

**YARNDLEYS BUSH SCENIC RESERVE**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**



## **YARNDLEYS BUSH SCENIC RESERVE**

### **APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This management plan was prepared by Mr D West, Planning Officer Reserves, Waipa District Council, in accordance with the requirements of Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977.

This reserve has been classified in accordance with Section 19 of the Reserves Act 1977.

The Management Plan shall provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation, as the case may require, and, to the extent that the administering body's resources permit, the development, as appropriate, of the reserve for the purposes for which it is classified.

This Management Plan is designed to provide guidelines for future decisions made about the reserve. It will also give indications of appropriate uses in the reserve and how these should be regulated.

This is a certified copy of the final management plan adopted by resolution of the Waipa District Council at a meeting held 31 May 1993.



Garry Dyet  
**DISTRICT PLANNER**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This management plan provides objectives and policies for the preservation, use and development of the reserve.

Yarndleys is a good example of Kahikatea dominant swamp forest of a type which is estimated to have been wide spread in the Waikato basin<sup>1</sup>. At 14.5 ha its size and location, adjacent to State Highway 3, contribute to its high impact on the Waipa landscape. With only 120 ha of this type of forest remaining in the Waipa region and much of that doomed due to lowered water tables the significance of this forest in a preserved state is even greater.

### 1.1 Location & Access

The reserve lies within a small catchment formed by the angle of State Highway 3 and Ngaroto Road, approximately 4 km north of Te Awamutu. Legal access is unformed from Ngaroto Road. See Figure 1.

### 1.2 History

The forest is surrounded by the dairy farm of the Yarndley family currently owned by third generation farmer Sandy Yarndley and his wife Jan.

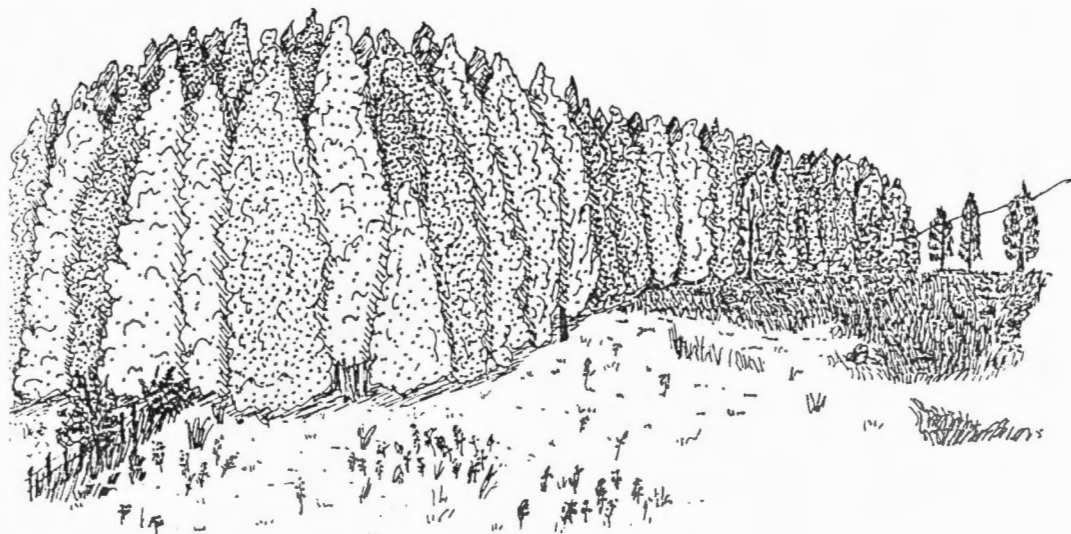
In 1982 a special study and report<sup>3</sup> was prepared on the forest which underlined its importance botanically and aesthetically.

In 1991 the Yarndley family offered the forest for sale to the Council as a reserve. The Forest Heritage Fund<sup>4</sup> was asked for assistance toward the purchase and agreed to a 50% subsidy.

In 1992 the forest was gazetted as Scenic Reserve.

