

PERRY'S BUSH (703)
Topomap T26 305206 Alt 110m
Indigenous Vascular Plants

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Pat Enright 25/07/99

unc = uncommon
+ King property only
* McArthur property only

Site description:

This site is a 12 hectare bush remnant on the Wairarapa Plains bounded by Cornwall Road and Perry's Road on the north and west respectively. The area has been logged and burnt over but still retains some large podocarps. The big drought a couple of years ago killed off a great deal of the understory and dried out parts of the swampy ground (personal comm. Steve MacArthur) although the artificial pond will be draining the area as well. The area encompasses areas of alluvial flats, what looks like an old watercourse or perhaps an excavated area and a lower lying boggy area with consequent variation in vegetation cover. To the west there is a stand of elms (*Ulmus X hollandica*) and some pines (*Pinus radiata*) grow along the southern boundary. There is the odd eucalypt and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) growing towards the eastern side of the site. At the northern end the area is much more open with scattered trees and patches of shrub and a complete ground cover of periwinkle. The area is not grazed except for a tethered goat that is used to keep the grass down around an artificial pond and is fenced through the middle of the bush but the fence is in some need of repair especially where windfalls have come down across it. The southern half of the bush is owned by the King family and the northern half by the MacArthur family. A number of native species have been planted in and around the area on the King property e.g. purple akeake (*Dodonaea viscosa*), kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), and *Olearia solandri*.

There are a few emergent kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*), totara (*Podocarpus totara*) and pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) over a subcanopy of mainly titoki (*Alectryon excelsum*), tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), tarata (*Pittosporum eugenioides*) and mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*). Coprosma species, poataniwha (*Melicope simplex*) and poroporo (*Solanum aviculare*) are the commonest shrub species.

The ground cover reflects the owners' endeavours to keep stock out. There are large patches of bamboo grass (*Microlaena polynoda*), where the light is sufficient, with smaller areas of *Microlaena stipoides* and bush rice grass (*Microlaena avenacea*). This would be the best site seen for bamboo grass, which is noted as being

uncommon in the Wellington conservancy (King property). Two species of hounds-tongue (*Phymatosorus pustulatus* and *P. scandens*) also form large mats and scramble up some of the trees. The shining spleenwort (*Asplenium oblongifolium*) and sickle-leaved spleenwort (*Asplenium polyodon*) are also very common. Tree ferns are uncommon with one silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*) and two plants of wheki ponga (*Dicksonia squarrosa*) noted.

The more open northern section has a good healthy population of small mistletoe, *Korthosella lindsayi* present on *Melicope simplex*, *Lophomyrtus obcordata*, *Myrsine divaricata* and *Coprosma rigida*. *Myrsine divaricata* is quite common in this area and the only occurrence of *Hoheria angustifolia* was noted here.

The sedges (*Carex* and *Uncinia* sp.) have a few species present but in low numbers and scattered occurrences in the King property but much more common on the McArthur side of the fence

There are no epiphytes other than leather leaf fern (*Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia*) and the hanging spleenwort (*Asplenium flaccidum*).

The climbers are well represented by bush lawyer (*Rubus schmidelioides*), native jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophyllus*) and passionvine (*Passiflora tetrandra*)

The remnant is badly infested with weeds with wandering willie (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) and periwinkle (*Vicia sativa*) forming a complete ground cover in places to the exclusion of anything else. *Iris foetidissima* is also widespread. Old mans beard (*Clematis vitelba*) is present, but not common. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) forms some large patches at the eastern end of the site and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) is also quite a problem in this area and to the north. Other pest species noted included barberry (*Berberis* sp.) and hawthorn. Various methods of control have been attempted with varying degrees of success.

Pest control is being carried out on the site with traps and bait stations for possums and mustelids (mainly stoats) and shooting of magpies. An attempt to trap any cats in the area is also being made.

Five hours were spent on site and the survey was thorough for the King property with three hours spent in the MacArthur property.

