from: Clelland, D. (1986) Unprotected natural areas of the Wellington Region

On bibliography ✓

1 km

N

Wainuiomata River

Coast Road

Wainuiomata

Gollans Stream

Hawtrey

Lowry

Butterfly Creek

Eastern Bays

Eastbourne

Gracefield

Map 6

Mount Hawtrey Bush

Key

- Urban / Industrial land
- Vegetation boundaries
- Ridges / Spurs
- Rivers / Streams / Shorelines
- Tracks / Unsealed roads
- Sealed roads
- Peaks / Trigs
- Small pockets of rata forest

- For key to vegetation types refer to biological description.

RIMUTAKA FOREST PARK

MOUNT HAWTREY BUSH

GRID REF
N 164: 455, 178 - 469, 270
Mt Hawtrey - 463, 214
AIR PHOTO
5497 F/12-15

SIZE
2100 hectares

OWNERS Eastbourne Borough Council, Wellington City Council, Lands and Survey Department. Remainder in multiple freehold.

STATUS/CURRENT PROTECTION
Butterfly Creek catchment under Eastbourne Borough Council Domain status - Lowry Bay Scenic Reserve and unnamed scenic reserves (L & S, EBC) protects 278.37 hectares.

LOCATION
East of Wellington Harbour between Eastbourne and Wainuiomata.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Mount Hawtrey Bush forms the largest insular area of forest and scrub in the Wellington region. Situated on the eastern side of Wellington Harbour it separates the townships of Eastbourne and Wainuiomata. It extends approximately 7 km from north to south and about 3 km from west to east. The main eastern Hutt ridge divides at Lowry trig (373m) to form the two north-south ridges which dominate the topography of the area. Between these two ridges Gollans Valley headwaters form the major catchment, draining south toward Fitzroy Bay. The vegetation is mostly black and hard beech forest on weathered, in-situ, greywacke with broadleaved forest and scrub types on colluvial sites. Large areas of gorse, manuka and young kamahi scrub occupy the east ridge; especially on the slopes overlooking Wainuiomata. The west ridge, with Mt Hawtrey as the high point, rises steeply above the eastern bays to about 300m above sea level. Pockets of terrestrial northern rata forest occur at many of the gully heads where the slope is more gentle than below. Gollans Valley and the smaller Butterfly Creek contain lowland podocarp and pukatea forests on their narrow alluvial flats. Fires have extensively modified the vegetation throughout, leaving a jumble of different aged forest and scrub types. Fires have been less frequent in recent years.

ACCESS

Easiest from western side. A track from Williams Park in Days Bay leads up to the main ridge track. This is the most direct route into the area. Various trails and tracks follow ridges and streams throughout the area.

JUSTIFICATION FOR RESERVE STATUS

1. Forms largest insular area of forest and scrub in Wellington region.
2. Important area for birds. Contains all common native birds of the region as well as New Zealand falcon, whitehead and long tailed cuckoo.
3. Has considerable scenic, recreational and educational value.
4. Contains a wide diversity of vegetation types.

RATING 0-10

SCENIC	8
SCIENTIFIC	5
RECREATION	8(9)

BIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

COMMUNITY TYPES	%	*RES WGTN*
1. Gorse scrub	15	yes
2. Mixed broadleaved forest and scrub with some areas of beech forest.	6.5	yes
3. Mixed lowland podocarp forest with some areas of pukatea forest.	1	yes
4. Pines/gorse and broadleaved regeneration.	1	yes
5. Coastal flax and gorse shrubland with introduced daisies.	1	no
6. Manuka-kanuka scrub.	6.5	yes
7. Pines, eucalypts.	1	yes
8. Tree fern and broadleaved scrub.	4	yes
9. Beech forest. Mosaic of all ages of hard and black beech.	50	yes
10. Kamahi dominated scrub and forest.	4	yes
11. Recently burnt gorse and manuka scrub.	1	yes
12. Manuka-kanuka forest.	1	yes
13. Pasture.	1	yes
.. Rata forest - occurs in isolated pockets too small to map at the scale used.	-	yes
1+2 Mosaic of 1 and 2.	1	yes
1+6 Mosaic of 1 and 6.	3.5	yes
9+10 Mosaic of 9 and 10.	2.5	yes

RARE/UNCOMMON PLANTS	*NCC STATUS*	*RES WGTN*
Callitriche muelleri) Butterfly Creek	-	no
Melicytus micranthus) only	-	no
Botrychium australe var *millefolium*)	-	no
Hypolepis dicksonioides) Butterfly	-	no
Hydrocotyle pterocarpa) Creek and	-	no
Ranunculus macropus) elsewhere	-	no
Gonocarpus incarnus - manuka scrub between Days Bay and Eastbourne. Also found at Plimmerton Swamp.	-	no

RARE/UNCOMMON ANIMALS

None known from this area.

