

Climbing at Panama Rock

Panama Reserve is a private conservation reserve of 208 hectares owned by the Josef Langer Charitable Trust. The reserve is administered under a protection covenant managed by the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, which protects the land in perpetuity. The voluntary reserve manager, Robin Burleigh, lives below the crag in Le Bons Bay valley, at the base of Panama Road.

The principal objective of the trust is ecological restoration and protection, along with secondary objectives to support education and recreation. Climbers are allowed to climb at Panama Rock, but because of the trust's concern with protecting the native vegetation, are required to register with the NZAC representative.

Panama Rock is a striking volcanic dome connected by an obvious feeder dyke, which runs down the slope from the crag to Panama **Rock**.

The rock is a coarse grippy trachyte similar to that found in the other Akaroa volcanic domes, providing excellent

friction but generally not much natural protection. Hence most of the climbs in the main climbing area are bolted.

Protection of the existing flora and fauna is of paramount importance to the reserve trustees. Rock outcrops such as Panama Rock serve as refugia for endemic plants, as they prevent grazing by animals. In particular there is a small gentian (*Gentiantella serotina*) which is not found anywhere else on Banks Peninsula. There is also the threatened sun hebe (*Veronica lavaudiana*), which is restricted to Banks Peninsula, and various other montane native species which are uncommon elsewhere, such as the mat daisy *Raoulia glabra*, the orchid *Pterostylis foliata*, and the mountain daisy *Celmisia gracilenta*.

Also, climbing is restricted to the bolted area on the south side of the crag – the Main Wall. Some climbs have been developed left of the climbs listed on Climb NZ, but are out of bounds because of the damage to vegetation that is likely to occur there.

Contact details can be found on:

www.climbnz.org.nz

Because of the trust's desire to protect native vegetation:

New route development is strictly prohibited.





Anisotome aromatica



Raoulia glabra



Pterostylis foliata



Gentianella serotina



Celmisia gracilentia



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

