

BATTLE HILL FARM FOREST PARK and THE HILL TRACK

Grid Ref. Topomap R26 & Pt R27 72-14/15

Pat Enright & Olaf John various dates 1994 -1998

Peter Beveridge, Olaf John, Pat Enright 14/5/00 (3 hrs)

Pat Enright 8/6/00 (1hr), 18/6/00(4hrs),25/6/00(3hrs),9/7/00(1hr,16/7/00 (2hrs)

Peter Beveridge, Penny Currier, Pat Enright, Chris Hopkins, Olaf John (1 hr)

This reserve is situated off the Paekakariki Hill road and covers the stream valley floor and the adjacent hill slopes to the east (the true left). The underlying rock is greywacke which gives steep slopes with rubble fields somewhat bare of vegetation. A branch of the Horokiri stream flows down along side the road and its bounds the reserve on the west.

The vegetation in the valley is pukatea (*Laurelia novaezelandiae*) with some rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*), tawa (*Beilschmeidia tawa*) and kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*) being the emergents and the understory including mahoe (*Meliccytus ramiflorus*), kaikamko (*Pennantia corymbosa*), nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) and coprosma species along with a number of other small trees and shrubby species. Epiphytes are common in the branches of the pukatea with *Collospermum hastatum* clumps and various species of fern and occasionally the clubmoss (*Huperzia varia*). Where the slope begins to steepen, tawa predominates and graduates quickly into kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) forest with isolated podocarps. Kohekohe dominates the upper slopes with the understory being rather sparse. Variation is found in watercourses and the banks of the same and in gully heads. There is one gully head in particular which has been excluded from the main reserve that should be fenced and protected from stock browse. It has a substantial population of NZ gloxinia (*Rhabdothamnus solandri*) which is a plant at its southern limit around Wellington and apart from an isolated plant or two near Makara is only found in this area for the Wellington conservancy. This species is found elsewhere around the reserve but this is a particularly good representation. Stock do not seem to browse it but do breakdown plants and trample any regenerating seedlings. *Blechnum procerum* and *Parietaria debilis* (very uncommon elsewhere in the reserve) and the maidenhair fern are also well represented here. The walking track skirts this gully so would not be affected by any new fencing.

The south eastern part of the reserve is in an early regeneration phase with mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*), mahoe and Coprosma robusta being the main native components. Weed species are a big problem in this area at the moment with Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*) very common. and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) forming a sizeable patch at the base of the area.. Both these species will in time be overtopped and eliminated. Other species noted that need more immediate attention were hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), tree lucerne (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*), macrocarpa (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) Lawson's cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*). Holly in particular poses quite a problem. There are many mature trees in the reserve particularly around the top margins where the female plants are berry laden in season. This is a great food source for the birds which then drop the seeds further afield further spreading the species. It is now being found in the covenanted area across the valley. The only real plus is that it is a food source for the native wood pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaezelandiae*). Expert opinion should be sort to determine the effect of

the removal of the holly on the resident pigeon population and then steps taken to eradicate this pest species to stop further spread.

As a general observation this reserve has a really bad weed problem. As well as those species noted above german ivy (*Senecio mikanoides*), wandering willie (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), monbretia (*Crocsmia x crocosmiifolia*) and arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) are species that need to be eradicated as soon as possible.

Animal pest control is ongoing and has resulted in possum and rat numbers being pushed to low levels (John Bissell park manager per. comm). This evidenced by the tawa fruit lying uneaten on the ground and the regeneration that is occurring. Some of the holly trees have been ring barked.

One small netting enclosure was noted but does not seem to have been used recently.

Species of note seen in the reserve are as follows:

Adiantum viridescens. A maidenhair fern that has a very restricted distribution in the Wellington Conservancy.

Adiantum diaphanum. Another maidenhair fern that is not common around Wellington. There is a small patch near the northern boundary growing in what seems a favoured situation at the base of a rock outcrop in the loose dirt and detritus. This specimen has hairs in the sori unlike the Wairarapa specimens.

Arthropteris tenella. This fern is somewhat local around Wellington. It is growing over rock at the north end of the reserve near the *Adiantum diaphanum* site.

Carex inversa. Perhaps not so uncommon as not often recognised. It is taken as a grass unless the small seed heads are obvious. There is a small patch growing with *Schoenus maschalinus* in the boggy area between the path and the road not far from the *P. cornifolium*.

