

# Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve



PORIRUA

Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve and the adjacent Porirua Scenic Reserve protect the most significant area of native forest left in the Tawa–Porirua Basin. The landscape is steep and undulating, rising to Colonial Knob, 468 m above sea level. Colonial Knob is one of several visible remnants of a peneplain—an eroded land mass—that existed 30–40 million years ago. Earthquakes have since raised the peneplain, and it has eroded to form these hills.

## How to get there

The reserve is located on the hills west of Tawa and Linden. Access is via Broken Hill Road, off Raiha Street, which connects Kenepuru Drive and Prosser Street in Elsdon, Porirua. Colonial Knob Walking Track passes through the reserve, connecting the Broken Hill entrance with the Raiha Street entrance to Porirua Scenic Reserve.

## Attractions and facilities



Short walks lead through native bush to old reservoirs.



Colonial Knob Walking Track  
(Moderate, 3–4 hr return)

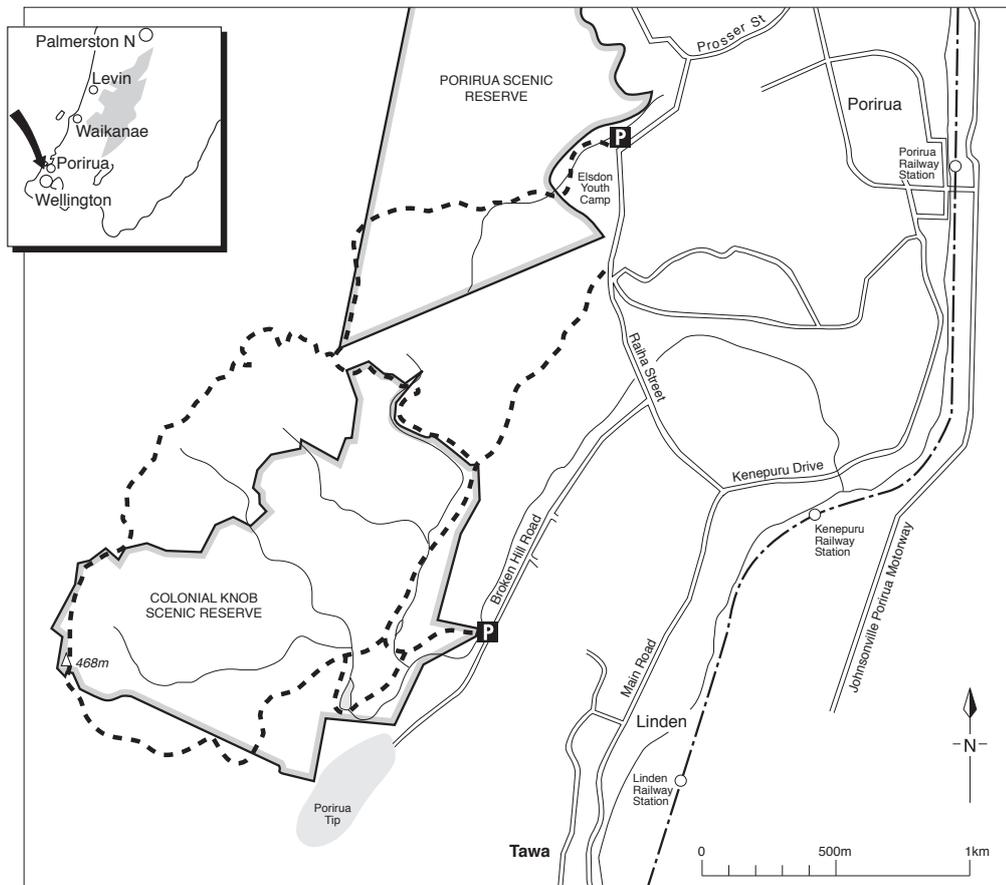
The walk is steep in places but can be completed by people of most ages and fitness levels. The top section is exposed to strong winds—carry warm clothing; take food and drink.



Views from the summit of Colonial Knob extend to Mount Taranaki in the north to the Kaikoura Range in the south.



Toilets by Elsdon Youth Camp are available for public use.



## Colonial Knob Walking Track

The track climbs through kohekohe/tawa forest which once contained large rimu and rata. These have all been logged from Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve, but some still remain in Porirua Scenic Reserve. On the higher slopes, the forest is dominated by mahoe with broadleaf, stinkwood and mapou. This community is usually associated with higher altitudes, and its presence reflects the influence of the weather on this environment.

In the late 19th century, two reservoirs were built in Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve to supply water to Porirua Hospital. They became redundant when the hospital was connected to the Porirua City water supply.

The view from the summit of Colonial Knob extends from the Kaikoura Range in the south to Mount Taranaki in the northwest. The islands of Mana and Kapiti are clearly seen offshore, and the drowned river valleys that make up Porirua Harbour are a prominent feature of the landscape. This is the only drowned river valley system in the Wellington region.

## Please remember

Colonial Knob Walking Track passes through private farmland in places. Please keep to the marked route across farmland.



## More information

### Department of Conservation

- Kapiti Wellington Area Office  
P.O. Box 141  
Waikanae  
Ph 04-296 1112
- DOC Wellington Visitor Centre  
18-23 Manners St  
Wellington  
Ph 04-384 7770  
Fax 04-384 7773
- For after hours conservation emergencies, call DOC HOTline 0800 362 468.

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

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



### Protect plants and animals

Treat New Zealand's forests and birds with care and respect. They are unique and often rare.

### Remove rubbish

Litter is unattractive, harmful to wildlife and can increase vermin and disease. Plan your visits to reduce rubbish, and carry out what you carry in.

### Bury toilet waste

In areas without toilet facilities, bury your toilet waste in a shallow hole well away from waterways, tracks, campsites, and huts.

### Keep streams and lakes clean

When cleaning and washing, take the water and wash well away from the water source. Because soaps and detergents are harmful to water-life, drain used water into the soil to allow it to be filtered.

If you suspect the water may be contaminated, either boil it for at least 3 minutes, or filter it, or chemically treat it.

### Keep to the track

By keeping to the track, where one exists, you lessen the chance of damaging fragile plants.

### Consider others

People visit the back country and rural areas for many reasons. Be considerate of other visitors who also have a right to enjoy the natural environment.

### Respect our cultural heritage

Many places in New Zealand have a spiritual and historical significance. Treat these places with consideration and respect.

### Enjoy your visit

Enjoy your outdoor experience. Take a last look before leaving an area; will the next visitor know that you have been there?

Protect the environment for your own sake, for the sake of those who come after you, and for the environment itself.

*Toitu te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed)*