almost at the same time the government announced the Manapouri and Tongariro hydroelectric proposals. These had implications for the Aratiatia Rapids and Lake Manapouri—the former a high-profile scenic reserve, the latter a scenic wonder. A new Scenery Preservation Society was established to fight the proposals. J.T. Salmon published his influential book *Heritage Destroyed: the Crisis in Scenery Preservation in New Zealand* in 1960. This started a debate about scenery preservation but by 1972, when Manapouri was 'saved', the public were squarely concerned about protecting the 'environment'.

Following an initiative by Lance McCaskill of the National Parks Authority, articles on national parks and reserves (many written by



Aratiatia Rapids, Waikato River. AJHR: photographer unknown, AJHR, vol 1, 1915, C-6, opp. p. 16; ATL: C-26519-1/2

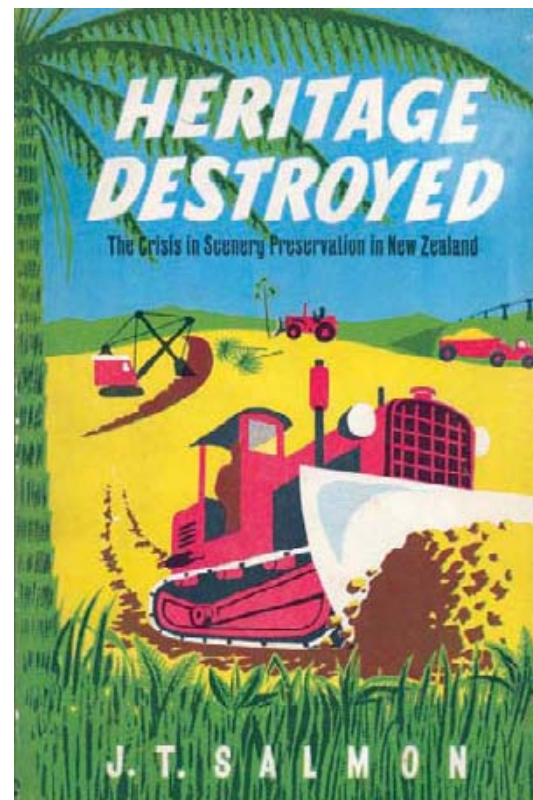
Bing Lucas, an official in the Department of Lands and Survey), appeared as a regular feature in the Automobile Association magazine *NZ Motor World* in the mid 1960s. This in turn led to production of a regional series of booklets on scenic reserves, authored by Lance McCaskill. These were an attempt at widely publicising the qualities of scenic reserves and their recreational value.

Lance McCaskill's review of scenic reserves in the 1960s and early 1970s also assessed the reserves in terms of how representative they were of ecology. His recommendations were for the creation of new types of reserves to include a wider variety of ecological habitats. This was one of the key drivers behind the passing of the Reserves Act 1977. The Reserves Act, while a child of the Scenery Preservation Act 1903, has led to a blossoming of the concept of protected areas and the number of reserves has grown considerably.

CONCLUSION

From the late 19th Century New Zealanders developed aesthetic, iconic and emotional relationships toward their landscapes that were to be reflected in the scenic and historic reserve network. A great diversity of reserves was proclaimed that encompassed geothermal, natural curiosity, aesthetic, archaeological, historic, and scientific sites. This extensive network of reserves protected widely diverse scenery and indigenous biota and also provided the basis for some national parks.

Management of the large number of reserves was a considerable challenge that was not really addressed until after World War II. By the late 1950s New Zealanders were re-evaluating scenery. Development pressures and concerns about damage to the environment led to a re-examination of the reserve network. There was

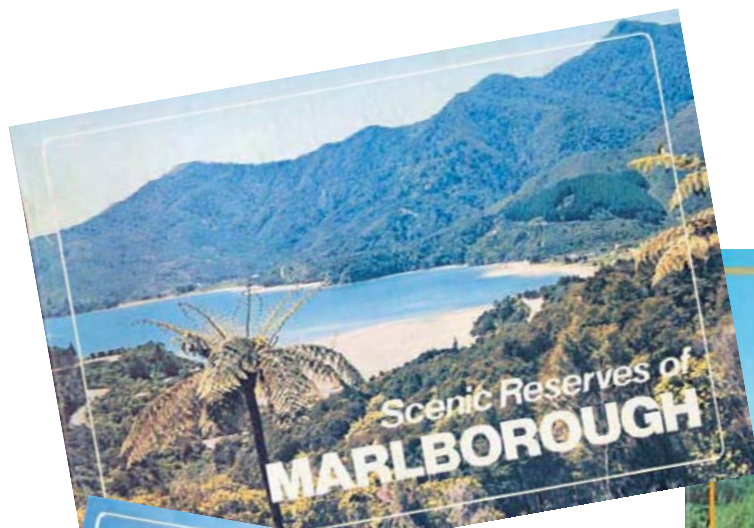


Salmon's book was influential in bringing the public's attention to the environmental impacts the large hydroelectricity developments were having on New Zealand scenery. Salmon, J.T. *Heritage Destroyed: the Crisis in Scenery Preservation in New Zealand* (Reed, Wellington, 1960)