### 1.3 Management & Control

The reserve is owned by the Mayor and Councillors of the Waipa District Council.



#### 1.4 Tenure & Area

Lot 4 DP 62196 vested as Scenic Reserve pursuant to Section 19 of the Reserves Act 1977. See Figure 2.

#### 1.5 Topography

The area is gently rolling country of generally 16-20% slope, the forest covering most of a level basin surrounded by a small catchment. The surrounding pasture land is drained into the reserve with an outlet drain maintained on the western boundary of the reserve. A central drain, traversing the forest from east to west approximately, once regularly maintained, is no longer kept clear, contributing to an elevated water table within the forest.

#### 1.6 Soil

Fertile yellow brown loams.

#### 1.7 Flora

The forest is divided into two lobes east and west.

The east lobe is almost pure Kahikatea of average height 35.0 m. The understorey is sparse carpeted with ferns and grass. Mahoe and Mangahonge are established in the wetter areas. Kahikatea seedlings do not appear to survive the summer drought.

The western lobe has a greater diversity of trees within the canopy which averages 32.0 m in height.

The understorey is much richer with copious pukatea, mahoe, wheki, ponga and mapou.

**NOTE:** A detailed description of the flora is contained in the report by QEII "Yarndleys Bush" (1982).

#### 1.8 Fauna

No survey of this resource has been conducted.

#### 1.9 Classification

The reserve is classified as "Scenic" pursuant to Section 19(1)A of the Reserves Act 1977 which states:

"For the purpose of protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest.

2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

2.1 **Major Management**

To preserve as far as possible the indigenous flora and fauna, ecological associations, natural environment and beauty of the forested area.

To provide an educational resource for all ages and disciplines.

To develop amenities where these are necessary for the public enjoyment of the reserve in accordance with the primary classification.

2.2 **Access**

**Policy**

2.2.1 Public access shall be available during daylight hours i.e. sunrise to sunset at all times.

2.2.2 Walking tracks shall be limited to the western end of forest and shall by design, reduce damage of flora to minimum.

2.2.3 The entrance on Ngaroto Road shall be sign posted and contain relevant public information regarding access.

2.2.4 Use outside of normal operating hours will be at the discretion of Council.

Explanation

The reserve exists for no recreational purpose and a moderate measure of control will be necessary to reduce the likelihood of vandalism or disturbance to wildlife. Local residents may be willing to lock and unlock gates into the reserve by negotiation thereby introducing an excellent level of control. Special requests by individuals or organisations for night time use for study purposes could be informally arranged and executed.

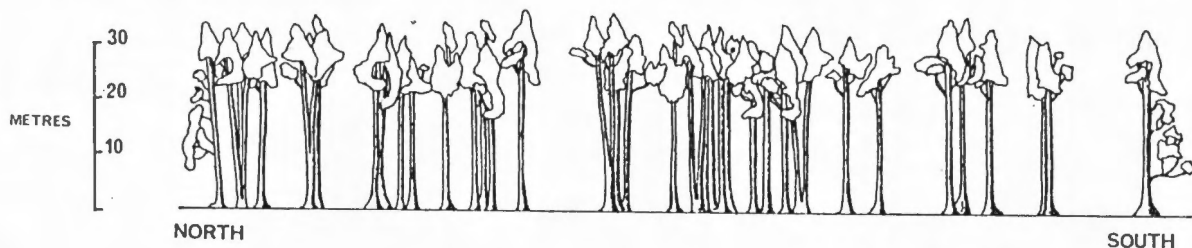


FIGURE 4 Profile diagram of rectangular plot through the eastern lobe of Yarndley's Bush. Plot measures 135m from north to south. Vertical scale exaggerated. All trees in the plot are kahikatea.

## 2.3 Fencing

### Policy

2.3.1 Stock will be prevented from entry onto the reserve area at all times by the maintenance of suitable fencing.

### Explanation

The existing three wire electric fence is adequately preventing dairy stock however changing land uses may require more substantial fencing in the future.

