

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: Raglan Run

Lease number: Pm 019

Conservation resources report

As part of the process of tenure review, advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease is provided by Department of Conservation officials in the form of a conservation resources report. This report is the result of outdoor survey and inspection. It is a key piece of information for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

The report attached is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

Copied November 2002

DELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

NELSON/MARLBOROUGH CONSERVANCY Internal Report No.19

Conservation Values of Raglan Pastoral Lease Wairau Valley, Marlborough (and recommendations for protection)

by

Mike Harding

Department of Conservation Private Bag 5 Nelson New Zealand

April 1995

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Bibliographic reference:

HARDING, M. 1995: A Survey of Conservation Values of Raglan Pastoral Lease, Wairau Valley, Marlborough (and recommendations for protection) Internal Report No.19, Nelson. 24 pp.

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Conservation Values	2
	2.1 Geology and Landforms	2
	2.2 Soils	2
	2.3 Vegetation and Flora	. و
	2.4 Fauna	1
	2.5 Landscape	δ
	2.6 History	8
	2.7 Recreation and Access	9
3.	Tenure Review Recommendations 3.1 Rationale and Background 3.2 Significant Conservation Areas 3.3 Other Protection Requirements	10
4.	Acknowledgments	16
5.	References Cited	17
6.	Photographs	18
~	Man	24

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

FEO THE INCH BY (B) D) BY COMP (B) C

This report describes the conservation values of the Raglan Pastoral Lease in the Wairau Valley in Marlborough. It identifies areas on the property that are significant for nature conservation, recreation, landscape, and historic resources protection. The assessment of these values is based on available literature and a field inspection of the property over three days in April 1995.

The purpose of this report is to identify the Department of Conservation's (DoC's) interest in the property as the first stage of a process of negotiated tenure review. It has been initiated in response to a request from the lessee of Raglan and this report will form the basis for the DoC input to the joint Landcorp/DoC submission to the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

The first part of this report describes the natural values of the property, including its geology, soils, flora, fauna, landscape, recreation, and historic values. The second part of the report describes the significant areas in more detail and recommends protection of these areas. The recommendations in this report are based on the readily-available information at the time of the field survey. It is likely that other significant values will be identified in the future, and DoC reserves the right to alter these recommendations in response to new information and to negotiate further protection for features on the property. The report does not investigate land use sustainability issues.

The Raglan Pastoral Lease covers approximately 2083 hectares on the northern flanks of the Raglan Range (the southern side of the Wairau River), including the alluvial terraces of the Wairau River. The property is leased by Bill and Robin Lacey and is a standard pastoral lease under the Land Act 1948. It is presently stocked with about 3700 sheep and about 100 cattle (Bill Lacey, pers.comm.). The property is fenced into three main blocks, and is subdivided into smaller units near the homestead.

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

PELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

29 CONSERVATION VALUES

2.1 GEOLOGY AND LANDFORMS

Basement rocks of the Raglan Range are comprised of strongly indurated, mostly graded and bedded greywacke and argillite formed from sediments deposited in the New Zealand Geosyncline during the Triassic Period. Collectively known as the Torlesse Group, this series includes minor conglomerates and volcanics (DSIR 1964). Outcropping rocks are predominantly weathered greywacke and argillite, and are generally confined to minor midslope bluffs or to the higher summits of the Raglan Range beyond the property boundary. The alluvial flats of the Wairau Valley are comprised of glacial outwash gravels of the Otira Glaciation, and more recent river and fan gravels. The flats closer to the river frequently have deep layers of river silt, deposited by recent floods.

The lower boundary of the property along the Wairau River follows the major Wairau (or Alpine) Fault, forming a marked geological boundary between the sedimentary rocks of the Marlborough mountains to the south and the ultramafic rocks of the Red Hills to the north. The property rises from 420 metres in the Wairau Valley, at the Wash Bridge, to about 1150 metres at its highest boundary approximately halfway up the slopes of the Raglan Range, over a distance of about 2 kilometres.

About 250 hectares of the leasehold property are recent silty flats; a further 450 hectares are comprised of glacial, river and fan gravels; and, the remainder of the property is located on gentle to steep slopes or ridges. The most prominent landform features of the property are the glacially-carved front slopes of the Raglan Range, facing the Wairau Valley. These slopes are bisected by small rivers which have cut down through the bedrock to form incised valleys with steep and broken upper headwaters. The property boundary cuts across these slopes, traversing the lower catchments of the small tributary rivers.

