

# **PRELIMINARY SPECIES LIST**

**Some indigenous vascular plants on the South Wellington coast from Windy Point to the Orongorongo River mouth.**

**Compiled by L. Clark, J.C. Horne and B.J. Mitcalfe on  
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INDIGENOUS VASCULAR PLANTS --- ORDER OF LISTING AFTER A.P.DRUCE

	COMMENTS
<b>MONOCOT TREES</b>	
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	In rocky, swampy terrain between road and beach, also in regenerating forest .
<b>DICOT TREES, SHRUBS and TRAILING PLANTS</b>	
<i>Carmichaelia</i> sp.(hookeri?)	Wind-shorn bushes on farmland west of Turakirae Head.
<i>Cassinia leptophylla</i>	Abundant on farmland, present down to the splash-zone on shore.
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	
<i>Coriaria sarmentosa</i>	Pioneer species growing on recent slips.
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	Many large trees in pockets along the coast, some near swampy ground, others in valleys, or old gravel fans. Very little undergrowth and no seedlings seen, probably due to stock browsing. Most trees were heavily in berry, but a few appeared to be dying, possibly due to salt damage.
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	Occasional, associated with karaka
<i>Haloragis erecta</i>	Several plants noticed amongst pioneer species on gravel near Kotumu Stream.
<i>Hebe</i> sp.( <i>Veronica arborea</i> )	Very common on slips, larger plants occurring further up near undisturbed forest cover.
<i>Helichrysum aggregatum</i>	Ground cover on stable gravel slopes.
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	Emergent young trees seen in regenerating forest.
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Abundant on all but the most recent disturbed sites, also amongst roadside vegetation. Host to stick insects.
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Abundant in the same sites as kanuka, but also present in rocky, swampy sites between road and beach.
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	Small bushes amongst scrub.
<i>Melicytus crassifolius</i>	Very common, prostrate shrubs found from upper beach sand, and rock outcrops to road cutting banks and stabilised sand/gravel fans
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	Occasional, scrub to small tree in size, in scrub and forest patches.
<i>Muehlenbeckia astonii</i>	Large shrub, on pasture near start of Turakirae track.
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Several trees growing in the Scientific Reserve.

DICOTS CONTINUED	
<i>Olearia paniculata</i>	
<i>Olearia solandri</i>	
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	Several plants showing both juvenile and adult forms. One tree was in advanced "changeover", with a small skirt of juvenile branches around its base, and a head of adult form. Growing in small patches of forest.
<i>Pimelea prostrata</i>	Forming ground cover on sandy slopes at the foot of the hills at Windy Point. Also found binding sand on upper beaches and in rock crevices. Some plants had thick stems about 2cm diameter. Most plants were covered in flowers or berries.
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	In wetlands just south of Fisherman's Rock.
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	Occasional young plants amongst scrub.
<i>Urtica ferox</i>	Common in clearings, especially near Barneys Whare.
DICOT LIANES	
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Very small plants in sand dunes and on fine gravel.
<i>Clematis forsteri</i>	Common in established scrub
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	Abundant in scrub and on farmland, most plants flowering, some in berry.
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>	In patches of well-established scrub, landward side of track in Scientific Reserve.
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	As for <i>Parsonsia capsularis</i> , in flower.
FERNS	
<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	Under rock overhang near Windy Point.
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Under scrub on talus south of Windy Point.
<i>A. oblongifolium</i>	Under scrub.
<i>A. terrestre</i> var. <i>maritimum</i>	In rock crevices.
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	In puddles on the track.
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	In Scientific Reserve by the track, and in hill valleys amongst forest.
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>	Underneath established scrub.
<i>Pneumatococcus pustulatus</i>	Epiphytic, in scrub.
<i>Polystichum richardii</i>	Reasonably common under scrub.
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	On talus near Windy Point.
<i>Pyrosia eleagnifolia</i>	Epiphytic on tree.