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Dacrycarpus dacrydioides | kahikatea |
| Podocarpus totara | totara |
| Prumnopitys taxifolia | matai |

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis

ti kouka, cabbage tree

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

| | |
|---|--|
| Alectryon excelsus subsp. excelsus | titoki |
| + Aristotelia serrata (unc) | makomako, wineberry |
| Beilschmiedia tawa | tawa |
| Brachyglottis repanda | rangiora |
| Coprosma areolata | |
| Coprosma crassifolia (unc) | |
| + Coprosma grandifolia | kanono |
| Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua | mingimingi |
| Coprosma rhamnoides | |
| Coprosma rigida | |
| Coprosma rotundifolia | |
| Coprosma rubra | |
| Elaeocarpus dentatus (unc) | hinau |
| Elaeocarpus hookerianus (unc) | pokaka |
| + Fuchsia excorticata (unc) | kotukutuku |
| Geniostoma rupestre var. linguistrifolium | hangehange |
| Hedycarya arborea | porokaiwhiri, pigeonwood |
| * Hoheria angustifolia (unc) | houhi puruhi, small leaved lacebark |
| Hoheria sexstylosa | houhi ongaonga, narrow leaved lacebark |
| + Knightia excelsa | rewarewa |
| * Korthosella lindsayi | mistletoe |
| Laurelia novae-zelandiae | pukatea |
| + Lophomyrtus bullata (unc) | ramarama |
| Lophomyrtus obcordata | rohutu |
| + Macropiper excelsum var. excelsum | kawakawa |
| Melicope simplex | poataniwha |
| Melicytus micranthus | small leaved mahoe |
| Melicytus ramiflorus subsp. ramiflorus | mahoe, whitey wood |
| Myoporum laetum (unc) | ngaio |
| Myrsine australis | mapou |
| Myrsine divaricata (unc) | weeping matipo |
| + Neomyrtus pedunculata (unc) | rohutu |
| Nestegis cunninghamii | black maire |
| Nestegis lanceolata | white maire |
| + Olearia rani (unc) | hekatara |
| Pittosporum eugenioides | tarata, lemonwood |
| Pittosporum tenuifolium | kohuhu |
| Plagianthus regius | ribbonwood |
| Pseudopanax crassifolius | horoeaka, lancewood |
| + Schefflera digitata (unc) | pate |
| Solanum aviculare | poroporo |
| Streblus heterophyllus | turepo, milk tree |

Monocotyledonous lianes

Ripogonum scandens

rareao, supplejack

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| * Calystegia tuguriorum | native bindweed |
| + Clematis foetida | |
| Metrosideros colensoi | akakaiku |
| Metrosideros diffusa | akatea |
| + Metrosideros perforata (unc) | akatea |
| Muehlenbeckia australis | pohuehue |
| Parsonsia heterophylla | kaihua |
| Passiflora tetrandra | kohia, passionvine |
| Rubus schmidelioides | tataramoa, bush Lawyer |

Ferns

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Asplenium bulbiferum | manamana |
| Asplenium gracillimum | manamana |
| + Asplenium flabellifolium | necklace fern |
| Asplenium flaccidum ss | makawe, hanging spleenwort |
| Asplenium hookerianum | |
| Asplenium oblongifolium | huruhuru whenua |
| Asplenium polyodon | petako |
| Blechnum filiforme | panako |
| + Cyathea dealbata (unc) | ponga |
| + Dicksonia squarrosa (unc) | wheki |
| Hypolepis ambigua | |
| Lastreopsis glabella | |
| Pellaea rotundifolia | tarawera |
| Phymatosorus pustulatus | kowaowao |
| Phymatosorus scandens | mokimoki |
| Polystichum richardii | pikopiko |
| Pteridium esculentum | rarahi, bracken |
| Pteris tremula | turawera, shaking brake |
| Pyrosia eleagnifolia | leather-leaf fern |
| + Rumohra adiantiformis (unc) | |

Grasses

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Microlaena avenacea | |
| Microlaena polynoda | |
| Microlaena stipoides | patiti |

Sedges

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Carex dissita | |
| Carex lambertiana | |
| + Carex testacea | |
| Carex virgata | |
| Uncinia uncinata | matau a Maui |

Rushes and allied plants

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| * Juncus gregiflorus | wiwi |
|----------------------|------|

Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

Gnaphalium gymnocephalum

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

- * Acaena anserinifolia piripiri, bidibidi
- Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg.)("Long Style" of Pritchard 1957)
- Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg.) ("Narrow Petal" of Pritchard 1957)
- + Dichondra sp. (long thin petioles)
- + Haloragis erecta toatoa
- Hydrocotyle elongata
- Hydrocotyle heteromeria
- Stellaria decipiens raumangu

Birds:

Fantail
Grey warbler
Magpie
Morepork
Tui
Waxeye