2.2 SOILS

The steeper upper slopes on the property support steepland yellow-brown earths (Gibbs 1980). These Class VIIe soils are prone to moderate sheet and slip erosion and generally support short tussock grassland or shrubland associations. On the lower slopes these soils are deeper and less erosion-prone, and support denser pasture or shrubland. The alluvial flats support soils with only negligible to slight potential for erosion and a cover of high-producing pasture or, in some places, shrubland or kanuka forest. Soils throughout the property support good vegetative cover and only minor areas of bare ground were observed.

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

2.3 VEGETATION AND FLORA

Vegetation History:

There is scant record of the early vegetation of the Wairau Valley. It seems likely that the upper Wairau Valley was entirely forested in pre-human times, possibly with the exception of the more recent alluvial flats beside the river. There is good evidence, from charcoal deposits, that there was widespread burning throughout the eastern South Island in prehuman times (Molloy 1977) but it is unlikely that these fires would have spread as far west as the upper Wairau Valley. The wetter climate, and denser beech forests, of this area would probably have remained relatively intact until the first deliberate burning occurred. There is no mention of the need to burn the countryside when Nathaniel Morse and Dr. John Cooper squatted on 'open country' to graze 1000 sheep on the 'Tophouse Run' (now part of Raglan and Rainbow) in 1846 (Newport 1962). Presumably pre-European fires had removed forest from at least the valley floor. The recent alluvial flats of the Wairau River would have supported plant communities very similar to those present today. Frequent flooding would have maintained a mosaic of open gravels, low herb communities, kanuka shrublands, and patches forest containing kowhai (Sophora microphylla), beech, lancewood (Pseudopanax crassifolius), and podocarps. However, it is possible that the bed of the Wairau River is less stable today due to greater sediment loads. Newport (1974) notes that the Wash Bridge was 76 feet above the river when constructed in 1926, but only 20 feet above the river in 1972.

The existing vegetation on Raglan is a mixture of intact beech forest in the side streams and gullies that have escaped burning; strongly regenerating kanuka forest on previously burnt slopes; modified short tussock grasslands on the upper slopes of the main valley sides; pasture on the lower slopes and alluvial flats; and, patches of tall kanuka and mixed shrubland on lower terrace faces or flats. Smaller areas of mixed kowhai, kanuka, and lancewood are present at lower altitudes near the Wairau River, and there is a large raupo wetland on the lower flats between Bush Camp and Possum Stream. These plant communities are described in more detail below.

Beech forests:

Extensive areas of intact forest are confined to the main tributary valleys that dissect the northern flanks of the Raglan Range, and smaller remnants in gullies on the front faces, where fires have not penetrated. These mixed beech forests are representative of the original plant communities that covered most of the property in pre-human times. They are dominated by red beech (*Nothofagus fusca*), silver beech (*N.menziesii*), and black/mountain beech (*N.solandri*). Red beech is more dominant at lower altitude and warmer sites; silver beech is scattered throughout; black beech is more common along the lower stream sides; and, mountain beech dominates at higher altitudes and on drier ridges. Common sub canopy species present include broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*), putaputaweta (*Carpodetus serratus*), *Coprosma linariifolia*, lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*), mountain totara (*Podocarpus hallii*), and occasional pokaka (*Elaeocarpus hookerianus*).

Understorey and forest floor species include: bush lawyer (Rubus cissoides and R. schmidelioides), Coprosma rhamnoides, Coprosma aff.parviflora, prickly mingimingi (Cyathodes juniperina), mingimingi (L. fasciculatus), weeping matipo (Myrsine

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNDER OFFICIAL INFORMATIO

"ivaricata), Pseudopanax anomalus, Gaultheria antipoda, Helichrysum aggregatum, Ackly shield fem (Polystichum vestitum), Blechmum penna-marina, leather-leaf fem (Pyrrosia eleagnifolia), and Lagenifera sp.