## 2.4 Tracks

### Policy

2.4.1 Shall be of a high all weather standard.

2.4.2 Shall incorporate anti skate design features for wet conditions.

2.4.3 Should be usable by wheelchairs.

2.4.4 Shall not be wider than 1.5 m within the forested area.

2.4.5 Should be elevated on pile foundations whenever practicable.

### Explanation

The access path is approximately 300.0m long and will require the maintenance of a carefully graded walking track for all visitors. Tracks inside the forest itself need only penetrate a short distance for the visitor to have experienced the limited specie types.



## 2.5 Interpretation

### Policy

2.5.1 Interpretive information shall be located strategically within the reserve for education and enhancement to visitors experience of the forest.

### Explanation

The opportunity to educate all ages and interests about this important ecological habitat exists at reserves such as Yarndleys. Accurate and well presented information is necessary to achieve this.

## 2.6 Facilities

### Policy

2.6.1 Only those structures necessary to safely facilitate use of the reserve as a scenic area will be considered appropriate.

2.6.2 Facilities shall by design harmonise with the habitat and should not be visible from the air.

### Explanation

The reserve is not intended to fulfil a recreation function. However in order to enjoy the scenic quality or study wildlife it will be necessary to establish viewing platforms and hides and possible toilet facilities. The bush lies under the flight path to Hamilton Airport and should therefore be maintained as visually appealing from the air.

## 2.7 Introduced Flora & Fauna

### Policy

2.7.1 The reserve area shall be maintained so as to control Class A & B noxious plants particularly around the periphery.





Explanation

There are some small areas where Privet and Wandering Jew are established. A planting programme of cover crop e.g. flaxes and manuka is preferable to using herbicide or slashing only.

**2.8 Commercial Activity**

**Policy**

2.8.1 Commercial activity within the reserve shall be prohibited.

Explanation

The reserve has a high tourism potential which may be seen as an outlet for goods or services which do not relate directly to the primary function of the reserve.

**2.9 Camping**

**Policy**

2.9.1 Camping within the reserve shall be prohibited.

Explanation

Overnight stays for the purpose of recording or studying wildlife shall be at the discretion of Council.

**2.10 Landscape**

**Policy**

2.10.1 Large scale manipulation of the water table shall be unnecessary.

2.10.2 Naturally propagated Kahikatea seedlings shall be available for replanting in wetland habitat restoration projects external to Yarndleys Bush.

2.10.3 Open grassland areas shall be planted with a suitable host crop to promote natural regrowth of indigenous species.

3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

This section of the plan is to provide a forum of ideas for development which are considered appropriate to the primary purpose of the reserve.

Development as a Educational Resource & Visitor Centre

- a. Develop suitably sized parking areas on the road berms adjacent to the access entrance.
- b. Develop an all weather walking track to the forest and fence it out of surrounding farmland.
- c. Construct a loop track in the forest which incorporates elevated duck board sections over buttressed roots and wet areas.
- d. Construct an elevated viewing platform and possibly viewing hide(s) within the forest and contiguous with the loop track.
- e. Install information placards along the track relating to flora and fauna species.



REFERENCES

- 1 The Waipa Landscape (Queen Elizabeth II Trust 1984)
- 2 Native Bush in the Waipa County (JAT Boubee unpublished)
- 3 Yarndleys Bush (Queen Elizabeth Trust by Dr A S Edmonds  
etal unpublished)
- 4 Forest Heritage Fund C/- Department of Conservation,  
Wellington

