

## PUKEMANGAMANGA BUSH (2204)

Topomap T27 & T28 342041 Alt 435m

Indigenous Vascular Plants

Pat Enright 25/4/99

unc = uncommon

### **Site description:**

This site is on the Maungaraki range on the property of Jamie Strang. The area is shaped rather like a cirque with higher and drier land on three sides and the East side being lower and bounded in part by a small stream. There are numerous depressions and drainage channels within the bush area.

There is significant dieback of some species and in particular the large rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*). One small matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*) and several coprosma plants had already died. This is most likely have been caused by drought as limestone usually drains very quickly. Wind may have exacerbated the problem with drying affects and certainly windthrow is very evident.

The area is grazed with the consequent dirth of most fern and herbaceous species but pockets of interesting vegetation remain where access is difficult for stock. Cattle are the biggest problem as they have accessed areas where the sheep would not go especially in the more boggy areas. Fencing of the site would allow much needed regeneration, especially of the podocarps, as little is evident at the moment.

The presence of very large podocarps rimu, matai, and kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*) give the site a visual impact from the road. There are some other notable tree species present that form the main canopy below the emergent podocarps. Black maire (*Nestegis cunninghamii*) is very abundant and both white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*) and narrow leaved maire (*Nestegis montana*) are present in lower numbers along with willow leaved matipo (*Myrsine salicina*). Totara (*Podocarpus totara*) is uncommon as is Hall's totara (*Podocarpus hallii*) and miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) is even less common. One of the most notable features is the small beech stand on the eastern edge of the site. Red beech (*Nothofagus fusca*), Black beech (*Nothofagus solandri* var. *solandri*) and a hybrid are present in low numbers. The main shrub cover is tree nettle (*Urtica ferox*). pepper tree (*Pseudowintera colorata*) and coprosma species (*C. rubra*, *C. rigida* and *C. rotundifolia*) in the interior and some *C. propinqua* subsp. *propinqua* on the wetter eastern edge. A single healthy specimen of *Pseudopanax edgerleyi* was seen. There are a number of rather stunted specimens of *Neomyrtus pedunculata* which may be reaching its altitudinal limit here

Amongst the climbers were three bushlawyers (*Rubus schmidelioides*, *R. australis* and a narrow leaved form of *R. cissoides*), rata vine (*Metrosideros colensoi*) and native jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*).

The fern flora was badly affected by browsing. *Hypolepis ambigua* was very common and must be unpalatable to stock. There were small patches of other species but *Asplenium flaccidum* and *A. polyodon* existed only as epiphytes in a couple of trees. The tree ferns may not have been common at any stage, but all that remains now is a couple of punga logs and one very small juvenile *Dicksonia* (probably *fibrosa*).

There was a poor but very interesting herbaceous flora. *Carex inversa* was noted growing under a fallen log where stock could not access it and there were a few browsed plants of *Carex dissita* in the boggy areas. There was one small patch of a small dark green hooksedge (*Uncinia sp. (cf rupestris)*). Small patches of *Schizeilema trifoliolatum* and a native violet (*Viola filicaulis*) were seen. *Ranunculus glabrifolius* was growing in the damp hollows and in standing water near the eastern edge of the bush. Another local rarity, the bibibidi *Acaena juvenca* was common along the northern edge of the site.

Aalbert Rebergen had previously noted two mistletoes (*Tupeia antarctica* & *Korthosella lindsayi*) growing in the area.

In summary this site contains number of plant species and plant associations that are uncommon in the Eastern Wairarapa ecological district and must rank very highly on the list of areas to be protected. Fencing would probably cause some problems in the short term with the growth of the exotic grass cover especially around the margins but would allow regeneration of this ecologically valuable site.