MODIFICATIONS AND TRENDS

Logging has removed most mature podocarps. Fires which occurred in the first half of this century have extensively modified the vegetation leaving a mosaic of different ages of forest. Recent fires have tended to be small and confined to the slopes adjacent to Wainuiomata. The area has a high level of recreational use, and scout parties, campers and day trampers frequent the area. Butterfly Creek is the most visited catchment. In both Gollans Valley and Butterfly Creek unsightly litter surrounds some camp sites. Deer, pigs and possums are present, the latter in large numbers. Feeding and browsing by these animals, possums particularly, is having a detrimental effect on the vegetation.

THREATS

1. Over-use by visitors.
2. Fires are still a threat throughout the area.
3. Overbrowsing by possums may cause more extensive damage if not controlled. The rata stands near the ridges may disappear. Many dead rata can be seen already. Further damage to the vegetation could lead to slope instability and erosion.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

1. Regular control of possum numbers by an appropriate authority.
2. Regular litter removal from the main valleys.
3. A formed track in Gollans Valley, while making an ideal walkway would reduce damage to the forest by keeping all visitors on one track.

COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS

This is the largest of the areas surveyed. Its size and proximity to major residential areas makes it very valuable. The main ridges rise above the Eastern Bays to form a natural and aesthetically pleasing backdrop to the harbour and bays. The wide diversity of scrub and forest types within form an important educational and scientific resource. Historically they are interesting, showing the effects of repeated fires. The area contains seven species of regionally rare or endangered native plants, most of which are in the Butterfly Creek catchment. Fires are less frequent than was once the case and the vegetation is steadily recovering. The ecological stability is still threatened by possums which defoliate most vegetation types reducing canopy area and ground cover. Severe erosion could eventually result. This would constitute a major problem were it to occur on the steep slopes above the Eastern Bays. The reduced diversity in forest type which results from possum browsing also has a detrimental effect on native bird populations. This area is important as a bird refuge. The whitehead, New Zealand falcon and long tailed cuckoo can only be seen elsewhere in the major state forest parks or other relatively inaccessible areas. Wider recognition of the importance of Mt Hawtrey Bush is needed to bring about its protection. It should be reserved and held under unified control and management. Careful management may be needed to maintain the area as a recreational facility while protecting the area from harmful influences.

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Moynihan, K.T., 1975. Vegetation mapping and ecological survey - Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne. Unpublished BSc (hons) project. Victoria University of Wellington.

BY
DC, MCW

MONTH January 1983

COMMON VASCULAR PLANTS OF MOUNT HAWTREY BUSH

Trees and shrubs

* *Albizzia lophantha*
Alectryon excelsus
Alseuosmia pusilla
Aristotelia serrata
Beilschmeidia tawa
* *Berberis glaucocarpa*
Brachyglottis repanda
* *Buddleia davidii*
Carmichaelia arborea
Carpodetus serratus
Cassinia leptophylla
* *Chamaecytisus palmensis*
Coprosma areolata
C. foetidissima
C. grandifolia
C. lucida
C. microcarpa
C. repens
C. rhamnoides
C. robusta
C. rotundifolia
C. tenuicaulis
C. sp unnamed
(*C. parviflora* - Oliver 1935)
Cordyline australis
C. banksii
Coriaria arborea
Corynocarpus laevigatus
* *Cupressus lusitanica*
Cyathodes fasciculata
C. juniperina
* *Cytisus scoparius*
Dacrydium cupressinum
Dodonaea viscosa
Dracophyllum longifolium var
Dysoxylum spectabile
Elaeocarpus dentatus
E. hookerianus
* *Erica lusitanica*
Fuchsia excorticata
Gaultheria antipoda
Geniostoma rupestre var
Griselinea lucida
Hebe stricta var *atkinsonii*
Hedycarya arborea
Helichrysum aggregatum
Knightia excelsa
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Leptospermum ericoides
L. scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
* *Leycestaria formosa*
Lophomyrtus bullata
L. obcordata
Macropiper excelsum
Melicope ternata
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros robusta
Myoporum laetum
Myrsine australis
M. salicina
Nestegis lanceolata
Nothofagus solandri
var *solandri*
N. truncata
Olearia paniculata
O. rani
* *Osteospermum moniliferum*
(*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*)
Paratrophis microphylla
Pennantia corymbosa
* *Pinus* sp
Pittosporum eugenioides
P. tenuifolium
Podocarpus dacrydioides
(= *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)
P. ferrugineus
(*Prumnopitys ferruginea*)
P. spicatus
(= *Prumnopitys taxifolia*)
P. totara
Pseudopanax arboreus
P. crassifolius
Pseudowintera axillaris
Rhopalostylis sapida
Schefflera digitata
Senecio kirkii
(= *Urostemon kirkii*)
S. aviculare
Solanum laciniatum
Sophora microphylla
Syzygium maire
* *Ulex europaeus*
Weinmannia racemosa