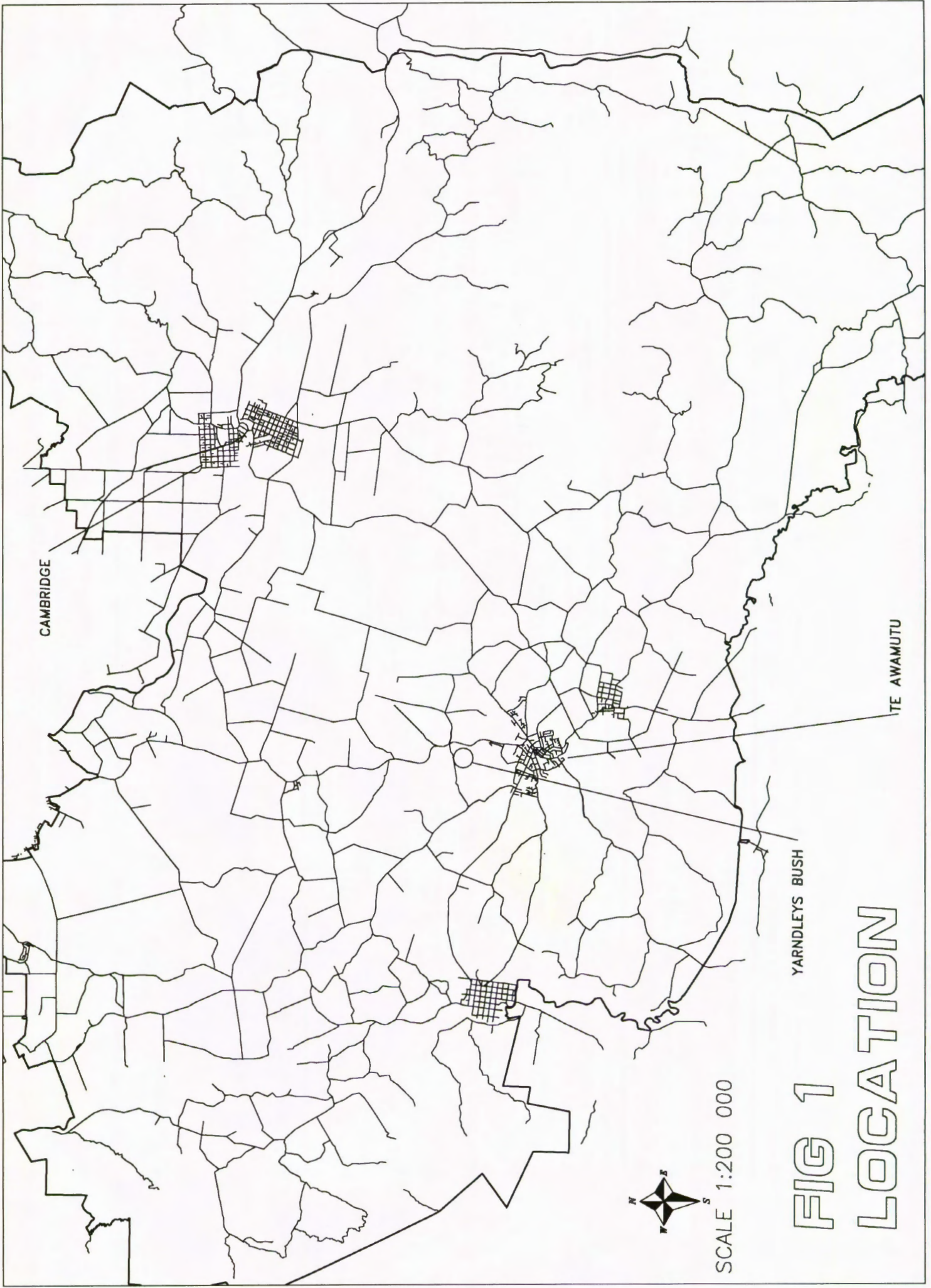


FIG 1  
LOCATION

STATE HIGHWAY THREE

NGAROTO ROAD

