

Bruce's Bush and Danny's Pond

At a glance

TRC Reference: BD/9752	LENZ:	F5.2b Acutely threatened
Ecological District: Egmont	National:	Priority 1 – Threatened Land Environment
Land Tenure: Private		Priority 2 – Sand Dunes and Wetlands
Area(ha): 2ha + 1ha		Priority 3 – Originally Rare Ecosystem
GPS: 1679192X & 5657382Y 1680495X & 5657064Y		Priority 4 – Threatened Species
Habitat: Forest Remnant/Wetland	Regional:	Key Native Ecosystem
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland	Regional	Acutely Threatened <10% left
Ecosystem Type: MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest	Ecosystem Loss:	At risk 20-30% left
WF8: Kahikatea, pukatea forest	Protection Status:	QEll Pending
	Catchment:	Kaihihi (381)

General Description

Bruce's Bush and Danny's Pond forest remnants are located approximately 5.4km south-east of Okato on the western Taranaki ring plain. The site consists of the 2ha forest remnant (Bruce's Bush) adjoining to Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve and 1ha of regenerating bush around a small artificial wetland (Danny's Pond). The site lies within the Egmont ecological district and the Kaihihi river catchment. Ecosystem types include 'Acutely Threatened' WF8 - Kahikatea, pukatea forest and 'At-Risk' MF7.3 Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest. The site provides excellent connectivity with other KNEs and the Te Papakura o Taranaki/ Egmont National Park. Good riparian connections exist throughout the property and wider area.

Ecological Features

Flora

Bruce's Bush: The canopy is dominated by pukatea, tawa and swamp maire, with rimu, miro and kahikatea also common. Around the forest margin on the drier hillslopes, mahoe is common and there are several groves of kohekohe. Scarlet and white rata are common throughout the forest and can be seen around both the bush margins and within the canopy. The interior of the forest is dominated by tree ferns, supplejack and kiekie. A small stream feeding into the wetland area is dominated by regenerating kanuka and mahoe.

Danny's pond: The bush is generally younger than in Bruce's bush and is dominated by mahoe, kanuka, tree ferns and tawa. Threatened swamp maire and poroporo are both present in places around the bush. The pond has several large patches of exotic water lilies and raupo is common around the edges.

Fauna

Native fauna which have been identified on site include kotare, riroriro and piwakawaka. There is good habitat for native reptiles and notable reptiles are known in the area and may be present at this site. There is also good habitat for native freshwater fish and Bruce's Bush would possibly be suitable for the 'At-Risk' and 'regionally distinctive' brown mudfish.

Ecological Values

Ecological Context - Medium	Provides connectivity to other habitats, KNE's and priority ecosystems in this vicinity, including a direct connection with Corbett Lake Scenic Reserve and continuous established riparian
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	connections connecting with Te Papakura o Taranaki/Egmont National Park.
Rarity and Distinctiveness - High	Contains threatened species including white and scarlet rata, poroporo and kanuka and the 'Nationally Critical' swamp maire.
Representativeness - High	Are remnants of native forest on land classified as an 'Acutely Threatened' land environment and are representative examples of 'At Risk' and 'Acutely Threatened' ecosystem types (MF7.3: Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest, WF8: Kahikatea, pukatea forest).
Sustainability - Positive	Key ecological processes still influence the site and the site is being evaluated for a QEII covenant which would ensure the continuation of these processes in the future.

Other Management Issues

Habitat Modification - High	Danny's pond is an artificial pond with no permanent outlet, and so suffers from poor/no downstream connectivity. Introduced water lilies also dominate the waterway.
Herbivores - Medium	Effect of stock is obvious around the margin of Bruce's bush, with little understory in places around the hillside surrounding the bush remnant. Little sign of possum browse - palatable species such as rata are common and in good health.
Possum Self-help	The property is within the possum self-help area and receives sustained possum control.
Weeds - Medium	Weeds are somewhat under control but blackberry and barberry are common around the margins of Bruce's bush and water lilies are prevalent in Danny's pond.
Predators - Medium	Predators including rodents, mustelids, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs will be having an impact on native species at the site.

