

## ***Signature Values Associated with the Property***

### **Environment and Recreation Values**

The McKay/Shaw property is bounded on all sides by scenic reserve except for a small section of the western boundary lying adjacent to the urban area. Although there is evidence that the property may at some time have been affected by fire, it contains regenerating scrub and bush. A wide range of species can be found on the property including hard and black beech, Kamahi, northern rata and manuka, and the area exhibits successional changes. Broadleaved species are apparent and a stream runs through part of the property. We have also been informed that there is a small area of Kohekohe forest on the property (part of the only significant stand of Kohekohe forest in the area, found on adjacent land previously referred to as the Rose property). Remnants of marine terraces are found on spurs and are particularly prominent in this area.<sup>1</sup>

As noted, both the Main Ridge and Francis Bell Tracks cross the McKay/Shaw property. The Main Ridge Track is one of the most popular tracks in East Harbour Regional Park, running from the Wainuiomata Hill Road along the ridge and down to Days Bay. The Francis Bell Track is one of several important links down to the bays on the Eastbourne side of the ridge. Although not as heavily used as the Ridge Track, tracks like the Francis Bell remain popular, particularly with local residents.

Activities in this area of the Park include walking and running. The range of species and the successional changes mean the area is popular for botanical observations and also has potential for environmental education.

There are attractive harbour views from the property, although the small vantage-points along the Ridge Track, could be increased and enhanced in future.

### **Eastern “Green Belt”**

The Rose property (directly adjacent to the MacKay/Shaw property) was purchased because of the high quality bush found on the property, which contributed to the ‘green belt’ on the east face of Wellington Harbour. It was surrounded on three boundaries by East Harbour Regional Park, and contained the Lowry Trig and a section of the Main Ridge Track. The property was purchased mainly for its landscape and other environmental values, in addition to the recreation value of the Ridge Track.

Like the Rose property, the bush on the McKay/Shaw property contributes to a “green belt” of native vegetation on the east face of Wellington Harbour, an important landscape feature for the Wellington metropolitan area, visible from the Harbour, Wellington City, and parts of Hutt City. This bush also provides habitat for indigenous birds, insects and other fauna.

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<sup>1</sup> *Geological features of the Wellington Region*, Second Edition 1985, Martin Turner B.Sc, p. 35

