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Re. Forest remnant the Cliffs station, Ruamahanga River (grid T26.336.174).

I visited the forest remnant on Monday 23.12.96, after meeting with the land owner, Hugh Ryan. The forest remnant is opposite the Ruamahanga River *Coprosma wallii* site. The topographical map shows a terrace similar to the *C. wallii* site on the true right side of the river. However, the vegetation is nothing like it, with willows and other introduced trees and shrubs. Because of the general (exotic) appearance of the area, I did not make a plant list.

I then went to a native forest remnant at grid **T26.336.174**. The area is fenced off but is sometimes grazed by cattle, according to Mr Ryan. The understorey is dominated by tall grass (1.5 m), mainly tall fescue, and other exotic species. The more shaded areas have a few ferns and native herbs. *Coprosma areolata* and one *C. rigida* are the only native shrub species in those sites. The dominant trees are totara, kahikatea, tawa and kanuka. The forest remnant is situated next to willow forest and floods occasionally (see sketch and topo map)

I did not measure the area, but estimate it to be approx. 2 ha.

The remnant does not have uncommon/rare plant species (such as *C. wallii*, *C. virescens* or *Pittosporum obcordatum*), but is worthwhile protecting as a remnant of original lowland forest. **Its value would significantly increase if the understorey of native shrubs would recover.**

Species list (plants):

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| kanuka | <i>Kunzea ericoides</i> |
| totara | <i>Podocarpus totara</i> |
| matai | <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> |
| kahikatea | <i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i> |
| cabbage tree | <i>Cordyline australis</i> |
| tawa | <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i> |
| titoki | <i>Alectryon excelsus</i> |
| pigeonwood | <i>Hedycarya arborea</i> |
| mahoe | <i>Meliccytus ramiflorus</i> |
| black maire | <i>Nestegis cunninghamii</i> |
| kaikomako | <i>Pennantia corymbosa</i> |
| pukatea | <i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i> |
| kowhai | <i>Sophora microphylla</i> |
| | <i>Lophomyrtus obcordatum</i> |
| | <i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> |
| | <i>Coprosma areolata</i> |
| | <i>Coprosma rigida</i> |
| | <i>Muelhenbeckia australis</i> |
| | <i>Urtica ferox</i> |

Woody introduced species include: hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), black berry (*Rubus fruticosus*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

Birds seen: pukeko, harrier, NZ kingfisher, tui, silvereve, NZ fantail, grey warbler, magpie, house sparrow, chaffinch, greenfinch, goldfinch, thrush, blackbird.

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