

Tiromoana Bush

May 2004

Transwaste Canterbury



existed there before people settled in New Zealand. Lowland forest is nationally rare and under-represented. Transwaste believes the restoration of Tiromoana Bush will result in an area of national bio-diversity and conservation significance.

Outline

The initial step for the restoration work will be to secure the whole of the Tiromoana Bush area, including the adjacent Department of Conservation managed Ella Peak Scenic Reserve, so that all stock are excluded. This will involve substantial upgrading of existing fencing and the installation of new fencing. Removal of stock and ongoing pest control, especially of possums, will allow natural regeneration of native plants to occur over the entire area and in the adjacent scenic reserve.

In addition, over a 35 year timeframe, Transwaste will actively plant native forest species to assist and support the natural regeneration that will be occurring. Tree species to be planted will be chosen for their ecological relevance to the locality and their ability to attract and sustain key native birds such as korimako (bellbird) and kereru (native pigeon).

Further, the existing stand of rare black beech in the middle valley will be enhanced by plantings undertaken using seeds collected from a small beech remnant in the landfill area. In conjunction with this, at least one additional stand of black beech will be established within Tiromoana Bush.

Transwaste also plans to develop a new 12 hectare wetland in the middle Kate Valley, to add to the existing network of natural wetlands in the vicinity.

Restoration Concept

Tiromoana Bush is a national treasure in the making. Transwaste Canterbury Limited is providing the region with a multi-million dollar conservation estate that will offer tremendous recreational, educational and scientific opportunities for present and future generations of New Zealanders and tourists.

As part of the establishment of the Kate Valley Landfill, Transwaste is setting aside and protecting forever a 410 hectare area of land in the middle and lower Kate Valley, to be known as Tiromoana Bush. This area is extraordinarily rich in scenic and natural values. Although it has been farmed as part of the Tiromoana Station for over a century, it still retains substantial areas of regenerating native bush and wetlands, which form the nucleus of the restoration plan.

The plan revolves around a major conservation and bush restoration programme funded by Transwaste, that will see the area eventually restored to a condition similar to the original lowland and coastal forest that



Permanent protection of the site will be secured through the establishment of an appropriate covenant, such as a QEII National Trust open space covenant. This will ensure that the restoration work undertaken at Tiromoana Bush will be protected and that the valuable restored bush area will remain accessible to future generations.

During the operational life of the landfill, Transwaste will directly fund the conservation and restoration work. Over the same period, the company will establish a production plantation forest on other land in the Kate Valley area. Once the landfill has closed, revenue from the forestry activity will provide a sustainable source of funding for ongoing conservation management of Tiromoana Bush.

Public Use

Public use is a major focus of the restoration plan, and will include recreational access, educational use and scientific research. A public walking track will be established in 2005. This loop track will take around 3 to 4 hours to walk, and will link Mt Cass Road to the coast, via the wildlife haven of Ella Ponds and the regenerating bush areas in the lower part of Kate Valley. The walk will incorporate the spectacular views of Pegasus Bay and Banks Peninsula, the high coastal cliffs, valley floor wetlands and native bush. The track will also provide foot access to the Ella Peak Scenic Reserve, and the remote beach, from spur tracks. This walk has a bit of everything, and will be very rewarding for people on many levels.

Schools and tertiary institutions from Canterbury and further afield will be able to take advantage of the educational opportunities available at Tiromoana Bush to learn about bio-diversity, forest restoration, wildlife and conservation, and participate in some of the activities involved, such as tree planting. Scientific research providers are very enthusiastic about using

the area for restoration and other conservation research.

Information boards will be placed along the public walkway, explaining the restoration and conservation processes occurring.

