

Frankley School Bush

At a glance (last updated: November 2010)		
TRC reference:	Ecological district:	Egmont
Other reference:	LENZ environment:	F5: 2b
Land tenure: Crown (Ministry of Education)	Protection status:	B, C
GPS: E 1691577 N 5672835	Area:	3.7ha

Location

Frankley School Bush is located on the south west edge of New Plymouth city. The school and bush is sited on an idyllic natural setting south of the Waimea Stream which delineates its northern boundary and is contained within a triangular section of land bordered by Tukapa Street in the west and Frankley Road in the east.

General description

The Frankley School Bush is essentially a semi-coastal forest remnant of around 3.5 hectares and is not too distant from the more substantial reserves at Barrett Domain and Ratapihipihi. The forest consists of a varied range of discrete habitat and vegetation types. These range from some low lying flatter areas, rolling and sloping banks and ridge tops, gullies, which, in some areas, feature small sometimes swampy creeks, and other areas of impeded drainage.

Ecological features

Vegetation

The bush remnant at the Frankley School is made up of a number natural and planted areas including: a remnant stand of kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), a planted area containing some local and non local natives and a swampy area containing mainly pukatea (*Laurelia novaeseelandiae*), kahikatea and a few waiwaka (*Syzygium maire*) (swamp maire).

Drier slopes and ridge top are dominated by kohekohe, tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) (mainly nearer the top) and scattered titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*), rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) and karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*). A range of planted and non local natives is mixed in with the edge of the bush, e.g. kowhai (*Sophora spp.*), and kauri (*Agathis australis*) and there are some large exotics that have been planted nearer the entrance to the main track up to Frankley Road. These have also been planted adjacent to the track in places.

Low lying areas adjacent to the swampy creek contain sedges (*Carex secta*) and kiokio fern (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*) along the edge of the creek in places, while waiwaka saplings border the swamp overtopped by larger parent waiwaka trees. Pukatea and kahikatea also present in this area. There is some exotic invasion on the boundary.

A large mainly dry sloping area and ridge top contains several rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), many kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), tawa and puriri (*Vitex lucens*) trees. Nest epiphytes are common in the larger trees and some climbing rata (*Metrosideros spp.*) is present. A dry sloping area contains many large puriri within and adjacent to the main track. Kohekohe are also common throughout this area along with scattered karaka and a few rewarewa.

Fauna

This site provide habitat and food source for native bird species tui, kereru, grey warbler and fantail. May hold other threatened species such as the goldstripe gecko (*Hoplodactylus chrysoireticus*) ('At Risk' and 'Regionally Distinctive') and threatened large galaxiids (kokopu) ('At Risk', 'Regionally Distinctive').

Ecological values

Ecological values	Rank	Comment
Rarity & distinctiveness	Medium	Contains good examples of poorly represented vegetation (swamp maire) and is one area where this species in naturally regenerating well. Likely to contain threatened and regionally distinctive species including goldstripe gecko and large galaxiids.
Representativeness	High	Contains indigenous vegetation on F5.2b – an Acutely Threatened LENZ environment.
Ecological context	Low	Close to other forest remnants in the area and likely to be an important food source for native birds in the area.
Sustainability	Medium	Key ecological processes still influence the site and with appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

Management threats and response

Potential and actual threats to the sustainability of Frankley School Bush ecological values are as follows:

Threats to ecological values	Level of risk	Comment
Pest animals	Medium	Possums, rats, mustelids, cats, hedgehogs.
Weeds	Low to medium	Privet, Willow
Habitat modification	Low	Though it is crown land potentially it is vulnerable to land use development associated with the schools operations.

Site protection measures addressing potential threats and actual threats are as follows:

Site protection	Yes/No	Description
A Public ownership or formal agreement	Yes	Crown (Ministry of Education)
B Regulatory protection by local government	Yes	General regional or district rules might apply.
C Active protection	Yes	No stock access. Used for education and cared for by the school.



