

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 southern boundary there is bamboo (*Bambusa* sp.), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and a 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 (*Crocsmia 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

- Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* (unc) (p+) – 1 kahikatea white pine
 only naturally occurring
Podocarpus totara – on road reserve totara
 (p+?)

DICOT TREES AND SHRUBS

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

DICOT LIANES

- Metrosideros diffusa* white climbing rata

SCIENTIFIC NAME

M. fulgens
M. perforata
Parsonsia heterophylla

MAORI NAME

akatawhiwhi
 aka
 kaihua

ENGLISH NAME

red rata vine
 small white rata vine
 native jasmine

MONOCOT TREES

Rhopalostylis sapida

nikau

MONOCOT LIANES

Freycinetia baueriana ssp. *Banksii* (unc)
Rhipogonum scandens

kiekie
 kareao

supplejack

FERNS

Anarthropteris lanceolata
Asplenium bulbiferum s.s.
A. flaccidum (unc) – 1 only noted
A. polyodon (unc)
Blechnum filiforme
Cyathea dealbata
C. medullaris (unc) – 1 only noted
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hypolepis sp. [which sp?]
Microsorium pustulatum (= *Phymatosorus*
pustulatus)
M. scandens (= *Phymatosorus scandens*)
Pteris tremula
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia (= *P. serpens*)

whare-ngarara
 mouku
 makawa
 petako
 panako
 ponga
 mamaku
 irirangi
 kowaowao
 mokimoki
 turawera
 ngarara wehi

lance fern
 hen and chickens fern
 hanging spleenwort
 sickle spleenwort
 thread fern
 silver tree fern
 black tree fern
 filmy fern
 hound's tongue
 fragrant fern
 shaking brake
 leather-leaf fern

SEDGES

Uncinia uncinata (unc)

kamu

hook sedge

MONOCOT HERBS (OTHER THAN ORCHIDS, GRASSES SEDGES, RUSHES)

Collospermum 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.]