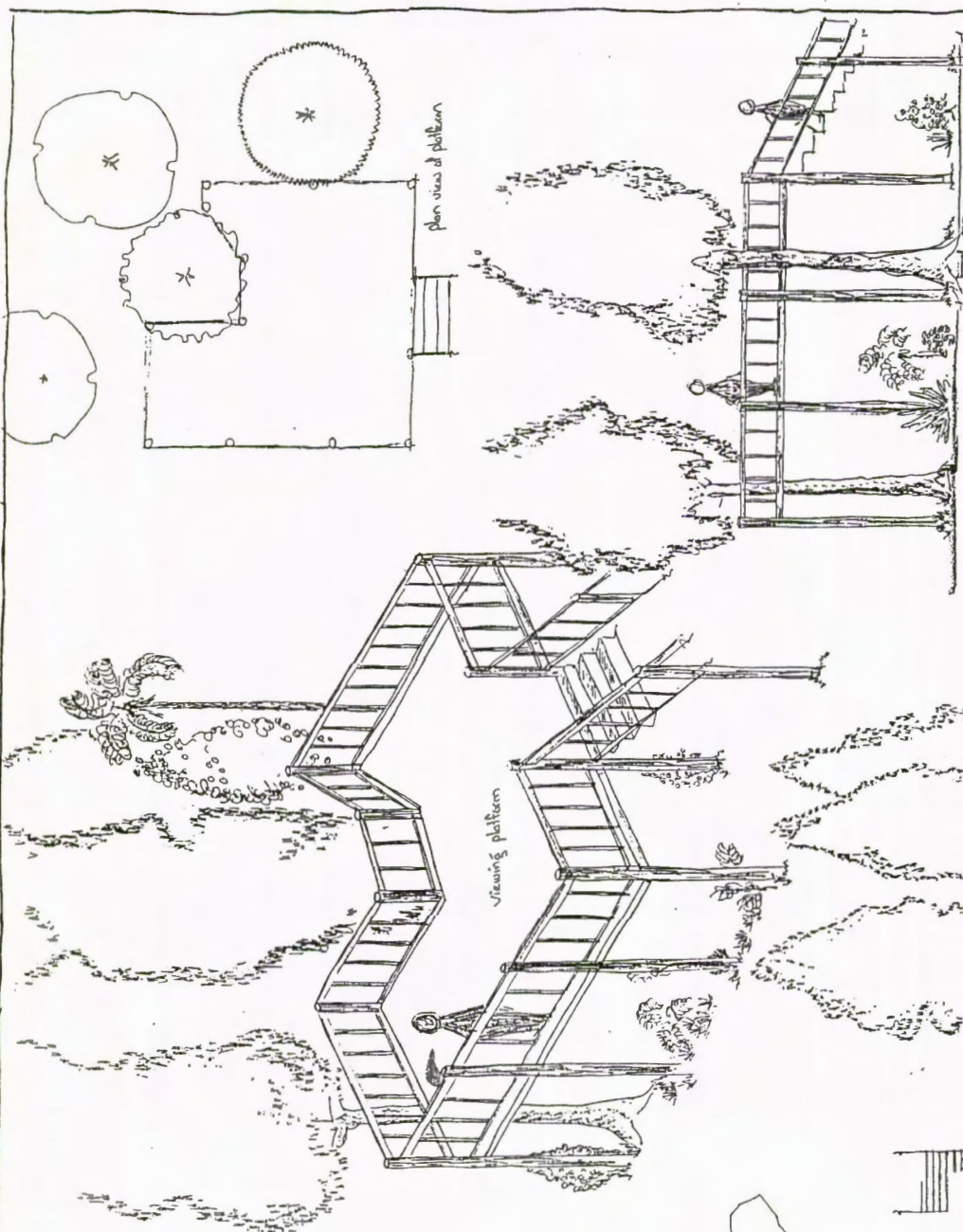
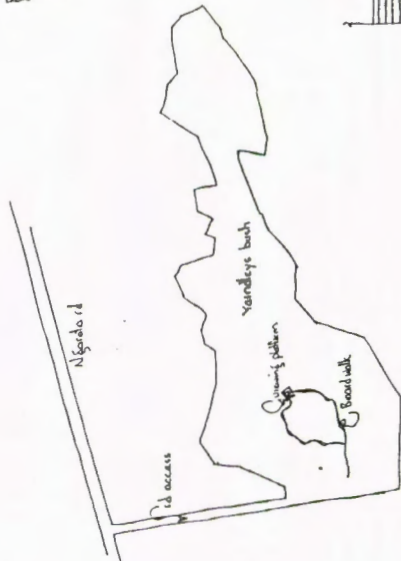
LOT 4  
DPS 62196  
14.424 ha.