This forest community is more diverse along streamsides and in damp gullies, and includes the following additional species: kanuka (Kunzea ericoides), manuka (Leptospermum scaparium), kowhai, wineberry (Aristotelia serrata), fuchsia (Fuchsia excorticata), mahoe (Melicytus ramiflorus), kohuhu (Pittosporum temuifolium), lemonwood (P.eugenioides), karamu (Coprosma robusta), C.robusta x propinqua, C.crassifolia, stinkwood (C.foetidissima), Hebe "squalida", H.traversii, koromiko (H.salicifolia), three finger (Pseudopanax "ternatus"), tree daisy (Olearia avicenniifolia), ongaonga (Urtica ferox), mountain flax (Phormium cookianum), Astelia fragrans, climbing rata (Metrosideros diffusa), Parsonsia capsularis, water fern (Histiopteris incisa), tarawera (Pellaea rotundifolia), crown fern (Blechmum discolor), B. fluviatile, kiokio (B.aff.capense), and hound's tongue fern (Phymatosorus diversifolius)

Kanuka forests/shrublands:

Kanuka is the most common woody plant colonising pastureland on the property. It forms extensive shrublands on sites that have escaped recent fires and provides the main habitat for the strongly-regenerating beech forests. Beech forest margins, especially along ridgelines, have tall senescent kanuka in the subcanopy, indicating the re-emergence of beech through earlier kanuka shrublands.

On drier ridges and slopes the even-canopied kanuka shrublands include the following understorey species: manuka, prickly mingimingi, mingimingi, Gaultheria antipoda, Helichrysum aggregatum, tauhinu (Cassinia vauvilliersii), bracken (Pteridium esculentum), Lycopodium scariosum, frequently with seedlings of broadleaf, lancewood, and beech.

Taller kanuka forest, particularly stream side forest, contains a greater diversity of subcanopy and understorey species, including (in addition to the above species): kohuhu, putaputaweta, karamu, *C.robusta* x *propinqua*, *C.linariifolia*; *C.rhamnoides*, koromiko, *Hebe vernicosa*, tree daisy, weeping matipo, mountain wineberry (*Aristotelia fruticosa*), ti tree (*Cordyline australis*), *Astelia fragrans*, and kiokio. These mature kanuka forests frequently grade into the stream side mixed beech forest described above, as beech replaces kanuka as the main canopy species.

On fertile alluvial sites, kanuka forms dense-canopied stands, with a sparse understorey which includes: Coprosma linariifolia, C.propinqua, bush lawyer (Rubus schmidelioides), Corokia cotoneaster, Pseudopanax anomalus, and weeping matipo. These forests have a dense and diverse ground cover of herbs, including: Ramunculus reflexus, Nertera depressa, Lagenifera pumila, selfheal (Prunella vulgaris), Chiloglottis cornuta, Lycopodium fastigiatum, and occasionally Botrichyum biforme. On damper sites, where the canopy is more open, additional species include: bracken, Lycopodium scariosum, kiokio, and pokaka.

Tall kanuka is also the dominant species in a slightly different plant community, present on the terrace faces (risers) on the lower altitude parts of the property. This diverse

RELEASED UNDER OFFICIAL INFORMATION ASI

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

community includes large broadleaf, kowhai, putaputaweta, lancewood, and Coprosma linariifolia, with, Coprosma rhamnoides, C.propinqua, weeping matipo, tree daisy, Corokia cotoneaster, prickly mingi mingi, mingimingi, Gaultheria antipoda, matagouri, koromiko, Hebe "squalida", tutu (Coriaria sarmentosa), bracken, kiokio, crown fern, Blechnum penna-marina, Lycopodium scariosum, mountain flax, Gingidia montana, and Celmisia monroi.

Mixed hardwood forest:

At scattered low-altitude sites on the property, usually near alluvial fans or terrace edges, a kowhai-dominated forest is present. This usually includes some tall kanuka, lancewood, and, on damp sites, fuchsia. These forest remnants are very confined and, at two sites, include remnant matai (*Prumnopitys toxifolia*) trees (Bill Lacey, pers, comm.).

Shrublands:

Most shrublands are dominated by kanuka, as described above. However, on the fertile flats, often near kanuka stands, are scattered plants of *Coprosma propinqua*, *Corokia cotoneaster*, weeping matipo, matagouri, and *Pseudopanax anomalus*, frequently with *Rubus schmidelioides*, and *Muehlenbeckia complexa*.

At higher altitude sites, and frequently invading depleted grasslands, is a sparse shrubland of: inaka (*Dracophyllum longifolium* and *D.uniflorum*), tauhinu, *Hebe anomala*, and *Coprosma pseudocuneata*, with occasional mid-ribbed snow tussock (*Chionochloa pallens*).