Cyathea cunninghamii. This species has a patchy distribution around Wellington. Its appearance here probably reflects the past forest conditions of a much more heavily forested valley than presently exists. There are a few plants scattered about usually close to water

Pittosporum cornifolium. This species is now rather restricted due mainly to possum browse. Two specimens were seen in what is now about the only place it is safe from possums, as epiphytes protruding from *Collospermum hastatum* clumps.

Rhabdothamnus solandri. As described above this species has its stronghold in this reserve. It appears to favour areas with at least some overhead cover and protection from wind.

Syzygium maire. The swamp maire is now uncommon around Wellington due mainly to loss of suitable habitat. There is a small stand near the start of the track that starts at the south western corner of the reserve.

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	kahikatea
Dacrydium cupressinum (unc)	rimu
Podocarpus totara	totara
Prumnopitys ferruginea	miro
Prumnopitys taxifolia (unc)	matai

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i> subsp. <i>excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Aristolelia serrata</i>	makomako, wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta, marbleleaf
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	raurekau
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i> subsp. <i>propinqua</i>	mingimangi
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i> x <i>C. robusta</i> (unc)	
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	fuchsia, kotukutuku
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var. <i>rupestre</i>	hangehange
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	kapuka, broadleaf
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka, broadleaf
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>atkinsonii</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri, pigeonwood
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	ramarama
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i> subsp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicope simplex</i>	poataniwha
<i>Melicope simplex</i> x <i>ternata</i> (unc)	
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo
<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara
<i>Olearia solandri</i>	
<i>Ozothamnus leptophyllus</i>	tauhinu
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako
<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i> (unc)	
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	horoeka,
lancewood	
<i>Rhabdothamnus solandri</i>	taurepo
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
<i>Solanum</i> sp.	poroporo
<i>Streblus heterophylla</i>	turepo. milk tree
<i>Syzygium maire</i>	swamp maire
<i>Urtica ferox</i>	ongaonga, tree nettle
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis	ti kouka, cabbage
tree	
Rhopalostylis sapida	nikau

Monocotyledonous lianes

Freycinetia banksii	kiekie
Ripogonum scandens	kareao, supplejack

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Clematis paniculata	puawananga
Metrosideros diffusa	
Metrosideros fulgens	
Metrosideros perforata	aka
Muehlenbeckia australis	pohuehue
Muehlenbeckia complexa	pohuehue
Parsonsia heterophylla	kaihua, N.Z. Jasmine
Passiflora tetrandra	passion vine
Rubus cissoides	tataramoa, bush lawyer

Psilopsids, Lycopods and Quillworts

Huperzia varia (unc)	
Lycopodium volubile	waewae koukou

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii	maidenhair fern
Adiantum diaphanum (unc)	
Adiantum viridescens	maidenhair fern
Arthropteris tenella	
Asplenium bulbiferum	manamana, hen and chicken fern
Asplenium gracillimum	
Asplenium hookerianum	
Asplenium flaccidum	makawe, hanging spleenwort
Asplenium oblongifolium	huruhuruwhenua, shining spleenwort
Asplenium polyodon	petako, sickle spleenwort
Blechnum chambersii	nini
Blechnum discolor	piupiu, crown fern
Blechnum filiforme	panako, thread fern
Blechnum fluviatile	kiwakiwa
Blechnum membranaceum	
Blechnum minus (of NZ Authors)	swamp kiokio
Blechnum novae-zelandiae	kiokio
Blechnum pennamarina	
Blechnum procerum	
Cyathea dealbata	ponga, silver
fern	
Cyathea medullaris	mamaku
Dicksonia squarrosa	wheki

Histiopteris incisa	mata, water fern
Hymenophyllum demissum	iriangi
Hypolepis ambigua	
Hypolepis lactea (unc)	
Lastreopsis glabella	
Lastreopsis hispida	
Lastreopsis microsora	
Lastreopsis velutina (unc)	
Leptolepia novae-zelandiae	
Leptopteris hymenophylloides	heruheru, single crepe fern
Paesia scaberula	matata, scented fern
Pellaea rotundifolia	tarawera, button fern
Microsorium pustulatum	kowaowao, hounds tongue
Microsorium scandens	mokimoki, scented fern
Pneumatopteris pennigera	pakauroharoha, gully fern
Polystichum richardii	pikopiko
Pteridium esculentum	rauaruhe, bracken
Pteris pendula (P. macilenta of NZ authors)	
Pyrosia eleagnifolia	ota, leather-leaf fern
Rumohra adiantiformis	
Tmesipteris elongata (unc)	
Trichomanes endlicherianum	
Trichomanes venosum	

