Wairarapa Moana - Boggy Pond

Facilities

- Parking
- Walking tracks
- Mountain biking
- Dog walking (on leash)
- Bird watching

Highlight
Wairarapa Moana, the eye of the fish of Maui, is the third largest lake in the North Island. The lake contains an abundance of special flora and fauna and is a bird watchers delight.

Description, values & significance
Wairarapa Moana is traditionally and spiritually important to Māori providing a harvest of eel, fish, waterfowl, flax and raupo. Part of the largest wetland complex in the southern North Island, the lake edge supports over 40 native aquatic turf plants such as swamp grass, and a nationally threatened gecko. Well worth a look, the floodgates at the bottom of the lake have helped reduce the lake from 210 square km to its current size of 78 square km.

Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit
To get to the Wairarapa Moana Scenic Reserve, head north from Wellington, turn right off State Highway 2 at the start of Featherston onto the Western Lake Road which takes you around the shores of the lake to the signposted reserve. To get to Boggy Pond, access is via Parera Road, off Kahutara Road.

Threatened species/species of interest
There are two nationally threatened fish species, the brown mudfish and giant kōkopu living in the wetlands. Eel and black flounder also migrate from the sea from midsummer. The eastern side of the lake, the most significant area for wildlife, provides habitat for the bar-tailed godwit, golden plover, banded dotterel, Japanese snipe, Caspian tern, white heron, pied stilt, wrybill, NZ dabchick, white fronted turn, bittern, royal spoonbill and breeding colonies of black and pied shag.

Key threats
Flood management (in an effort to tame the lakes natural process of rejuvenating seasonal floods), introduction of exotic species and farming have altered the ecology, hydrology and geology of the area forever. Pollution from waste entering from the Ruamahanga River and surrounding farms has degraded the water quality and fishery.
Walks (length)
A new viewing hide accessed via an 800m walking and mountain biking track. Return to the road, or explore a longer 2.6km loop.

Walks (grade)
Easy

How to get there

Manager
Department of Conservation

Protection status
The majority of the wetlands surrounding Wairarapa Moana are protected as either conservation areas or wildlife and scenic reserves, managed by the Department of Conservation.