



Welcome to Clevedon Scenic Reserve

The 100ha reserve and the adjoining Clevedon Stewardship reserves, with significant natural and cultural heritage value. Area contain one of the few intact areas of native forest left in Manukau.

History of the reserve

The area contains extensive Maori and early European history. Ngai Tai hapu (sub tribe) occupied Clevedon and the Hauraki Gulf area from around the 13th century. It is believed they arrived on the Tainui fleet of waka (canoe) from Polynesia.

A number of pa (fortified villages) and kaitinga (villages) were built by early Maori in the area. The rich forest and the fresh water streams would have provided Maori with essential resources for survival.

From the mid 19th century to the early 20th century, the reserve and surrounding area was once part of William Thorp's farm. William Thorp (the son of early Clevedon pioneers) was a keen conservationist and wanted to ensure that some of his farmland was preserved for public use and conservation.

The land was bought by the Wairoa Road Board as a quarry reserve in 1914. After a meeting with local ratepayers, it was gazetted as a scenic reserve in 1930. Control of the reserve was vested with Manukau County (now Manukau City Council) in 1957. The quarry has not been used since this time, and today the entire area has been retained for scenic, educational and recreational needs of the public.

The New Zealand Scout Association has been affiliated with Camp Sladdin since 1964 and has had a building on the reserve since 1966. The camp provides an ideal rural setting for young people to learn about camping and other outdoor pursuits.

Indigenous birdlife and other fauna

The forest is home to a variety of native birdlife species including tui, fantail (pīwakawaka), New Zealand pigeon (kēru), grey warbler (riririri), morepork (ruaru) and silvereye (tāhuhu). You can even see a kaka or shining cuckoo (pīpīwharaurau) if you are lucky. The reserve is also a habitat for many native insects such as weta and the fascinating puriri moth.

Vegetation

Lowland broadleaf forest is the main forest type within Clevedon Scenic Reserve. Broadleaf species include tarare, puriri, kōhekohe and karaka.

The reserve also contains ecologically valuable stands of trees belonging to the conifer/podocarp group. As you wander through the bush, look out for some fine podocarp specimens of kauri, rimu and kahikatea. The reserve also contains a viable population of king fern, which is in serious decline.

Wetland and stream habitats

The Taitaia stream is the main watercourse within the reserve. It meanders from the south-west through the reserve behind Camp Sladdin. The Taitaia stream heads off to the north-east where it meets with the Wairoa River. Within the bush there are many smaller unnamed streams which fluctuate depending on rainfall. In the old quarry site there is a water fall and fresh water wetland area.

Plant and animal pests

Unfortunately, like most of our natural areas in Manukau, the natural heritage of Clevedon Scenic Reserve is under constant threat by invasive plant and animal pests. Infestations of plant pests (weeds) mainly occur around the forest margins and in gaps in the forest. Predatory and browsing animal pests such as goats, possums, stoats and cats also pose significant threat to our native flora and fauna. Manukau Parks run an important pest management programme to help control pests within the reserve.

Reserve access and walkways

The reserve carpark and entrance is at the end of Thorps Quarry Road in Clevedon. There are toilets for public use situated next to the main carpark area.

Walkways (bush tracks) are marked on the map of this brochure and on the welcome sign at the reserve. The track to the summit and back down the other side takes about one to two hours depending on fitness level. The walk is recommended for people with a good level of fitness, as it is steep in places. There is also an easy five minute sidewalk to the old Thorps quarry site, which has a beautiful waterfall and stunning seating part of the reserve provides a boardwalk and stunning seating area for a picnic on a summer day.

Clevedon Scenic Reserve



Manukau Parks



Facilities to enjoy

There is a pedestrian footbridge across Taitaia stream, as well as a short Burma trail and plantings situated near the main carpark area.

There is a confidence course next to Camp Sladdin, containing an array of challenging activities. This facility is for enjoyment by everyone, but children below 14 years of age must be supervised by an adult.

The flying fox behind Camp Sladdin is for Scout use only and is not available to the general public.

The role of the community

The management of Clevedon Scenic Reserve presents an opportunity to involve the Clevedon community in the ecological restoration of the reserve. Community groups may like to get involved in projects such as animal and plant pest monitoring and control, or streamside revegetation (planting). If you are interested in volunteering on the reserve please contact the Manukau City Council call centre.

Reserve bylaws

- Dogs must be on a leash throughout all bush areas within the reserve, and controlled either on or off leash in all other parts of the reserve.
- Motorbikes and horses are prohibited on the reserve.
- It is an offence to remove or disturb any native plant or animal within the reserve.



Thorps Quarry Road, Clevedon

For more information contact:
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