



1. Shore ribbonwood / sea rush shrub-rushland.
2. Sea rush - Leptocarpus rushland.
3. Olearia - shore ribbonwood - manuka shrubland.
4. Tall fescue grassland.
5. Exotic herb - gravelfield.
6. Broom - fennel - gorse shrubland.



## Duck Creek Scenic Reserve

Area: 1.0356 ha



DUCK CREEK SCENIC RESERVE		GRID REF R 27 696094												
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>for:</td> <td>scenery</td> <td>bush</td> <td>scrub/tussock etc</td> <td>wetland ✓</td> <td>plants</td> <td>animals</td> <td>geology/soil</td> <td>history/prehistory</td> <td>water supply</td> </tr> </table>	for:	scenery	bush	scrub/tussock etc	wetland ✓	plants	animals	geology/soil	history/prehistory	water supply	LOCATION Southern side of Pauatahanui Inlet, Porirua Harbour ACCESS Along James Cook Drive or Highway 58			AREA ha/ac 1.04 L.D. No. 146 STATUS Scenic RES sub-Cites CONTROL CCL GAZETTED 1976/1515 RESERVED 1976 HISTORY Formerly Crown land, nesting area and food source for birds. AIR PHOTO SN 5497 F/6 date 1980
for:	scenery	bush	scrub/tussock etc	wetland ✓	plants	animals	geology/soil	history/prehistory	water supply					
OUTLINE & TOPO A small reserve on both sides of a tidal stream. The gently sloping area contains tall salt marsh vegetation and abuts higher well drained land on its southern perimeter.		nearby town 2.5 km Paremata nearest reserve 7 km Porirua public road 0 km sea (km) 0												
SURROUNDINGS Whitby Golf Course on southern boundary; fill batter between James Cook Drive, Highway 58 and reserve. Stream channel under bridge and Highway 58. Lowland hills to west and east.		ALTITUDE m/ft 0 - 2 ASPECT North RAIN mm/yr 1200 (approx) NAT FERTILITY Low												
GEOLOGY Recent alluvium.		SPM Estuarine muds, silts and sands												
SOIL Gleyed saline soils, Pauatahanui Shelly sand		DRAINAGE Impeded, influenced by tidal cycle.												

RES		NOY		MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES										% area	area ha	native	ex	UNB <sup>1</sup>	NAT <sup>2</sup>	exotic
10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
✓	✓	✓	✓	1. Shore ribbonwood/sea rush - <i>Leptocarpus</i> shrub-rushland. Shore ribbonwood is found on high ground bordering Duck Creek. Tall fescue is common on the western stream margin. <i>Cyperus ustulatus</i> , sea rush and <i>Leptocarpus</i> occur on the wash zone on the eastern stream margin. Many young shore ribbonwood plants are present.	16.7	0.17	✓													
✓	✓	✓	✓	2. Sea rush - <i>Leptocarpus</i> rushland. Salt marsh rushland dominated by varying proportions of both species. Canopy reaches 1.5 m. Scattered plants of <i>Apium prostratum</i> , <i>Samolus repens</i> and <i>Selliera radicans</i> occur under the rushes. <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> forms extensive patches amongst the rushes.	56.7	0.59	✓													
✓	✓	✓	✓	3. <i>Olearia solandri</i> - shore ribbonwood - manuka shrubland on dry ground. Manuka on SE boundary.	5.2	0.05	✓													
				4. Tall fescue grassland on well drained gravel embankment below SH 58.	0.7	0.01							✓							
				5. Exotic herb-gravel field on well drained fill batter includes white clover, suckling clover, Scotch thistle, tall fescue, broad-leaved dock and clustered dock. Batchelor's button dominates poorly drained zone between sea rush - <i>Leptocarpus</i> marsh and fill batter.	6.5	0.07							✓							
				6. Broom - fennel - gorse shrubland on terrace 1.5 m above salt marsh.	14.2	0.15								✓						
					100	1.04														

**CONDITION** Salt marsh proper in good condition. Invasion of exotics into marsh restricted to salt-tolerant species such as *Agrostis stolonifera* and tall fescue. Disturbed, well drained land is dominated by exotic herbs, gorse and broom.

**FENCING** New fence on western boundary, old fence between golf course and reserve in disrepair.

**PRIORITY** Low

**RATING 0-10**

**SCIENTIFIC** ...3... small area of tall salt-marsh vegetation

**SCENIC** ...3... small road frontage

**RECREATION** ...0... not used. Too small to develop.

**CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS**

The reserve contains a typical example of tall salt-marsh rushland common to the Pauatahanui Inlet. Although some species typical of the low-marsh vegetation are present a low-marsh community is not present in the reserve.

Gorse could become a problem on the higher well-drained areas of 3 and 5 and should be cleared. Radiata pine saplings could also be cleared from 3.

Rubbish from passing cars litters the periphery of the reserve; a scenic reserve notice near the intersection of James Cook Drive and Highway 58 could deter litter-bugs.