McKie QEII covenant

At a glance (last updated: November 2010)			
TRC reference:	Ecological district:	Egmont	
Other reference: <i>To be confirmed</i>	LENZ environment:	Lvl 4; F5.2b	
Land tenure: Private	Protection status:	A (Pending), B, C	
GPS: E 1682843 N 5668649	Area:	10 ha	

Location

The McKie QEII Covenant is located on private land immediately bordering Oakura township, between SH45 and Wairau Rd.

General description

The McKie QEII Covenant (2.3ha) contains a lowland semi-coastal forest remnant and associated raupo, sedge and rush wetlands in a tributary of the Wairau Stream. The covenant area also contains significant areas of retired pasture that will need planting.

Based on figures from Clarkson (1985) this forest remnant represents around three percent of the lowland semi-coastal forest still existing on the Taranaki ring plain, outside of Egmont National Park (Oecologico 2010).

Ecological features

Vegetation

Species found in this covenant include: puriri (*Vitex lucens*), kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), rewarewa (*Knightsia excelsa*), pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*), karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), mahoe (*Meliclytus ramiflorus*), mamaku tree fern (*Cyathea medullaris*), nikau palm (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), pigeonwood (*Hedycarya arborea*), karamu (*Coprosma robusta*), hangehange (*Geniostoma rupestre*), hen and chicken fern (*Asplenium bulbiferum*), kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*), mapou (*Myrsine australis*), the woody liane supplejack (*Rhipogonum scandens*), gully fern (*Pneumatopteris pennigera*) kiekie (*Freycinetia baueriana banksii*), and puka (*Griselinia lucida*) (Oecologico 2010).

Various arms of the Wairau Stream contain several wetland areas, and associated regenerating vegetation. Species found include: mamaku tree fern and raupo (*Typha orientalis*), the common native sedge pūkiō (*Carex secta*), common rush (*Juncus gregiflorus*), wheki ponga tree fern (*Dicksonia squarrosa*), kawaka shrubs, small mahoe trees, hangehange shrubs, various sized individuals of

karamu, as well as gully fern, Kiokio, and kiwakiwa (*Blechnum fluviatile*) (Oecologico 2010).

King fern (*Ptisana salicina*) ('At Risk', 'Regionally Distinctive') could be found on-site in a few years, as the forest remnant recovers from grazing by stock. This highly palatable fern has been found 1km to the south-west on a privately owned native forest remnant adjacent to Egmont National Park.

Fauna

Native bird species present include: Spotless crane (*Porzana tabuensis*) ('At Risk' and 'Regionally Distinctive'), kereru (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*), harrier hawk (*Circus approximans*), pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*), tui (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*), fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis*), silvereve (*Zosterops lateralis*), spur-winged plover (*Vanellus miles*), and swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).

The Wairau stream tributary that runs through this site contains a good population of banded kokopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*) ('Regionally Distinctive') and a few long finned eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachia*) ('At Risk' and 'Regionally Distinctive'). With improved fish access, it is likely that giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*) ('At Risk' and 'Regionally Distinctive') will also occupy these habitats in future.

There is a very good possibility of goldstripe gecko (*Hoplodactylus chryosireticus*) ('At Risk' and 'Regionally Distinctive') also being present, as this species has been recorded at nearby Matekai Park in Oakura township and is usually present in this locality. Other native forest reptiles will also be present on-site.

Ecological values

Ecological values	Rank	Comment
Rarity & distinctiveness	High	Contains 'At Risk' and 'Regionally Distinctive' fauna species including spotless crane, banded kokopu and long finned eel. It is also likely to contain gold stripe gecko which are a threatened ('At Risk') and regionally distinctive species.
Representativeness	High	Regionally rare and much reduced lowland semi-coastal forest. Contains indigenous vegetation on F5.2b – an Acutely Threatened LENZ environment.
Ecological context	Medium	Within 600m of Kaitake Ranges, ENP, and 400m of Matekai Park, Oakura. Part of an important corridor system with links the Kaitake Range in the Egmont National Park to the sea.
Sustainability	Positive	Key ecological processes still influence the site and with appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats. Highly motivated and capable landowner.

