

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. 🌿

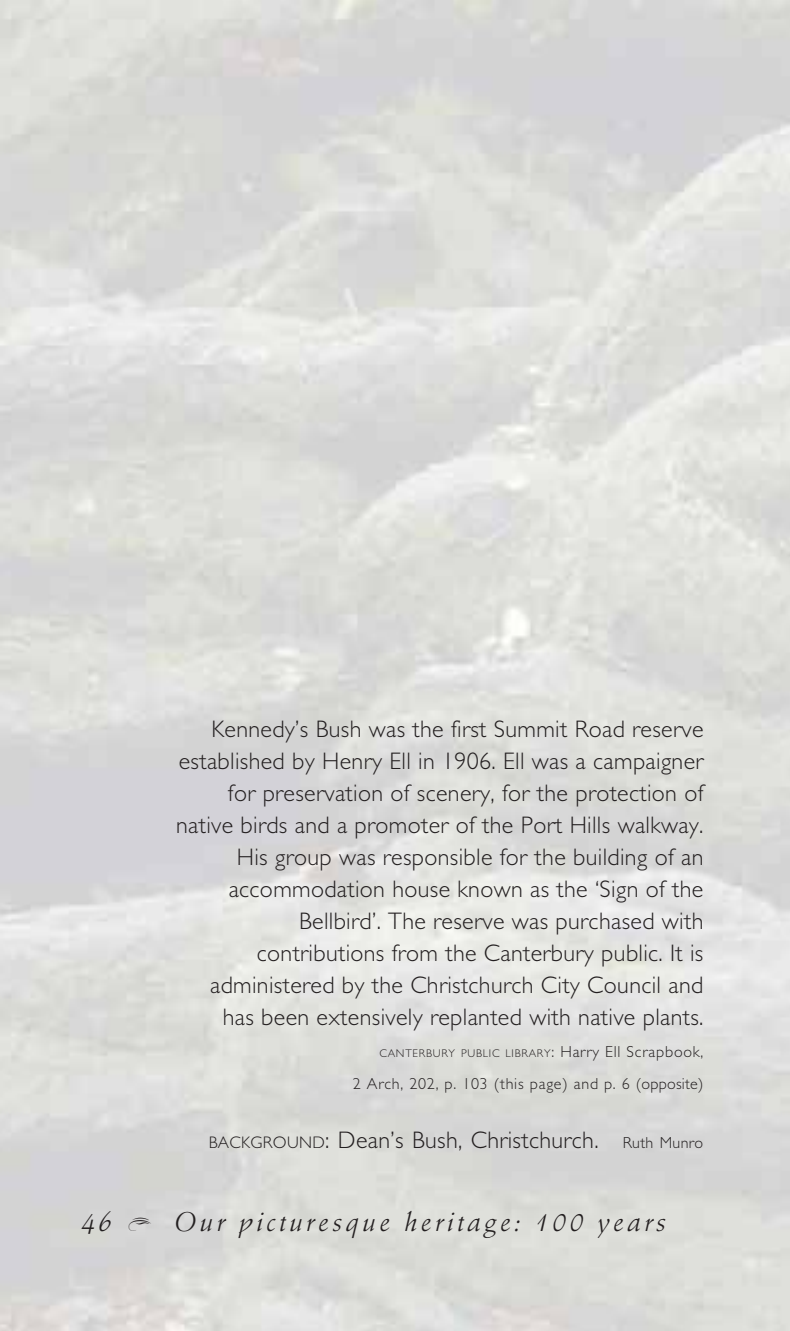


Mokau Steamer 18 miles up the Mokau River. AHJR: AJHR, Session 2, vol. 2, 1909, C6, opp. p. 12; ATL: William Andrew Collis, C-26884-1/2

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



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

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 Tintara Tree in the foreground.

With an account of the Tintara Tree, the Tintara Tree, the Government holding thousands of the same, having been planted by public subscription.



View of the Tintara Tree, Kennedy's Bush, Christchurch.

Established in the only City in New Zealand without a Native Bush Reserve. The above every year of native forest can be secured as a Public Reserve, and the citizens are asked to contribute towards the cost of acquiring it.

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This area of Kennedy's Bush already acquired, and set aside as a Public Reserve, covers 55 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 kormoran (bull bird), tau, the turn (moutere), h-wai-mau's spout and black (small), the h-m-m (grey warbler) and tau-nore (black eye) are very numerous. The pretty ngim-nim (yellow breasted tit) is always to be found in the bush.