an increased emphasis on protecting habitat and a wide variety of types of ecology. The network of scenic reserves provided a legacy for the objectives of biological conservation, albeit more by accident than by design. The 1000 or so scenic reserves included a reasonably diverse sample of natural biodiversity, which was a valuable tool to assist the ecological aims of the 1977 Reserves Act. 🌿



The establishment of scenic reserves along highways was to return great benefit for the travelling public once the motorcar became widely available in the 1950s and 60s. Morere Springs Scenic Reserve is a well-known example. Rakai Paaka, a hapu of Ngati Kahungunu, used these springs for many years before Europeans encountered them in 1884. In 1895 the Lands and Survey Department gazetted the Nuhaka Thermal Springs Reserve under the Land Act 1892. Since 1987, renamed Morere Springs Scenic Reserve, it has been administered by the Department of Conservation. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: photographer unknown, F-6790-1/1

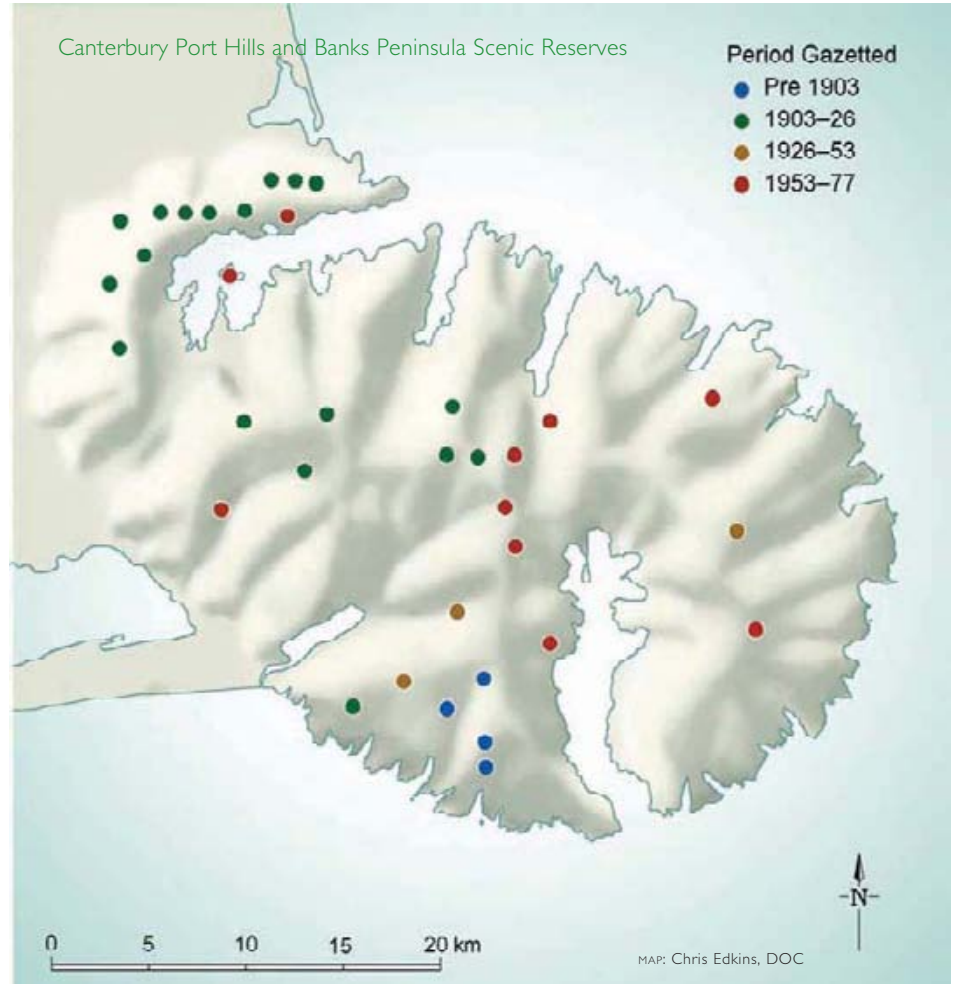


Lance McCaskill's review of Scenic Reserves was used as the basis for a series of books promoting the reserves to the public.