FIG. 2  
TENURE + AREA

# YARNDELEY'S BUSH DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

DESIGNED BY ALPHABET - N.D.C. JULY 1973  
PLANS NOT TO SCALE



Plan view of platform

Viewing platform

Cross-section at viewing platform

Build road around trees - appear to be of ground. The platform allows people to experience the natural beauty of the landscape from an elevated position. At the underbelly of canopy, this position will be essential to obtain an unimpeded view from the canopy and experience bird life close at hand.

The timber boardwalk is raised to minimize damage to the forest floor and other natural access to view points of interest. The walkway is intended to meander amongst the trees and gently follow contours over major natural 'roads' of some nice mature trees.

Walkway to be formed over tree roots

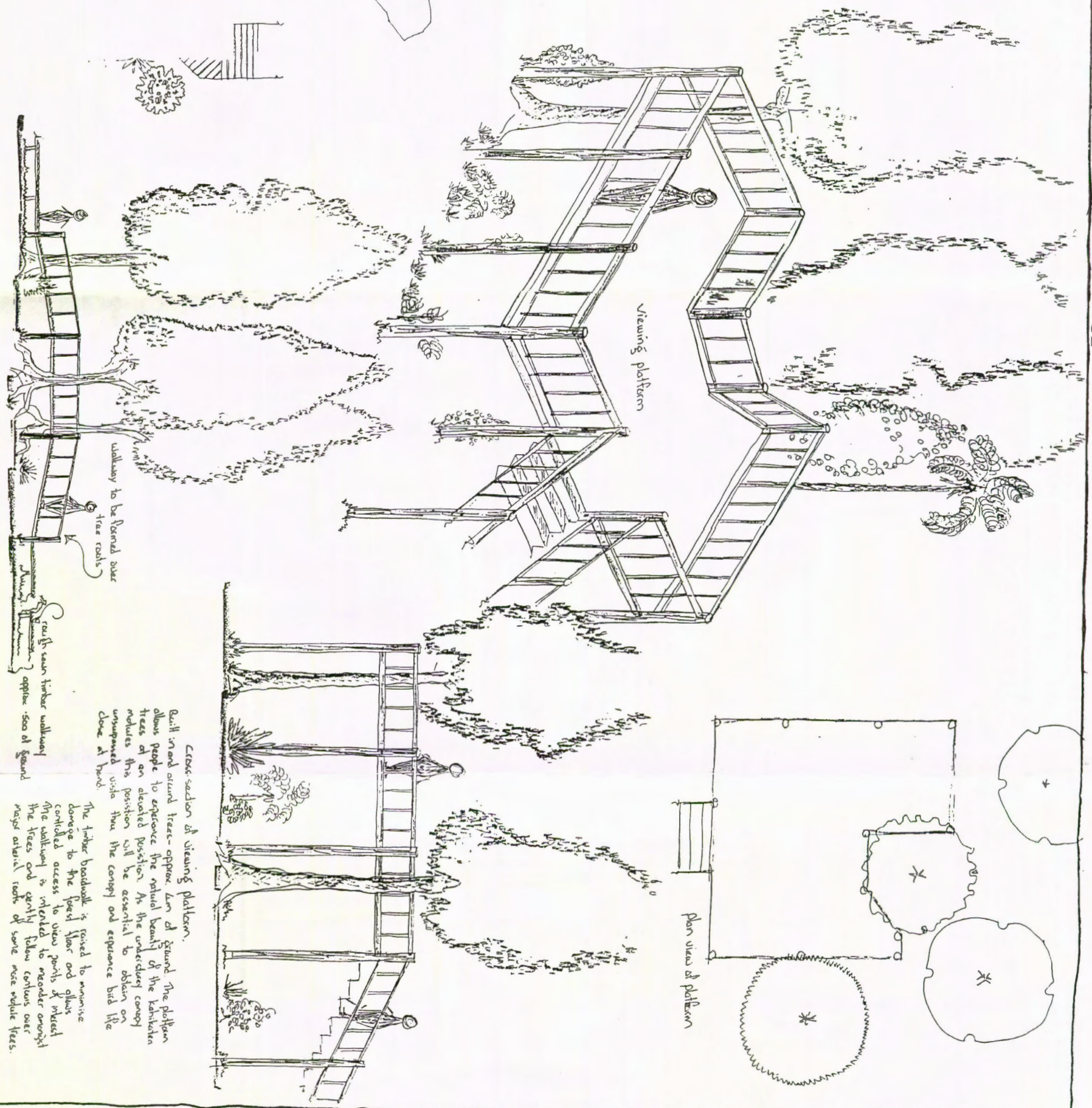
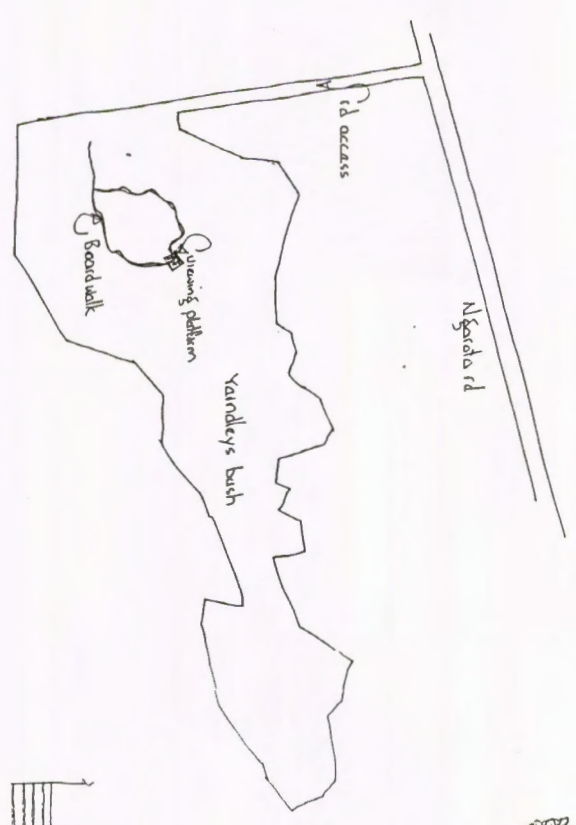