Grasslands:

Modified short tussock grasslands dominate on open sites on the upper slopes. Prominent species include: fescue tussock (Festuca novae-zelandiae), sweet vernal (Anthoxanthum odoratum), brown top (Agrostis capillaris), Rytidosperma sp., Raoulia subsericea, snowberry (Gaultheria "nz"), Leucopogon fraseri, L.suaveolens, Helichrysum bellidioides, harebell (Wahlenbergia albomarginata), Ramunculus foliosus, Geranium sessiliflorum, Gaultheria macrostigma, Acaena caesiiglauca, creeping pohuehue (Muehlenbeckia axillaris), Pimelea oreophila, Gnaphalium audax, Gentiana aff. tenuifolia, Anisotome aromatica, Viola cumninghamii, Blechnum penna-marina, Lycopodium fastigiatum, Luzula rufa, Polytrichum juniperinum, sheep's sorrel (Rumex acetosella), clover (Trifolium sp.), catsear (Hypochoeris radicata), and mouse-ear hawkweed (Hieracium pilosella).

On open rocky ground, particularly steeper ridges, the following additional species are present: Gingidia montana, Scleranthus uniflorus, cotton daisy (Celmisia speciabilis), and occasionally Coprosma acerosa ssp.brunnea.

At higher altitudes, especially on depleted sites, these grasslands are dominated by: cotton daisy, *Raoulia subsericea*, *Racomitrium* moss, blue tussock (*Poa colensoi*), *Lycopodium fastigiatum*, and patches of mouse-ear hawkweed. Frequently they are being colonised by kanuka, manuka, tauhinu, or inaka.

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNDFO

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

lower altitudes these grasslands grade into a denser sward of introduced pasture grasses, and a correspondingly reduced diversity of native herbs. Silver tussock (*Poa cita*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lunatus*) are also present. These grasslands form the dominant cover on the recently-burnt and topdressed lower country. On all except very lush pasture, they are being colonised by kanuka, manuka, tauhinu, and other shrubs.

Wetlands:

There is one major wetland on the property, on the lower terraces between Bush Camp Stream and Possum Stream. It extends over approximately 20 hectares, with minor areas of adjoining damp pastureland. The wettest parts of the wetland, where the standing water is at least 300mm deep, are dominated by dense raupo (*Typha orientalis*). Surrounding the raupo, in shallower water, are the rushes *Baumea rubiginosa*, *Juncus gregiflorus*, and jointed rush (*J. articulatus*), and sedges *Carex secta* and *C. geminata*. Other species within the wetland are: *Pratia angulata*, *Potamogeton cheesemanii*, kiokio, *Parsonsia capsularis*, blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) and lotus (*Lotus pedunculatus*).

On the wetland margins a scattered shrubland is present, dominated by kanuka, lancewood, kowhai, ti tree, karamu, *Coprosma propinqua*, *C.robusta x propinqua*, *C.crassifolia*, and swamp broom (*Carmichaelia arborea* var.).

Riverbeds:

The beds of most of the small rivers that cross the property are active and unstable, as they carry large quantities of gravel from the upper catchments to the lower valleys. A distinctive flora is present on these riverbeds, especially on the more stable gravel terraces. Species present include: tutu, tree tutu (Coriaria arborea), Raoulia tenuicaulis, R. glabra, R. hookeri, creeping pohuehue, Helichrysum bellidioides, Blechnum penna-marina, mouse-ear hawkweed, white clover (Trifolium repens), and occasional ragwort (Senecio jacobaea). More stable sites are frequently colonised by matagouri, Coprosma propinqua, manuka, and kanuka.

Flora:

The property was probably once entirely forested, with the exception of stream beds, wetlands, and the recent alluvial flats. The mixed beech forest present on the property has a greater affinity, due to rainfall, to the forests of Nelson Lakes National Park and North Westland, rather than to the forests of inland Marlborough. The absence of West Coast species, such as kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*), and the presence of some typically dryforest species, such as mountain totara, suggest that the forest is transitional between the two regions. The mixed beech forests on the property are not unique, but they do represent an important eastern extension of the forests of the upper Wairau Valley and Nelson Lakes area and are important for forest bird populations, especially at lower altitudes (see 'Fauna' below).