Management threats and response

Potential & actual threats to the sustainability of McKie QEII Covenant's ecological values are as follows:

Threats to ecological values	Level of risk	Comment
Pest animals	Medium to high	Possums, rats, stoats, ferrets, weasels, hedgehogs, cats will be present at varying densities, and pose varied risk to vegetation and wildlife on-site.
Weeds	High	This site contains a diverse range of weeds including gorse, woolly nightshade, kikuyu grass, common pampas, brush wattle, wilding cherry, crack willow, blackberry, <i>Tradescantia</i> , nodding thistle, ragwort, inkweed, black nightshade.
Habitat modification	Medium to high	The forest was grazed until 2008, when it was fenced, along with the majority of the wetland. Forest understorey still recovering. Eastern gully has many weeds, in the absence of native vegetation cover.

Site protection measures addressing potential threats and actual threats are as follows:

Site protection	Yes/No	Description
A Public ownership or formal agreement	No	All land currently in private ownership. QEII covenant applied for and under consideration (very likely to be approved).
B Regulatory protection by local government	Yes	General regional or district rules might apply.
C Active protection	Yes	Mostly fenced. Self-help Possum Control Programme



Matekai Park

At a glance (last updated: November 2010)		
TRC reference:	Ecological district:	Egmont
Other reference:	LENZ environment:	F5.2b
Land tenure: NPDC	Protection status:	A, B, C
GPS: E1682296 N 5669824	Area:	4.9 ha

Location

Matekai Park is located within Oakura township, at the south end, between South Road and Messenger Terrace.

General description

Matekai Park (4.9 hectares) is situated in a gully system that is sloped toward the sea and contains wetland areas fed by Matekai Stream in the valley floor.

Extensive planting of the valley and wetland has been undertaken by enthusiastic local residents with the support the community and the New Plymouth District Council. The Park now contains a small walkway network which meanders through the variety of habitats in the park. The Park is also part of a good habitat corridor system linking to the Kaitake Range nearby.

Ecological features

Vegetation

Matekai Park has been the focus of an ongoing planting programme for a number of decades. Native and introduced bird food source tree species have been the early focus and many of these early plantings are now of a reasonable size (10+ metres).

Forest species present include puriri (*Vitex lucens*), karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*), pukatea (*Laurelia novaezelandiae*), rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*), kahikatea (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*), mapou (*Myrsine australis*), lemonwood (*Pittosporum eugenioides*), and kowhai (*Sophora spp.*).

Introduced trees with high value for winter food for birds such as banksia (spp.) are also well established. The wetland vegetation mainly consists of raupo (*Typha orientalis*), flax (*Phormium tenax*) and carex (spp.).

Fauna

Matekai Park is an important winter food source for native bird species. Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) were historically recorded in the wetland of this reserve. The Park is known to hold threatened species such as the goldstripe gecko (*Hoplodactylus chrysosireticus*) ('At Risk' and 'Regionally Distinctive') and threatened large galaxiids (kokopu) are likely to be present.

Ecological values

Ecological values	Rank	Comment
Rarity & distinctiveness	High	Contains the threatened and regionally distinctive native fauna species such as the goldstripe gecko ('At Risk') and kokopu species.
Representativeness	High	Contains indigenous vegetation on F5.2b – an Acutely Threatened LENZ environment.
Ecological context	Medium	An important food source for native birds in the area and habitat for threatened fauna species. Part of an important corridor system connecting with the Kaitake Range in Egmont National Park.
Sustainability	Positive	Key ecological processes still influence the site and with appropriate management, it can remain resilient to existing or potential threats.

Other values

Matekai Park is a popular recreational area and could be utilised for education.

Management threats and response

Potential & actual threats to the sustainability of Matekai Park's ecological values are as follows:

Threats to ecological values	Level of risk	Comment
Pest animals	Medium	Possums, rats, mustelids, cats, hedgehogs.
Weeds	High	Weeds are well established and diverse.
Habitat modification	Medium	Potential disturbance through town civil works relating to Matekai Stream.

Site protection measures addressing potential threats & actual threats are as follows:

Site protection		Yes/No	Description
A	Public ownership or formal agreement	Yes	New Plymouth District Council
B	Regulatory protection by local government	Yes	General regional or district rules might apply.
C	Active protection	Yes	Continued planting programme.