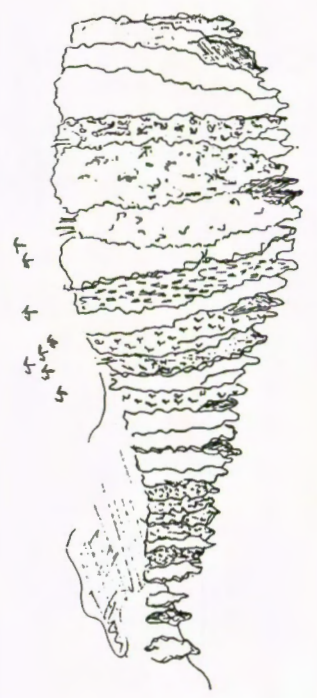


Cross-section of timber board-walk

# YARNOLDY'S BUSH

## DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

DAVID & ALBINA - W.D.C. JULY 1971  
PLAN 1/8" = 1' SCALE



cross section of timber boardwalk

walkway to be placed over tree roots

rough sawn timber walkway  
applies 500 of ground

cross section of viewing platform.  
Built around trees - approx 4m of ground. The platform allows people to experience the natural beauty of the landscape from an elevated position. As the underlying canopy reduces this position will be essential to obtain an unimpeded view thru the canopy and experience bird life close at hand.  
The timber boardwalk is raised to minimize damage to the forest floor and allows controlled access to view points of interest. The walkway is intended to meander amongst the trees and gently follow contours over major natural roots of some more mature trees.

plan view of platform