The presence of kowhai forest remnants, and isolated matai, indicates that a mixed hardwood/podocarp forest may have been more common on the fertile river flats, where tall kanuka and pasture are now dominant. Podocarps are rare in the upper Wairau Valley and, with the associated kowhai forest, would have provided a very important seasonal

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNTIL THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

food source for forest birds. Kowhai is still common along stream sides and on river flats on the property and is probably still very significant for forest birds in the area.

The kanuka shrublands on the property are generally successional communities which, if protected from fire, will eventually regenerate back to mixed beech forest. The older stands of kanuka, with a high closed canopy, are more isolated, but provide important habitat for the native robin. However, the primary significance of most shrublands on the property is their role as a successional species, allowing the eventual establishment of taller beech forest.

Grasslands on the property have been induced by burning and grazing. They are, in most cases, highly modified. Only the higher altitude grasslands (above about 850 metres) have a significant component of native species, and these are typical of eastern South Island short tussock grasslands.

There is a significant absence of introduced woody weeds on the property. Pine plantings are confined to the homestead area, willow is virtually absent from the river bed, and isolated occurrences of broom and gorse are well controlled. Blackberry and lotus are present in the wetland, and a range of herbaceous weeds are present in the grasslands. Sweet brier (Rosa rubiginosa), and Spanish heath (Erica lusitanica) are also present, but are nowhere common.

No endangered or vulnerable plant species were observed on the property, though severally locally rare or interesting species are present, notably Coprosma acerosa var.brunnea, Botrychium biforme, Gentiana aff temuifolia, and matai.

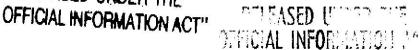
2.4 FAUNA

A thorough investigation of fauna was not undertaken as part of the field inspection of the property, as the survey focussed on plant communities. However all animals encountered were observed and noted.

Common bird species observed in forest or shrubland communities were: bellbird, rifleman, fantail, redpoll, blackbird, chaffinch, yellowhammer, grey warbler, silvereye, tomtit, song thrush, and brown creeper. Robin, tui, parakeet, and falcon were also observed in some areas. Kereru are occasionally seen (Bill and Robin Lacey pers.comm.) on the property, and both kaka and kea are present in the area. On open country the following additional species were observed: harrier, welcome swallow, goldfinch, hedgesparrow, skylark, NZ pipit, magpie, paradise duck, spur-winged plover, black shag, and California quail. Fernbird were heard in the vicinity of the wetland. Other species recorded from the area during the Ornithological Society survey between 1969 and 1979, were morepork and kingfisher (Bull et al, 1985).

The common skink (Leiolopisma nigriplantare polychroma) was observed during the field inspection of the property, and the common gecko (Hoplodactylus maculatus) and roughscaled gecko (Heteropholis rudis) have been recorded from the area by Pickard and Towns (1988). A green lizard (possibly the Nelson green gecko Heteropholis stellatus) has been observed in tall manuka forest at the western end of the property (Bill and Robin Lacey,

"RELEASED UNDER THE



pags.comm.). It is possible that a fuller survey of the property would reveal the presence of the property species.

Feral red deer were observed in Dover Stream, and deer sign was abundant in the forested valleys. Possum sign was seen throughout, and pig sign was observed at the western end of the property near Bull Paddock Flat. Hares and rabbits were seen, but were nowhere abundant. A stoat was sighted near the wetland, and wasps (especially the common wasp) were very common in the beech forest. Cats, ferrets, hedgehogs, rats, and nuce are also likely to be present.

2.5 LANDSCAPE

Visually, the property is dominated by the steep flanks of the Raglan Range, especially the open glacially-smoothed faces which rise from the alluvial flats of the Wairau River to the main side ridges of the range. These faces dominate the views gained by travellers from the Wairau Valley highway (State Highway 63), between Mariborough and the West Coast. When forested, these slopes would have appeared similar to the valley sides further up the Wairau, or in the Nelson Lakes area. Now they are prominently patterned by more than a century of burning. While the effects of burning are very obvious, burning has been influenced by the natural contour of the landscape - deeper gullies have remained fully forested and smaller gullies have dense kanuka, sometimes with a core of beech forest - as successive fires have swept up the drier ridges and open faces. Apart from the reafforestation of these faces through natural succession, the best option for landscape protection is to prevent the further burning of kanuka and beech in the gullies and to only allow burning of the existing open faces at lower altitudes that are absolutely necessary to maintain farm production. Furthermore, a significant feature of the alluvial flats on the southern side of the Wairau River is the almost complete absence of introduded trees and shrubs, such as willow, pines, broom, or gorse. Ideally, tree planting should be prevented and weed control should continue.

