

Totara Reserve Regional Park Newsletter

Welcome to what we hope will be the first of many Totara Reserve Regional Park newsletters.



Totara Reserve Regional Park is one of New Zealand's new regional parks.

Welcome



Me (Alistair Beveridge)
Environmental Manager

As Horizons Regional Environmental Manager, I'm very excited to be working with the team at Totara Reserve.

On 5 December 2006, Horizons Regional Council formalised a new

partnership with Manawatu District Council. The two councils now manage Totara Reserve and are at the first stage of turning it into a Regional Park.

Totara Reserve has had a tough time in recent years. In February 2004 just before Christmas the old campsite disappeared under water. The damage was extensive,

and silt covered the camp area.

In December last year tragedy hit, when in a freak disaster, a section of cliff collapsed and killed three children playing in the Pohangina River. Although there was no way of preventing this, we are recommending new swimming spots downstream, and you will see new notice boards giving information about safe and fun swimming in the Pohangina River.

Why this reserve is so important

This is one of our regions most important areas of natural beauty, containing many native plants and animals.

We don't have many areas of native bush left, and we feel it is increasingly important to look after what we do have for future generations.

Your new and improved campsite

This December we are opening your new campsite, situated just down the road and opposite the old one. It's been designed especially to give you privacy when you camp, and easy access to the river and campsite facilities.

The new campsite also includes new security, better signage and lots more space.





A totara canopy

Totara Reserve covers 340ha of land adjacent to the Pohangina River. The Reserve is named after one of the magnificent native forest canopy trees. Totara trees can grow to over 30m in just 100 years.

Totara is recognised by the distinctive bark which flakes off in thick brown slabs. In autumn the female trees produce tiny green seeds which are particularly attractive to birds.

Did you know that after the Kauri, the Totara may be the longest living native tree, living to more than 1000 years.

It's botanical name is Podocarpus Totara, a blending of Latin and Maori.

Exciting species we've spotted

(If you spot anything then please contact us and let us know)

Birds - Wood pigeon (Kereru), and Tui.

Insects - Weta

Trees - Rata, Matai, Kahikatea and Rewarewa amongst others.



Pests to watch out for

Horizons Regional Council and Manawatu District Council have been working hard over the last year to protect the plants and animals in Totara Reserve, and have been carrying out extensive pest control.

Watch out for weeds including Old Mans Beard, Banana

Passionfruit and Tradescantia (wandering willy).

Pest animals found at the Reserve include; Possums, Rats, Cats, Stoats, Deer, Sulphur Crested Cockatoo's.

Things to do at Totara



Map of site

We have eight easy walks through Totara Reserve, each leading through different types of bush. Several of the walks lead to stunning views of the valley and beyond.

Find more information on the web

Upcoming Events

This newsletter and more information is on our website www.horizons.govt.nz.

You can also find more information about Totara Reserve at www.mdc.govt.nz

We would love your feedback, so don't be shy about letting us know what you think.

How do I get a campsite

To book a campsite location please contact Manawatu District Council 06 323 0000 or have a look on their website.

Places will be booking up quickly so get in early!