No ground orchids were seen and a further visit in the spring should be made to pickup on these. The search effort was thorough and took 6 hours to complete

#### Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides	Kahikatea
Dacrydium cupressinum	Rimu
Podocarpus hallii	Halls totara
Podocarpus totara	Totara
Prumnopitys ferruginea (unc)	Miro
Prumnopitys taxifolia	Matai

#### Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis	cabbage tree
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#### Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Alectryon excelsus var. excelsus (unc)	Titoki
Carpodetus serratus	Putaputaweta
Coprosma areolata	
* Coprosma crassifolia	
Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua	

Coprosma rhamnoides	
Coprosma rigida	
Coprosma rotundifolia	
Coprosma rubra	
Coprosma propinqua x C. robusta	
Elaeocarpus dentatus (unc)	Hinau
Elaeocarpus hookerianus (unc)	Pokaka
Fuchsia excorticata (unc)	Kotukutuku
Hedycarya arborea (unc)	Pigeonwood
Hoheria sexstylosa	
Knightia excelsa	
* Korthosella lindsayi (unc)	
Kunzea ericoides (unc)	Kanuka
Lophomyrtus obcordata	
Melicope simplex	
Melicytus ramiflorus subsp. ramiflorus	Mahoe
Melicytus micranthus	
Myrsine australis (unc)	
* Myrsine divaricata	Weeping Matipo
Myrsine salicina	
Neomyrtus pedunculata	
Nestegis cunninghamii	Black Maire
Nestegis lanceolata	White maire
Nestegis montana	Narrow leaved maire
Nothofagus fusca	Red beech
Nothofagus solandri var. solandri	Black beech
Pennantia corymbosa	Kaikomako
Pittosporum eugenioides	Lemonwood, tarata
Plagianthus regius	Ribbonwood
Pseudopanax crassifolius	Horoeka, lancewood
Pseudowintera colorata	Horopito
Raukaua anomalus	Whauwhaupaku
Raukaua edgerleyi	
Sophora microphylla	Kowhai
Streblus heterophyllus	Turepo, milk tree
* Tupeia antarctica (unc)	
Urtica ferox	Tree nettle

#### Monocotyledonous lianes

Ripogonum scandens (unc)	Supplejack
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#### Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Clematis foetida (unc)	
Metrosideros colensoi	
Metrosideros diffusa	
Muehlenbeckia australis	Pohuehue
Muehlenbeckia complexa	
Parsonsia heterophylla	Akakiore
Passiflora tetrandra	Passion vine
Rubus australis	
Rubus cissoides	
Rubus schmidelioides	

Ferns

Asplenium gracillimum (unc)	
Asplenium flabellifolium	Necklace fern
Asplenium flaccidum ss (unc)	Makawe, Hanging spleenwort
Asplenium hookerianum	
Blechnum fluviatile	Kiwakiwa
Dicksonia fibrosa (unc)	
Histiopteris incisa (unc)	
Hypolepis ambigua	
Pellaea rotundifolia	Tarawera
Polystichum silvaticum (unc)	
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia	

Orchids

Earina autumnalis	
Earina mucronata	

Grasses

Echinopogon ovatus	
Poa imbecilla	

Sedges

Carex dissita	
Carex inversa (unc)	
Isolepis reticularis	
Uncinia (cf. rupestris) (unc)	

Rushes and allied plants

Juncus distegus	
Juncus gregiflorus	Wiwi
Juncus sarophorus	
Luzula subclavata (unc)	

Remaining Monocotyledonous plants

Collospermum hastatum	
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Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

Gnaphalium gymnocephalum	
Senecio minimus	

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

Acaena anserinifolia	Bidibidi
Acaena juvenca	
Australina pusilla	
Callitriche petriei	
Cardamine sp. aff corymbosa	
Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg. )("Long Style" of Pritchard 1957 )	
Cardamine sp. (C. debilis agg. )("Narrow Petal" of Pritchard 1957)	
Epilobium pedunculare	
Hydrocotyle elongata	
Hydrocotyle heteromeria	

Hydrocotyle moschata (unc)  
Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae  
Oxalis magellanica (unc)  
Plantago raoulia  
Pratia angulata  
Ranunculus glabrifolius  
Ranunculus reflexus (unc)  
Schizeilema trifoliolatum (unc)  
Stellaria decipiens  
Urtica incisa  
Viola filicaulis (unc)

(pp R. hirtus)Maruru, hairy buttercup

**Birds:**

Fantail  
Goldfinch  
Grey warbler  
Magpie  
Native pigeon  
Paradise duck  
Starling  
Tui