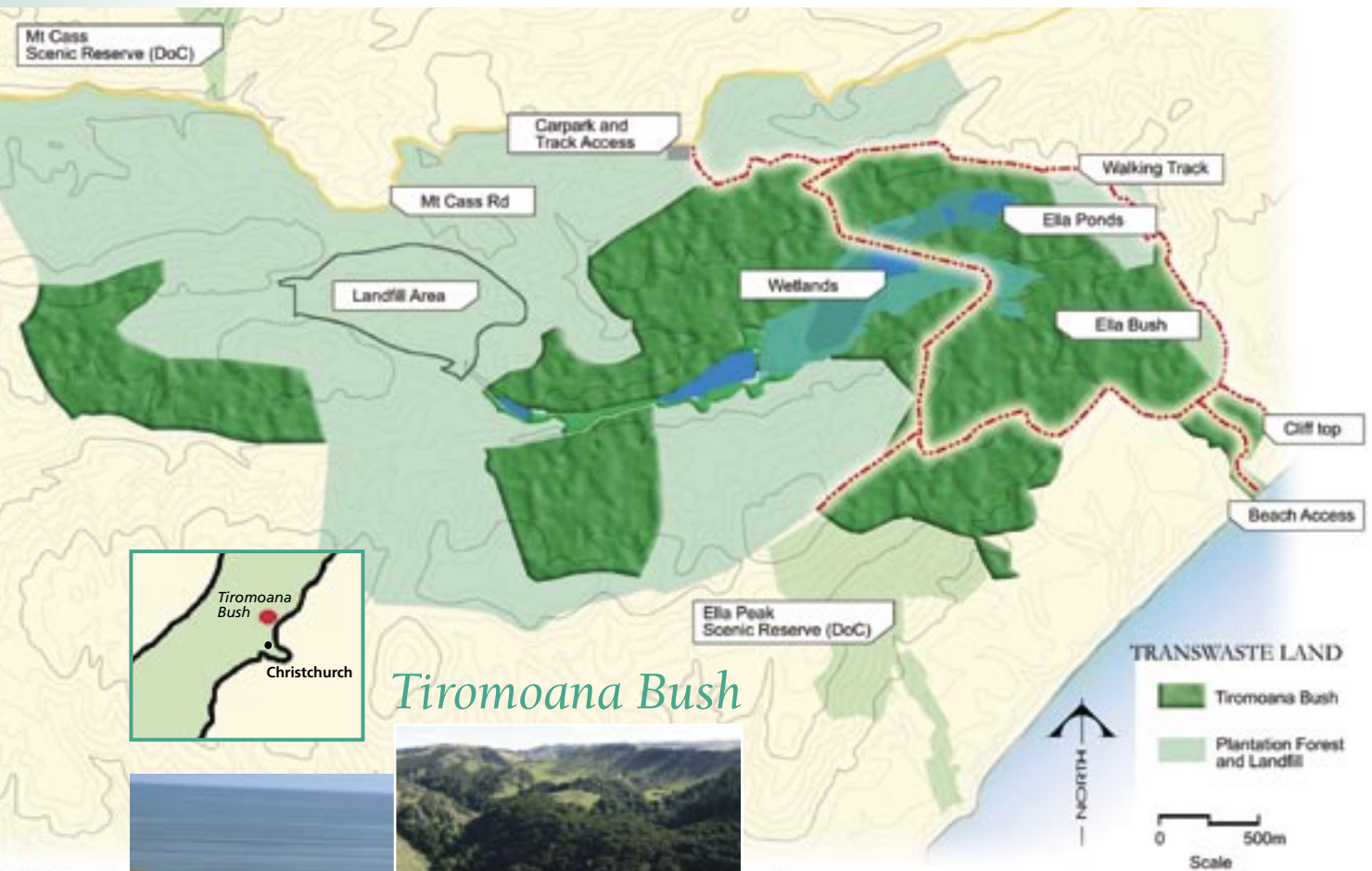
Tiromoana Bush has the potential to become a major drawcard in the Hurunui District, attracting a wide variety of people ranging from Sunday afternoon strollers to serious trampers, eco-tourists, school and tertiary students, scientists and those interested in conservation and environmental restoration.

Technical Details

The restoration plan, which has been developed by Dr David Norton of the University of Canterbury's School of Forestry, sees the Tiromoana Bush over a long period restored to a predominantly forest ecosystem, including coastal broadleaved, mixed podocarp-broadleaved and black beech forests, where the plants and animals typical of the Motunau Ecological District persist without threat of extinction, and where people visit for recreation and to appreciate the restored natural environment.

