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The Native Flora of the Bridal Veil Falls Scenic Reserve

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THIS reserve is situated on the western side of the Raglan-Kawhia Highway, in E. long. 174° 53' 45", S. lat. 37° 54' 31".

It has an area of 538 acres, with a very diverse relief. The Pakoka River, flowing to the west, enters the reserve at a height of approximately 650ft a.s.l., passes over some low falls and rapids, and runs almost at grade for nearly half a mile before dropping 170ft over columnar basalt rock to form the Bridal Veil Falls. From there it flows in a narrow valley with a low gradient as it turns in a south-westerly direction.

On the northern side the valley rises steeply to a height of 900ft, and on the southern side it slopes more gradually to heights of 730ft and 740ft.

To the left of the entrance there is a swamp which has not been thoroughly examined yet for plants.

The shape of the reserve was a square, with sides one mile long, and the area was 640 acres. However, as it was traversed by the Raglan-Kawhia Highway, some of the eastern part was excluded from the reserve and sold to neighbouring farmers.

The area was bought from the Native owners to form the Te Mata State Forest Reserve, but in 1952 it was constituted a scenic reserve, to be administered by a board of control.

There has been no felling of trees except a few that were used to build a bridge.

Farm stock has been kept out of most of the reserve, but goats and opossums are spoiling some of the vegetation.

The soil is mainly weathered basalt.

The rainfall is similar to that of Raglan, seven miles away, namely 45.5in per annum.

The prevailing winds are westerly.

SPECIAL FEATURES

1. A profusion of *Cyathea medullaris*, *C. dealbata*, *C. smithii*, *Dicksonia*