

Field Reserve, Kapiti Coast

1.1 Vegetation

Field Reserve consists of kohekohe forest with mahoe and nikau. Nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) decreases up the slope, while mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*) increases. Overall the forest is of only moderate diversity, but this is to be expected given it is of small size and until relatively recently was undergrazed. Totara (*Podocarpus totara*) is found on the road reserve and there is one naturally occurring kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), but otherwise the reserve is free of gymnosperm species. However, there is one matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*) and one miro (*P. ferruginea*) just over the fenceline on the eastern boundary, indicating that these species could seed themselves within the reserve in the future. The average leaf litter in the reserve is 30-40mm. Ground cover is sparse in the lower part of the reserve but becomes quite dense further up the slope. A typical view inside the forest is shown in Plate 1.

The forest in the reserve forms part of a corridor of predominantly coastal (kohekohe) and lowland broadleaved (tawa-mahoe) forest extending south-east from SH1 over rolling/steep hill country into the upper catchment of the Maungakotukutuku Stream.

Kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) forest is regionally rare in the Wellington Conservancy. Further extensive areas of this rare vegetation type are protected in Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve to the east and part of it extends onto private land to the north. A small narrow portion of Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve on the western side of SH1 contains pukatea-kohekohe forest. Nikau Reserve to the south preserves around 11ha of kohekohe-tawa-nikau forest with locally common akiraho (*Olearia paniculata*).

1.2 Exotic Plants and Plant Pests

Exotic plants in the reserve are found round the edges of the forest and the centre of the reserve is relatively free of introduced species. The main problem plants are wandering jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) and periwinkle (*Vinca major*), both of which are found along the road frontage. Wandering jew is also found on the northern boundary below the butterfly house along with arum lilies (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), irises (*Iris* sp.) and banana passionfruit (*Passiflora mixta*). There was some old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) on the northern fenceline of the reserve near the butterfly house, but this was taken out. On the small patch of montbretia (*Crocasmia x crocosmiifolia*).

At the northern end of the covenant area at the eastern end of the reserve there is a small patch of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) with native ring fern (*Paesia scaberula*). It is expected that the gorse will die out once regenerating native plants overtop it. Across the road there is a bad patch of cape ivy (*Senecio angulatus*), the seed of which could potentially invade the reserve in the future.

In the carpark area there is an extensive area of periwinkle (*Vinca major*). There is also arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*), blackberry, wandering jew, *Ranunculus* sp., and a large loquat tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*).

Except for old man's beard, the Society has no obligations under the Wellington Regional Council *Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy* for the species listed above. Under the

Strategy old man's beard is a total control plant pest and as such the Society is required to destroy all plants discovered in the reserve prior to their seeding and by approved methods.

APPENDIX 1: NATIVE FLORA IN FIELD RESERVE

As recorded by Peter White, June 1999

Legend

- (unc) uncommon (only one or a very few specimens seen)
 (p) planted
 (p+) planted plus naturally occurring

SCIENTIFIC NAME	MAORI NAME	ENGLISH NAME
GYMNOSPERM TREES		
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i> (unc) (p+) – 1 only naturally occurring	kahikatea	white pine
<i>Podocarpus totara</i> – on road reserve (p+?)	totara	
DICOT TREES AND SHRUBS		
<i>Alectryon excelsis</i>	titoki	NZ oak
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa	
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>		thin-leaved coprosma
<i>C. repens</i> (p)	taupata	
<i>C. rhamnoides</i> (unc) – 1 only noted		twiggy coprosma
<i>C. robusta</i> (unc) (p+)	karamu	
<i>Corynocarpus laevigata</i>	karaka	
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe	
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau	
<i>Entelea arborescens</i> (p)	whau	cork-wood
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange	Maori privet
<i>Griselinia lucida</i> (unc)	puka	broadleaf
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i> (p+)	porokaiwhiri	pigeonwood
<i>Hoheria populnea</i>	houhere	lacebark
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa	NZ honeysuckle
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea	
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa	
<i>Melicope ternata</i> (p+)	wharangi	
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> (p+)	mahoe	whitey wood
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	ngaio	
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	maire	white maire
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i> (p) [or (p+)?]	kaikomako	
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	tarata	lemonwood
<i>P. tenuifolium</i> (unc)	kohuhu	
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	puahou	five finger
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i> (p)	horoeka	lancewood
<i>P. crassifolius</i> x <i>P. lessonii</i> (p)	horoeka	lancewood hybrid
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> (= <i>Paratrophis microphylla</i>) (p)	turepo	small-leaved milk tree

SCIENTIFIC NAME	MAORI NAME	ENGLISH NAME
DICOT LIANES		
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>		white climbing rata
<i>M. fulgens</i>	akatawhiwhi	red rata vine
<i>M. perforata</i>	aka	small white rata vine
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	kaihua	native jasmine
MONOCOT TREES		
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau	
MONOCOT LIANES		
<i>Freycinetia baueriana</i> ssp. <i>Banksii</i> (unc)	kiekie	
<i>Rhipogonum scandens</i>	kareao	supplejack
FERNS		
<i>Anarthropteris lanceolata</i>	whare-ngarara	lance fern
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> s.s.	mouku	hen and chickens fern
<i>A. flaccidum</i> (unc) – 1 only noted	makawa	hanging spleenwort
<i>A. polyodon</i> (unc)	petako	sickle spleenwort
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	panako	thread fern
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	ponga	silver tree fern
<i>C. medullaris</i> (unc) – 1 only noted	mamaku	black tree fern
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	irirangi	filmy fern
<i>Hypolepis</i> sp. [which sp?]		
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> (= <i>Phymatosorus pustulatus</i>)	kowaowao	hound's tongue
<i>M. scandens</i> (= <i>Phymatosorus scandens</i>)	mokimoki	fragrant fern
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	turawera	shaking brake
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i> (= <i>P. serpens</i>)	ngarara wehi	leather-leaf fern
SEDGES		
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i> (unc)	kamu	hook sedge
MONOCOT HERBS (OTHER THAN ORCHIDS, GRASSES SEDGES, RUSHES)		
<i>Collospermum</i> sp. [which sp?]		perching lily

[Any spp. missing? Key Native Ecosystems list has in addition to above button fern, northern rata, toetoe, Coprosma rotundifolia, kaikomako, NZ flax – any of these present in the reserve? I note that Wassilieff et al mention they did not encounter any northern rata.]