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

Kennedy's Bush, said Dr. Cochrane, 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 Bushy Peninsula. The area is well reserved contains 26 species of trees and shrubs, and many of them are of considerable size. These are full-grown totara and tui pine, and large examples of hicks, broadleaf, lacebark (a tree with beautiful white flowers), mahoe, ivy tree, ngai, lancewood, the milk tree, the tree fern, the kowhai, and the kaitomako. This last tree bears profusion of white flowers, and is especially remarkable in having a juvenile form totally distinct

from that of the adult. The bush is very rich in woody ferns (climbing plants), of which there are 14. Amongst them there are four species of *Rubus* (familiarly known as hoppers), several *Climacium*, the climbing lily (commonly called *pipitipaki*), and two species of *Polygonum*. 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 heart-shaped leaves, *Stenopogon simplex*, whose small leaves have something of the smell of parsley, a number of coprosma, and, here, too, may be mentioned the ferns, of which the bush still contains 25 species. About two years ago cattle were excluded from the bush, and ever since the ferns have commenced to recover themselves in many places. Besides the usual ferns, such as the black shield fern, the common spongy, and the distorting spongy, the creek fern, the various hard ferns, and many others, there are still a few examples of the beautiful silver-fern fern. The more lowly plants, that is, the herbaceous plants, including the grasses and sedges (54 in number), need little description, being what you usually meet with in similar forests.

As indicating the size of some of the ancient trees in this bush, the following are the measurements of circumferences, taken by Dr. Cochrane and Mr. H. C. ELL, M.H.R. —

Black Pine, 10 ft. 8 in.; Broadleaf, 20 ft. 6 in.
Hicks, 6 ft. 7 in.; Totara, 2 ft. 6 in.; Lancewood, 4 ft.
Mahoe, 4 ft.; Totara, 6 ft. 8 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

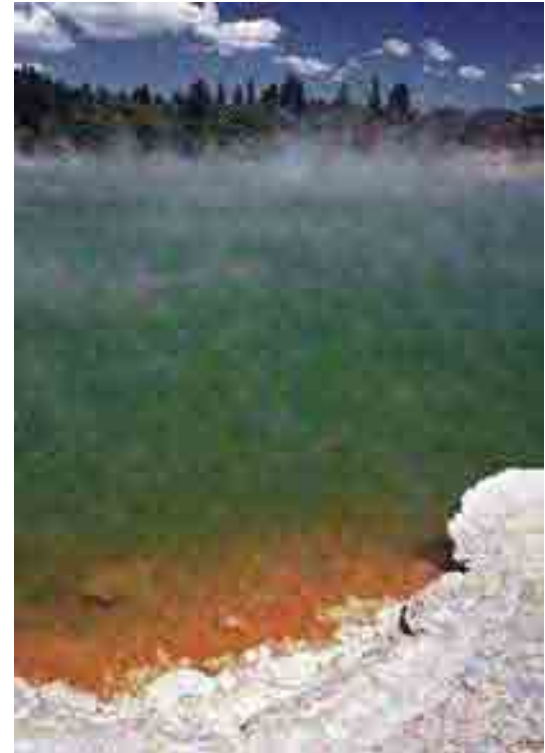
LIBRARY: photographer unknown, C-26887-1/2



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

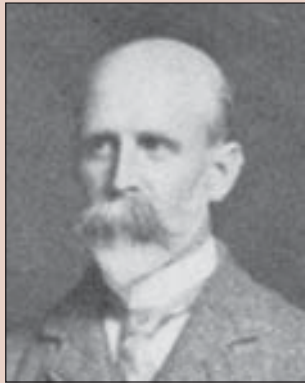


Pancake rocks, Punakaiki, 1984. John Greenwood, DOC



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)



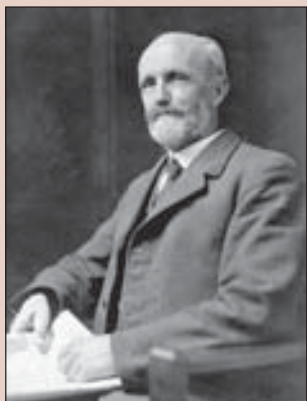
ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY: Stanley Polkinghorne Andrew, F-18597-1/1

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