



sory committee. It included a complete sequence of forested landforms from the Lower Buller Gorge Scenic Reserve to the top of the Glasgow Range, along the entire length of the Orikaka River. The deletion of the central portion of the reserve, considered by PASAC in 1986 to be unnecessary in view of its other recommendations in the region, interrupts this reserve sequence and excludes two key features absent from other reserve in the region.

These include the exceptionally well developed communities of red, silver and hard beech (with and without podocarp species) in the mid Orikaka. These mixed beech forests have the highest biomass recorded by the Forest Service in the West Coast.

The other outstanding feature is the Tiger Pakihi, containing unmodified stunted vegetation on soils formed from coal measures. Elsewhere this stunted vegetation has

been severely modified by coal mining on the Stockton plateau. Blue duck are present in the Orikaka as are all native forest birds including great spotted kiwi.

Shenandoah A. R. (50 ha); **Glengarry A. R.** (830 ha) are both forested hillsides near the junction of the Maruia and Buller rivers. They would protect scenic views alongside the Shenandoah highway, and were proposed by the Victoria Forest Park Advisory Committee.

Murray Creek A. R. (2,300 ha) and **Waiuta A. R.** (1,200 ha) are very important goldmining historical sites proposed as reserves by Forest Service. Goldmining tracks have been superbly restored by the Forest Service who have encouraged recreational use of these areas and fostered public appreciation of the hardships and highlights of quartz reef mining of bygone days.

Woods Creek A. R. (380 ha) covers goldmine workings near Greymouth with walks developed by Forest Service through a fascinating maze of trenches and tunnels now covered in a mix of regrowth and virgin rimu forest.

Nancy's Clearing E. R. (400 ha — proposed 1981). Kahikatea forest encircles a privately owned flax swamp known as Nancy's Clearing, which is outside the reserve proposal. Kahikatea forest and flax swamps are now very rare in the northern South Island because of farm development. Fortunately the Nancy and Ahaura rivers blocked access to these forests.

Unlike many kahikatea stands that are isolated and little more than museum pieces, this stand is continuous with beech forest on the range behind down to the river banks. The Wildlife Service recommended