The property forms a significant landscape feature in the region and is especially important because of its visibility from a tourist highway. While the recommendations above are far from ideal, they should at least ensure that the scenic values of the property are maintained, rather than degraded.

2.6 HISTORY

The earliest recorded settlement in the region was Te Waikawa o Omaka near the Wairau River Lagoon (Ngatapuwae Trust 1994). The Wairau River was named Nga Wai o Rauone and provided access to the hinterland. Another settlement (Te Ata Po) is recorded in the upper Motueka River, on a route from Tasman Bay to Lake Rotoiti and then on to Canterbury via Tophouse and the upper Wairau River (Ta Ara Whanui A Maui) (ibid). Brailsford (1984) describes the Wairau Valley as a subsidiary pounamu (greenstone) trail, connecting with the Buller River Trail to the West Coast, and the Wairoa - Wairau Trail to Nelson. There are no known pre-European historic sites on the property.

The first recorded European visitor to the upper Wairau Valley was J.S. Cotterell, who crossed the 'Tophouse Pass' in November 1842 and visited Lake Rotoiti in January 1843 (Newport 1974). The first sheep were driven into the Wairau Valley from Nelson in 1846

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNIT OFFICIAL INFORM.

by Nathaniel Morse and Dr. John Cooper, who squatted on open country that now forms parts of the Raglan and Rainbow properties (Newport 1962). They built their house (named Tophouse) on a terrace within hearing distance of the Wairau River and established the first sheep station in the upper Wairau Valley, with 1000 sheep (ibid). When depasturage licences were first issued in 1849, the Raglan Run covered the southeastern side of the Wairau River from the Branch River to the Wairau Gorge, and the licensee was Charles Christie (Denton 1981). In 1854 the licensee was Dr. Joseph Foord Wilson and the run's eastern boundary was at its present position just east of the homestead. The Raglan Run transferred to George Schroder in 1855 and then to Dr. Thomas Renwick and Samuel Robinson, who added it to their Birch Hill Run, in 1858 (ibid).

While part of Birch Hill, Raglan was mustered by crossing the Wairau at Woolshed Flat (between Tophouse and Rainbow), crossing the Raglan Range into 'Misery Gully', and taking the sheep out to the Branch River down Silverstream (Newport 1962). The original Tophouse was deserted by 1853 and an accommodation house was built on Manuka Island to provide shelter for travellers crossing the treacherous Wairau River. The Birch Hill Run was resumed by the Crown in about 1900 and the component runs (Raglan, Leatham, Branch Point, and Manuka Island) were re-issued as separate units (Newport 1962). The Wash Bridge was constructed across the Wairau River, near the homestead, in 1926. In 1976 approximately 590 hectares of steep upper country were surrendered from the lease as part of a Soil and Water Conservation Plan. The present lessees, Bill and Robin Lacey, took up the Raglan Lease in 1979. No buildings on the property are of sufficient age to warrant further investigation for historic resources protection.

2.7 RECREATION AND ACCESS

The Raglan Pastoral Lease is rarely, if ever, used by trampers. The main focus for trampers in the area is the summit of the Raglan Range beyond the property boundary. A four-wheel-drive road provides access to the range, formerly for soil conservation plantings of introduced species. This is a popular walk (Marlborough Tramping Club, pers.comm.) and provides opportunities for longer trips back to the Branch River. Hunters occasionally seek permission for access across the property (Bill Lacey, pers.comm.) and there is likely to be other informal use of the area by hunters, especially in the forested headwaters of the small rivers on the property. There has been no apparent interest expressed in four-wheel drive, horse, or mountain bike access. Fishermen frequently use the Wairau River adjoining the property.

There are no public huts on the property, and small huts and bivouacs in the Dover Stream and Netting Stream catchments have been recently relocated to other areas in the Conservancy. Marginal strips traverse all the significant streams on the property, from the Wairau River to the public conservation land on the Raglan Range, except for Possum Stream where the strip only extends as far as the forest margin.

"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

RELEASED UNTIL ACT