Climbers and Lianes

Clematis hookeriana
C. paniculata
Freycinetia baueriana
ssp *banksii*
Metrosideros colensoi
M. diffusa
M. fulgens
M. perforata
Muehlenbeckia australis
Parsonsia heterophylla
Passiflora tetrandra
Ripogonum scandens
Rubus australis
R. cissoides
* *R. fruticosus*
* *Senecio mikanoides*

Grasses, rushes and like plants

Agropyron scabrum
* *Agrostis tenuis*
* *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
* *Briza minor*
Carex dissita
C. forsteri
C. lambertiana
C. solandi
C. virgata
Cortaderia fulvida
C. toetoe
Cyperus ustulatus
* *Dactylis glomerata*
Deyeuxia pilosa
Dichelachne crinita
* *Festuca arundinacea*
Gahnia pauciflora
G. setifolia
* *Holcus lanatus*
* *Juncus bufonius*
J. planifolius
* *J. tenuis*
J. sp
Lepidosperma australe
Luzula banksiana
var *banksiana*
L. picta var *picta*
L. picta var *pallida*
(*L. subclavata*)
Microlaena avenacea
Poa anceps
* *Poa annua*
Rytidosperma gracile
* *R. penicillatum*
R.unarede
Scirpus reticularis
(=*Isolepis reticularis*)
Uncinia angustifolia
U. banksii
U. uncinata
* *Vulpia bromoides*