Politician Harry Ell and botanist Leonard Cockayne successfully worked together to create scenic reserves on the Canterbury Port Hills and Banks Peninsula. Together with Jane Dean they also campaigned to reserve Riccarton Bush in public ownership. Riccarton Bush was reserved under its own legislation in 1914.

CANTERBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY: *The Weekly Press*, 4 April 1904, p. 21.



Perrine Moncrieff (1893–1979)



NELSON PROVINCIAL MUSEUM: Kingsford
Collection I24247/6

Perrine Moncrieff was for nearly 50 years this country's foremost woman conservationist. Born into an upper class British family, she emigrated to New Zealand in 1921, settled in Nelson and bought land on the shores of Tasman Bay, which in the 1930s became a scenic reserve. In 1942, to celebrate the tercentenary of the discovery of New Zealand by Abel Tasman, the greatly extended reserve was designated Abel Tasman National Park—Perrine's greatest conservation achievement. She served on the park board until being required to stand down at age 81. A founding member of the Native Bird Protection Society (1923) and the New Zealand Ornithological Society (1940), she campaigned successfully for reservation of land at Lake Rotoroa and Maruia Springs, and for designation of Farewell Spit as a bird sanctuary. She also donated a large area of coastal bush at Okiwi to the Crown as a reserve. Her popular guide to the identification of New Zealand birds, published in 1929, was a standard reference for some 40 years. She was an honorary wildlife ranger for 15 years, she wrote many articles at home and abroad, and she tramped extensively in the Nelson region and elsewhere in the South Island.

Sea kayaking, Tonga Island, Abel Tasman National Park, 1992. DOC



Lancelot William McCaskill (1900–85)



Molesworth, 1969, Reed Publishing (NZ) Ltd

Born in South Canterbury and trained at the Canterbury Agricultural College at Lincoln, McCaskill studied rural education and soil conservation in America in 1923. He returned to the staff of Lincoln College where, in 1961, he became Director of the Tussock Grasslands and Mountainlands Institute. He rose to national prominence by advocating improved catchment management to combat soil erosion, and was influential in the development of the country's first comprehensive soil conservation legislation in 1941. A keen interest in plants and natural history led to his membership, for almost 30 years, of the Arthur's Pass National Park Board and he was a founding member of the National Parks Authority (1953–68). He also initiated New Zealand's involvement in the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

His outstanding teaching, prolific writings and relentless energy in serving non-governmental organisations mark him as one of the country's most influential conservationists in the mid 20th Century.

Page Shelter, Temple Basin, Arthur's Pass National Park, 1986. Peter Simpson, DOC

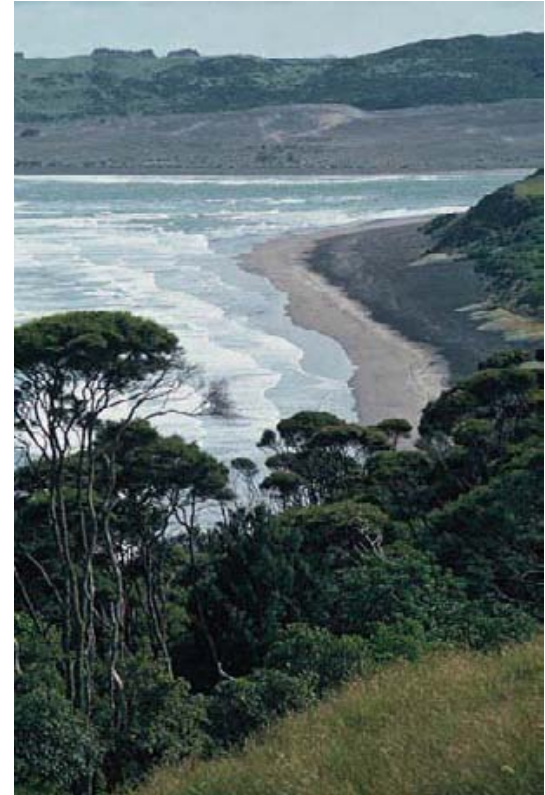
Percy Hylton Craig (Bing) Lucas (1925–2000)



