Rewanui Bush Park

**Facilities**
- Parking
- Walking tracks
- Dog walking
- Mountain biking
- Horse riding (ask permission first)
- Bird watching
- Look out

**Highlight**
A working farm, recreational reserve and native bush habitat all rolled into one. Rewanui is an exciting example of how farming and native biodiversity can be managed synchronously and proof that they are not necessarily exclusive.

**Description, values & significance**
The 334 hectare Rewanui Bush Park is one of the best remaining examples of lowland forest in the Wellington region. Rewanui combines areas of native bush, open grassland and commercial plantations of both native and exotic species. The forest remnants have been fenced off protecting them from stock and the understory regeneration abounds. The property is important for biodiversity as well as a recreational asset hosting events like adventure racing, horse riding, and dog trials.

**Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit**
Rewanui Bush Park is located on Wairarapa’s east coast, 22 km east of Masterton on Masterton Castlepoint Road. Turn right into Te Ore Ore Road on the northern outskirts of masterton, this road becomes Masterton Castlepoint Road. The Rewanui Forest Park car park is on the left about 1.5km beyond a slow vehicle bay. Look for a red roofed woolshed about 200 metres off the road, the car park is straight in front of it.

**Threatened species/species of interest**
The original bush remnant (with walking tracks amongst it) consists of species such as rewarewa, totara, matai, titoki, lacebark, rimu, pukatea and at least one northern rata and is also home to a rare gecko. Mature lowland forest is rare in Wairarapa and Rewanui is one of 49 sites listed by the Department of Conservation as ‘Category One Recommended Areas for Protection’. The bush forms an important link in a chain of forest remnants connecting the Tararua Ranges to the coast.

**Key threats**
The usual suspects threatening much of the New Zealand forest are also at work here including, rats, possums, mustelids, escaped stock, feral cats, rabbits and hares, with many being managed intensively. The small forest blocks on the property have a large edge-to-core area ratio and suffer altered climatic conditions and composition at the forest edges.
Walks (length)
There are three walking tracks in the Rewanui Bush Park, from the moderately graded ‘Totara Loop’ bush walk (which takes about an hour), to the relatively steep and exposed ‘Mt Clyde Trig’ (takes about 2 hours return trip). The latter climbs to 300 metres over rolling grassland and rocky outcrops and has 360 degree views of the Wairarapa from the top of the trig. The grass provides a nice contrast to the bush and allows ample opportunity for picnic spots. A nice compromise is the ‘Matai Loop’ bush walk, which will also take two hours and offers fantastic vistas as you climb up through the bush. The loop tracks through the Richardson Bush are designed to visit as many of the big trees as possible, while the Mount Clyde track gives good views of the surrounding countryside.

Walks (grade)
There are three walking tracks for varying abilities. Matai Loop - Moderate level of walking ability. Totara Loop - Easy to moderate walking track. Mt Clyde Trig - Easy to moderate walking track.

Community Involvement
Many community groups have a role at Rewanui. The Queen Elizabeth II Trust and Probus groups help maintain the area. Tinui and Whareama schools, with help from ‘Ducks Unlimited’, help plant the wetland area.

Manager
Montford Trimble Trust Foundation

Protection status
Forest Park