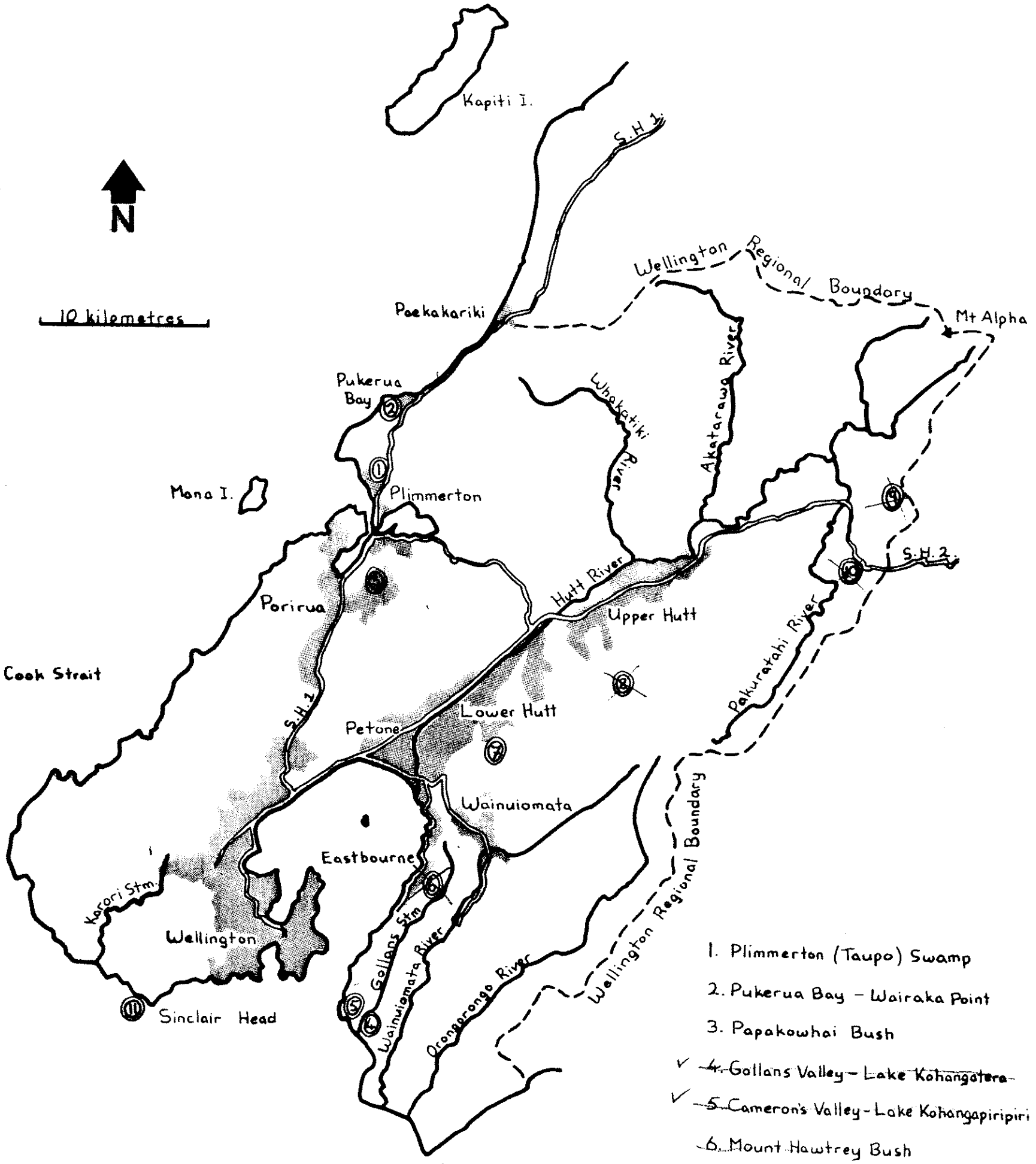
Herbs

Acaena anserinifolia
* *Achillea millefolium*
Acianthus fornicatus
* *Anagallis arvensis*
Astelia fragrans
A. solandri
* *Bellis perennis*
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Caladenia catenata
Cardamine sp.(*C. debilis* agg)
(c.f. "Glossy Leaf)
C. sp (*C. debilis* agg)
(c.f. "Long style")
* *Centaurium erythraea*
Centella uniflora
Chiloglottis cornuta
* *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*
* *Cirsium arvense*
* *C. vulgare*
Collospermum hastatum
* *Conyza* 'floribunda'
Corybas aconitiflorus
C. macranthus
C. oblongus
C. trilobus
* *Crepis capillaris*
Dendrobium cunninghamii
Dianella nigra
Drosera peltata ssp *auriculata*
Drymoanthus adversus
Earina autumnalis
E. mucronata
Epilobium alsinoides
E. erectum
E. nummularifolium
E. pubens
E. rotundifolium
Euphrasia cuneata
* *Foeniculum vulgare*
* *Galium aparine*
Geranium microphyllum
Gnaphalium audax
G. involucratum
G. luteo-album
(= *Pseudognaphalium luteo-album*)
* *G. purpureum*
Haloragis erecta
Helichrysum filicaule
Hydrocotyle moschata
* *Hypochaeris glabra*
* *H. radicata*
Lagenifera pumila
* *Leontodon autumnalis*
* *L. grandiflora*
* *L. taraxicoides*
Libertia ixioides
Lobelia anceps
Microtis unifolia
Nertera depressa
Pelargonium inodorum
Phormium colensoi
P. cookianum
P. tenax
* *Picris echioides*
* *Plantago lanceolata*
* *Prunella vulgaris*
Pterostylis alobula
P. banksii
P. cardiostigma
P. graminea
P. montana
P. sp. (Cooper - unnamed)
Ranunculus hirtus
Raoulia tenuicaulis
* *Rumex acetosella*
* *Senecio bipinnatisectus*
S. glomeratus
S. hispidulus
* *S. jacobaea*
S. minimis
* *Sisymbrium officinale*
* *Sisyrinchium iridifolium*
Solanum nodiflorum
* *Sonchus asper*
* *S. oleraceus*
* *Stellaria media*
S. parviflora
* *Taraxacum officinale*
Thelymitra decora
T. longifolium
T. pauciflora
T. sp
* *Tradescantia fluminensis*
* *Trifolium dubium*
* *T. repens*
* *Vicia angustifolia*
* *V. sativa*
Wahlenbergia colensoi
W. gracilis
W. sp

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii
Alsophila tricolor
(*Cyathea dealbata*)
Anarthopteris lanceolata
Asplenium bulbiferum
A. flabellifolium
A. flaccidum
A. oblongifolium
A. polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
B. discolor
B. filiforme
B. fluviatile
B. membranaceum
B. minus
B. vulcanicum
B. sp. (*capense* agg)
Cardiomanes reniforme
Ctenopteris heterophylla
Dicksonia squarrosa
Grammitis billardieri
G. ciliata
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum bivalve
H. demissum
H. dilatatum
H. flabellatum
H. flexuosum
H. multifidum
H. rarum
H. sanguinolentum
Lastreopsis glabella
L. hispida
L. velutina
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lindsaea linearis
L. trichomanoides
Lycopodium varium
L. volubile
Paesia scaberula
Pellaea rotundifolia
Phymatosorus diversifolius
P. scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
P. vestitum
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrosia serpens
Rumohra adiantiformis

* ADVENTIVES



1. Plimmerton (Taupo) Swamp
2. Pukerua Bay – Wairaka Point
3. Papakowhai Bush
4. ~~Gollans Valley – Lake Kohangatera~~ ✓
5. ~~Cameron's Valley – Lake Kohangapiripiri~~ ✓
6. ~~Mount Hawtrey Bush~~
7. ~~Mount Fitzherbert~~ ✓
8. ~~Blue Mountains Bush~~
9. ~~The Puffer~~
10. ~~Rimutaka Bush A, B~~
11. ~~Red Rocks to Karori Stream~~

Locality Map

– Wellington Region showing location of surveyed sites.