Lucas Papers private collection

Lucas was universally known from his schooldays in Christchurch as Bing. He was a world leader in parks and reserves during the last quarter of the 20th Century. On joining the Department of Lands and Survey in Wellington, he turned his attention in the early 1960s to publicising the conservation values, scenic attractions and ready accessibility of national parks and scenic reserves as areas for public enjoyment. Following a study tour of North American parks in 1969, he wrote the blueprint for the professional development of New Zealand's parks and reserves system, which profoundly influenced the Reserves Act 1977 and National Parks Act 1980 that remain within the statutory foundation of today's conservation estate. In the course of an illustrious public service career, Bing rose through the ranks of the Lands Department to become its first Director of Parks and Reserves in 1969 and its final Director-General, before retiring in 1986. He was involved for almost 30 years in the international protected areas movement, the latter part devoted to extending the UNESCO World Heritage Area network. He and Lance McCaskill are New Zealand's only two conservationists to be enrolled as Members of Honour of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

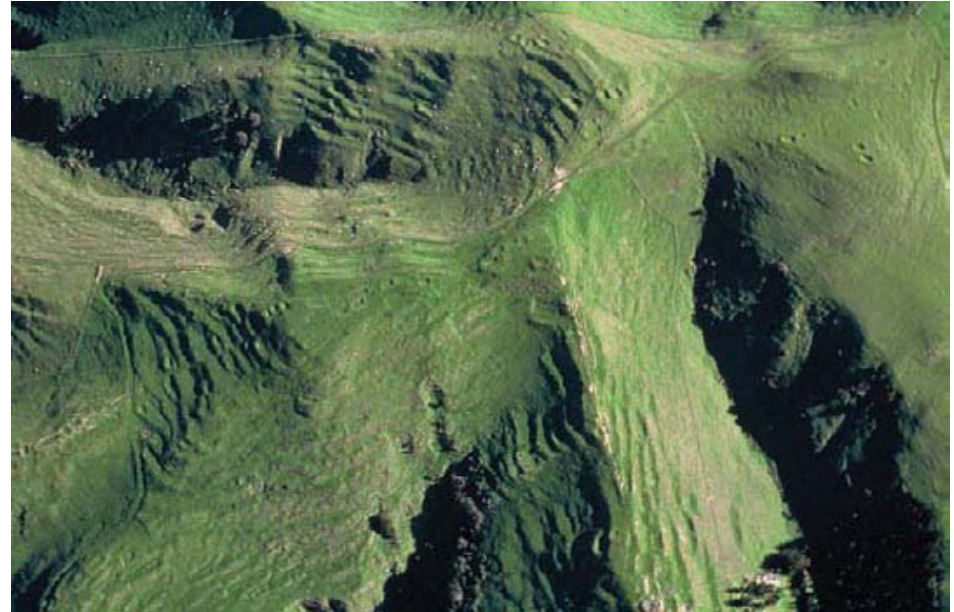
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Bryant Memorial Reserve, Waikato Conservancy, 1984. C. Rudge, DOC



Hokitika Gorge Scenic Reserve, West Coast—Tai Poutini Conservancy. K. Smith, DOC



The Otatara and Hikurangi Pa sites are close to the City of Napier. The Otatara Pa Historic Reserve was established in 1973. The site is associated with the arrival to Heretaunga of Taraia who brought with him the people who later became known as Ngati Kahungunu. It also has significant post-European contact history and an ongoing association with Ngati Paarau—the local hapu. Otatara Pa consists of 44 ha of distinctive archaeological features and is one of the most significant archaeological sites in New Zealand. Kevin Jones, DOC



Motuara is now an island bird sanctuary in the Marlborough Sounds and the cat sitting on the man's lap would certainly not be welcome. When Motuara was first established as a scenic and historic reserve in 1912 the island was almost devoid of any trees, having been farmed for two generations. It was the site of garden plantings by Captain Cook on his 1769 voyage to New Zealand. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Russell James Duncan, 1902, F-31683-1/2



Motuara Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, looks very different today. DOC



Curio Bay, Southland. The area encompassing a petrified forest on the Catlin's coast and associated coastal land at Curio Bay are now scientific and recreation reserves under the Reserves Act. The fossilised forest dates back about 160 million years to the Jurassic period. This is a rare geological feature not found elsewhere in New Zealand. It was established as a scenic reserve in 1925. Dawn Patterson



Waiotapu Scenic Reserve, Bay of Plenty Conservancy. DOC



Silica terraces, Waimangu Scenic Reserve, Bay of Plenty Conservancy. DOC



Moeraki Boulders Scenic Reserve, Otago Conservancy. Tony Perrett, DOC

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