Orchids

Drymoanthus adversus	
Earina autumnalis (unc)	
Earina mucronata	peka-a-waka
Microtis unifolia	onion leaved orchid
Thelymitra longifolia	maikuku, sun orchid

Grasses

Cortaderia fulvida	toetoe
Microlaena avenacea	bush rice grass
Microlaena stipoides	patiti
Poa anceps subsp. anceps (unc)	
Rytidosperma gracile	

Sedges

Carex breviculmis ? (to be confirmed when in seed)	
Carex dissita	
Carex flagellifera	
Carex geminata "large"	
Carex inversa (unc)	
Carex lambertiana (unc)	
Carex lessoniana	
Carex secta	purei
Carex solandri	

<i>Carex virgata</i>	purei
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	
<i>Isolepis prolifer</i>	
<i>Isolepis reticularis</i>	
<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>	
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	watu, hook grass

Rushes and allied plants

<i>Juncus gregiflorus</i>	wiwi
<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	
<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	
<i>Juncus sarophorus</i>	

Remaining Monocotyledonous plants

<i>Astelia fragrans</i>	
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	
kowharawhara	
<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	kahakaha
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	harakeke, flax

Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

<i>Cotula australis</i>	
<i>Euchiton gymnocephalus</i>	
<i>Euchiton involucratus</i>	
<i>Helichrysum filicaule</i>	
<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i> agg.	
<i>Raoulia glabra</i>	
<i>Senecio hispidulus</i>	

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>	bidibidi
<i>Cardamine</i> sp. (<i>C. debilis</i> agg.) (“Long Style” of Pritchard 1957)	
<i>Centella uniflora</i>	
<i>Crassula</i> sp. (very small. 1cm high single stalked. not creeping. Probably <i>C sieberiana</i> . P. de Lange pers. comm.)	
<i>Epilobium nummulariifolium</i>	
<i>Epilobium pedunculare</i>	
<i>Galium propinquum</i>	
<i>Geranium microphyllum</i> ?	
<i>Hydrocotyle elongata</i>	
<i>Hydrocotyle heteromeria</i>	wax weed
<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i>	
<i>Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae</i>	
<i>Leptostigma setulosa</i>	
<i>Lobelia anceps</i> (unc)	
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	
<i>Oxalis exilis</i>	yellow oxalis
<i>Parietaria debilis</i> (unc)	

Pratia angulata	panakenake
Ranunculus reflexus	maruru, hairy buttercup
Solanum americanum	small flowered solanum
Stellaria decipiens	kohukohu, chickweed
Urtica incisa	stinging nettle

Adventives

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Lawsons
cypress	
Cupressus macrocarpa	macrocarpa
Pinus radiata	

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Chamaecytisus palmensis	tree lucerne
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn
Cytisus scoparium	broom
Ilex aquifolium	holly
Leycesteria formosa	himalayan honeysuckle
Phytolacca octandra	inkweed
Salix sp.	willow
Teline monspessulana	montpellier broom
Ulex europaeus	gorse

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Rubus fruticosus	blackberry
Senecio mikanooides	german ivy

Psilopsids, Lycopods and Quillworts

Salaginella kraussiana	
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Grasses

Dactylis glomerata	cocksfoot
Errhata erecta	veld grass
Holcus lanata	yorkshire fog
Poa annua	annual poa

Sedges

Cyperus eragrostis	
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Remaining Monocotyledonous plants

Allium triquetrum	onion weed
Crocsmia x crocosmiflora	monbretia
Sisyrinchium iridifolium	
Tradescantia fluminensis	monbretia
Zantedeschia aethiopica	arum lily

Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

Bellis perennis	daisy
Gnaphalium spicatum	
Hypochaeris radicata	catsear
Picris echoides	ox tongue
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort
Sonchus oleraceus	sow thistle

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

Apium nodiflorum	water celery
Brassica rapa	wild turnip
Callitriche stagnalis	
Cirsium vulgare	scotch thistle
Conium maculatum	hemlock
Digitalis purpurea	foxglove
Galium aparine	cleavers
Geranium robertianum	herb robert
Hypericum androsaemum	tutsan
Mimulus guttatus	
Plantago lanceolata	narrow leaved plantain
Prunella vulgaris	selfheal
Ranunculus repens	buttercup
Rumex obtusifolius	dock
Stellaria media	chickweed
Tradescantia fluminensis	wandering willie

Birds:

Fantail

Native pigeon

Tui