A key assumption underlying the approach to the restoration of Tiromoana Bush is that active restoration will work with natural successional processes. Strategically located plantings will be used to facilitate and speed up these natural processes in conjunction with proactive plant and animal pest control, but letting nature sort out eventual ecosystem composition and structure appropriate to the site's environment. The restoration will be a mixture of the minimum interference management approach used successfully at Banks Peninsula sites such as Hoon Hay Valley and Hinewai Reserve, as well as the more active planting approach used successfully at sites as diverse as Kennedy's Bush Scenic Reserve, Port Hills, and at





Tiromoana Bush

West Coast mine sites. The basic approach to restoration is to remove browse pressure allowing natural regeneration, and the establishment of appropriate species for restoration plantings in strategic locations, so that these species facilitate subsequent plant and animal establishment, and provide habitat for key native birds.

Restoration Plan Outcomes

At the end of the 35-year resource consent period of the Kate Valley Landfill, the following outcomes will have been achieved within the Tiromoana Bush as a direct result of the Restoration Plan:

1. Vigorous regeneration will be occurring within the existing areas of shrubland and forest, sufficient to ensure that natural successional processes are

leading towards the development of mature lowland forest appropriate to local conditions.

2. The existing korimako (bellbird) population has expanded and kereru (woodpigeon) are now residing within the area.
3. The beech forest known as “Remnant B” has been secured and enhanced in terms of the area of black beech.
4. Restoration plantings and natural regeneration will have been sufficient to ensure good connectivity of regenerating forest between Remnant “B” and Ella Bush Significant Natural Area (SNA).
5. At least one additional black beech site has been established.
6. The area is being actively used for recreational, educational and scientific purposes.

Annual restoration work plans will include the specific tasks that are required to achieve these outcomes. The bush restoration programme and annual work plans will be overseen by an advisory group which will include experts in restoration and related sciences as well as neighbours and representatives of the Hurunui District Council, Department of Conservation, and Transwaste.



Notable Aspects of Tiromoana Bush

- A large area of private land being set aside for permanent protection and management for conservation values.
- A rare example of the private sector and local government in partnership providing for ongoing conservation funding in a sustainable way.
- Provision of public access to previously inaccessible section of spectacular coast and beautiful lowland valley.
- The partnership between a private company and DoC resulting in positive outcomes for conservation and public access on land owned by both.
- Potential for the Tiromoana Bush to become nationally significant in conservation and biodiversity terms.
- Potential for eco-tourism.
- Highly unusual combination of environments and opportunities:
 - Both coast and lowland environments
 - Outstanding scenic views (Pegasus Bay, Banks Peninsula, sea cliffs, forested valleys, wetlands, farmland)
 - Extensive natural and restored wetlands
 - Native bush regeneration by active and passive restoration techniques
 - Extensive wildlife
 - Birdlife enhancement through targeted planting of key food species
 - Public access via walking tracks
 - Inclusion of existing Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) in protected area
 - Provision of public access to adjacent scenic reserve through private land
 - Sustainable funding provided by private company
 - Educational potential
 - Scientific research potential

Transwaste Canterbury

Transwaste Canterbury Limited is a public-private joint venture between six Canterbury Councils and the two largest private waste companies in New Zealand. The company has resource consents for the development and operation of a modern regional landfill for Canterbury, to be built in upper Kate Valley in North Canterbury. The Councils involved are Christchurch City, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Banks Peninsula and Ashburton Districts. The private companies are Envirowaste Services Ltd and Waste Management NZ Ltd, working through their own joint venture company Canterbury Waste Services Ltd.

DoC Partnership

The Tiromoana Bush restoration concept was developed in consultation with Department of Conservation staff. The process revealed the opportunity to link the adjacent Ella Peak Scenic Reserve, managed by DoC, to the larger Tiromoana Bush conservation area, providing easy public foot access to this area of outstanding indigenous vegetation for the first time. Transwaste and DoC have worked together to achieve an outcome where private land and neighbouring public conservation land can be managed in a complementary fashion to produce the best conservation and public access results for both.

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