

Great Trees of New Zealand
Recd 1984

S.W. Burstall + E.V. Sale

57 Totara *Podocarpus totara*

A'Deanes Bush, Hawkes Bay

Diameter: 265 cm

Height: 34 m

Natural habitat: New Zealand

A'Deanes totara

A prize tree stands in the Ashley Clinton farming district below the eastern slopes of the Ruahine Range in central Hawkes Bay. It is an extremely large totara in what is now A'Deanes Bush Scenic Reserve, which is one of the few remnants of native forest on alluvial plains in the area.

The reserve, of about 38 ha — 15 ha of it in native forest — was originally part of Ashcott Station, one of the big Hawkes Bay sheep stations of more than 6,000 ha, able at one stage to carry 18,000 sheep and 800 cattle. It was taken up in 1854 by John and Walter Tucker, sons of an army surgeon from Ashcott, Somerset. John, who remained on the property, changed his name, on marrying, to A'Deane. The property was divided in later years and Ashcott Bush with its large totara was passed to the Department of Lands and Survey for its protection in the 1970s. The

reserve is west of Waipukurau and is reached off State Highway 50 along a sealed road.

The feature totara is in about the centre of the bush area of the reserve and is reached by a track from the picnic area off Makaretu Road. It has a clear trunk to 14.7 m. The surrounding mixed bush includes, matai, kahikatea, rimu, beech, kowhai and rewera, and bears some scars of early milling and of grazing before the area was fenced in 1978.

The reserve is typical of many in New Zealand which, although small, offer many combined attractions. The planning provides for two picnic areas on either side of the bush. A stream with willow flats winds through the reserve and the Tukipo River runs past it — offering swimming, fishing and the promise of a waterfowl habitat to reinforce the mallard duck population which already exists alongside the native pigeons, tuis and fantails.