2.5 hours Fine conditions MCW, P. Edwards September 1983

<sup>1</sup> NATURALNESS      <sup>2</sup> TREND: D deteriorating; S steady; I improving

Healy, W.B. 1980. Pauatahanui Inlet - An Environmental Study. DSIR Information Series 141, 198 pp.  
 Druce, A.P. 1976. Indigenous Vascular Plants of Pauatahanui Inlet, S.L. to 100 ft. Botany Division, DSIR, Unpublished.

REFERENCES

% area	SUMMARY	HABITATS														ORGANISMS	INFER			OBSERVED			
		WATER/SHORE		large	small	sw/est	fill/out stable	veg	substrate	poll-ution	access	H	S	M	N		L	M	H	initials			
5.2	tall conifer <sup>1</sup> forest/trees	u ~ adjoins reserve														higher native plants	34						
	conifer <sup>2</sup> forest/trees	sw/lw coast														lower plants							
	beech forest/trees	sw/lw beach														exotic plants	43						
	BL <sup>1</sup> forest/trees	sw/lw estuary	✓													bush							
	scrub/shrubs < 5m	sw/lw rockpool														exotic plants	scrub						
	tall tussocks/grassland	lake 120m +														in native	grass						
	short tussocks/grassland	pool/tern														higher freshwater plants							
	grassland/grasses	river 5m +														lower freshwater plants							
	sedgeland/sedges	stream														native mammals							
	rushland/rushes/raupo	spring/speage	✓													native birds							
herbland/herbs															introduced birds								
"tussock" herbland <sup>4</sup>															waterfowl s.l.								
feralnd/terns															introduced waterfowl								
"moss" land															reptiles								
bracken															native/introduced amphibia								
															fw native fish								
0.7	exotic grassland <sup>5</sup>														fw introduced fish								
6.5	exotic herbland/woodland														fw invertebrates								
14.2	exotic scrub/shrubs														terrestrial invertebrates								
	exotic forest/trees														saltwater life								
	introduced "native" cover																						
73.4	bag/swamp/pakihi																						
	marsh sw/lw																						
	mudflat sw/lw																						
	bluff/rocks																						
	bluffs/rocks in bush																						
	waterfall																						
	cave/gorge																						
	gravel habitat/scree																						
	dune/sand																						
	limastone																						
	ultrabasics																						
	geological site																						
	breeding ground																						
	rare/interesting animals																						
	rare/interesting plants																						
	historic site																						
	historic building																						
	prehistoric site																						
	camp/midden/pits																						
	terraces/earthworks																						
	burial/tapu																						

<sup>1</sup> tall conifer: kahikatea, kauri, matai, miro, rimu, totara    <sup>2</sup> remaining 11 tree-sized spp    <sup>3</sup> broadleaved    <sup>4</sup> e.g. flax    <sup>5</sup> incl. rough grassland, pasture etc

TREES AND SHRUBS

Native

*Cassinia leptophylla*  
*Coprosma propinqua*  
*C. repens*

*Hebe stricta* var. *macroura*  
*Leptospermum ericoides*  
*L. scoparium*

*Olearia solandri*  
*Plagianthus divaricatus*

Adventive

*Cytisus scoparius*  
*Lupinus arboreus*

*Malva sylvestris*  
*Pinus radiata*

*Ulex europaeus*

CLIMBERS, LIANES ETC.

Native

*Muehlenbeckia complexa*

*Tetragonia trigyna*

Adventive

*Rosa rubiginosa*

*Rubus fruticosus*

GRASSES, RUSHES AND LIKE PLANTS

Native

*Carex flagellifera*  
*Cyperus ustulatus*  
*Juncus gregiflorus*  
*J. maritimus* var. *australiensis*

*Juncus pallidus*  
*J. sarophorus*  
*Leptocarpus similis*  
*Phormium tenax*

*Scirpus cernuus* (= *Isolepis cernua*)  
*S. nodosus* (= *Scirpoides nodosa*)  
*S. prolifer* (= *Isolepis prolifer*)  
*Typha orientalis*

Adventive

*Agrostis stolonifera*

*Dactylis glomerata*

*Festuca arundinacea*

HERBS

Native

*Acaena anserinifolia*  
*Apium prostratum*  
*Cotula coronopifolia*  
*Gnaphalium audax*

*Haloragis erecta*  
*Lilaeopsis* sp.  
*Lobelia anceps*  
*Samolus repens*

*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*  
*Selliera radicans*  
*Stellaria parviflora*

Adventive

*Achillea millefolium*  
*Anagallis arvensis*  
*Aster subulatus*  
*Brassica rapa* ssp. *sylvestris*  
*Cirsium vulgare*  
*Cotula australis*  
*Cryptostemma calendula*  
*Foeniculum vulgare*  
*Fumaria officinalis*

*Galium aparine*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Hypochaeris radicata*  
*Lotus pedunculatus*  
*Nasturtium officinale*  
*Oxalis* sp.  
*Plantago coronopus*  
*P. lanceolata*  
*Ranunculus repens*

*Sonchus oleraceus*  
*Spergularia rubra*  
*Trifolium campestre*  
*T. dubium*  
*T. pratense*  
*T. repens*  
*Vicia hirsutus*  
*V. sativa*

