

# Carter Scenic Reserve

## Wairarapa

JUNE 2007



Protect plants and animals

Remove rubbish

Bury toilet waste

Keep streams and lakes clean

Keep to the track

Consider others

Respect our cultural heritage

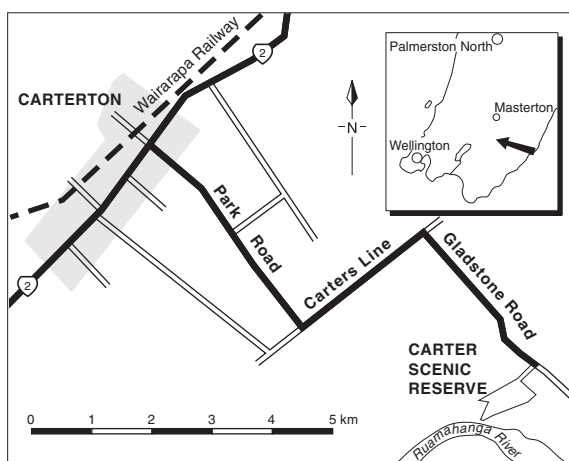
*Toitu te whenua  
(Leave the land undisturbed)*

In 1896, Charles Rooking Carter made provision in his will for protection of this part of his estate, and it was gazetted as a scenic reserve in 1921.

This area of swamp and semi-swamp forest on two old terraces of the Ruamahanga river represents a patchwork landscape that was once typical of Wairarapa—grass, wetland, shrubland, and forest. On the edges of the wetland where drainage improves, kahikatea forest changes to titoki with scattered kahikatea and matai. Totara occurs on the drier terrace slopes. In recent years, a change in local water patterns has altered the flow in this delicate ecosystem, resulting in the death of kahikatea and totara.

### How to get there

Carter Scenic Reserve is in Wairarapa, 12 km south-east of Carterton on Gladstone Road. From Carterton follow Park Rd to the end, turn left into Carters Line and right into Gladstone Rd. The reserve is signposted approx 3 km along Gladstone Rd. The carpark is about 500 m along the driveway.



### More information

#### Department of Conservation

**Wairarapa Area Office**  
South Rd, PO Box 191,  
Masterton 5840  
Ph: 06-377 0700  
Fax: 06-377 2976

**Wellington Visitor Centre**  
Conservation House,  
18 Manners St, Wellington.  
Ph: 04-384 7770;  
Fax: 04-384 7773  
E-mail:

Web: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz)

### Attractions and facilities



#### To Ruamahanga River

20 minutes each way. An easy stroll across the boardwalk through the swamp.

#### Kahikatea Walk

15 minutes return. Follow the boardwalk and return via the bush track.



The Ruamahanga River contains brown trout and eels. A licence, obtainable from sports shops, is required to fish for trout.



A pit-toilet is located near the carpark.



### Please remember



Please keep dogs on a leash.



Please do not take wheeled vehicles, including mountain bikes, beyond the carpark.



Please remove your litter. Recycle aluminium, glass, paper, and plastic.



Fires may not be lit in either the reserve or along the Ruamahanga River.



Hunting is NOT permitted. Possum trapping/poisoning is by permit only.

If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call DOC HOTline or the nearest Department of Conservation office.

**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For fire and search and rescue call 111