<b>GRASSES</b>	
<i>Austrofestuca littoralis</i>	Clumps growing in dunes near Fisherman's Rock and Windy Point. Locally very common.
<i>Chionochloa beddei</i>	Three individuals counted, growing in crevices on a rock outcrop, Windy Point.
<i>Cortaderia toetoe</i>	Locally abundant, forming dominant swamp community.
<i>Festuca multinodis</i> ?	Unable to confirm.
<i>Spinifex hirsutus</i> (new name?)	Abundant on dunes and sand/gravel fans.
<b>SEDGES</b>	
<i>Carex</i> (flagellifera?)	
<i>Carex pumila</i>	Low-growing, with blue-green, recurved leaves. Growing on upper beach.
<i>Carex</i> sp. (triangular stem)	Abundant in swamp near Fisherman's Rock.
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	Common near track.
<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	In wetland south of Windy Point.
<i>Juncus</i> sp. (aggregatus?)	
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	
<i>Luzula</i> sp. (picta?)	On stabilized slopes.
<i>Luzula</i> sp.	Abundant in wetlands.
<i>Uncinia</i> sp.	
<b>RUSHES</b>	
<i>Isolepis nodosus</i>	
<i>Isolepis prolifer</i>	Common in wetland south of Windy Point.
<i>Typha orientalis</i>	Locally common in a swamp on the west side of Turakirae Head.
<b>MONOCOT HERBS</b>	
<i>Aciphylla squarrosa</i>	
<i>Phormium cookianum</i>	Common on hillsides, some in exposed areas in scrub.
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	Appeared similar to "gigantea" var. Forming large flax swamp in Scientific Reserve.
<b>COMPOSITE HERBS</b>	
<i>Pseudognaphalium</i> sp.	
<i>Ranunculus acaulis</i>	
<i>Raoulia</i> (subsericea?)	Common on open ground, on sand/gravel slopes, and stabilized sand near beach.
<i>Senecio lautus</i>	

DICOT HERBS	
Acaena anserinifolia (?)	
Centella uniflora	In grass by track.
Colobanthus (muelleri?)	
Craspedia uniflora	
Dichondra repens	
Epilobium sp. (nummularifolium/rotundifolium)	
Eryngium vesiculosum	On a Windy Point rock outcrop,(same location as Chionochloa beddei). One plant had small umbels of insignificant white flowers.
Geranium sessiliflorum	
Parietaria (debilis?)	
Plantago sp.	
Wahlenbergia (albomarginata?)	Small white flowers amongst scrub and grass.

No **pingao** was observed, the only likely habitat being near Windy Point. However, the presence of two other rare plants; Chionochloa beddei and Eryngium vesiculosum, is worth noting. Also worth noting is the complete absence of Marram grass. Perhaps it could be an option to reintroduce pingao to this area.

Regenerating coastal forest in the area is an encouraging sight. This part of Wellington's coast is obviously much richer floristically than the area around Pencarrow, and being perhaps too distant to be subjected to regular recreational use/abuse. Whereas the Pencarrow populations of pingao are threatened by trailbikers and quarrying activity, some beach ecosystems around Turakirae Head are subject to erosion problems witnessed by the enormous debris fans at the base of many of the streams east of Turakirae. The formation of these fans is certainly assisted by the stripping of the original forest for farming, and maintained by seasonal flooding. This has allowed establishment of adventive pests such as Buddleja davidii.

Farm stock were also a common sight along the track, and in some karaka groves, where there appeared to be little, if any understorey. It is probably fair to assume this lack to be due to stock browsing. The presence of stock may also inhibit progression from scrub to forest by the eating out of tree seedlings, thus maintaining the scrub environment.

INTRODUCED PLANTS	
Boxthorn	Occasional bushes on open farmland.
Buddleja davidii	Very common on recently-disturbed sites, such as the streambeds between Barney's Whare and Windy Point. In flower.
Bunnytail grass	
Cape gooseberry	One plant amongst manuka scrub near Turakirae Head.
Clover	White flowered.
Cranesbill geranium	
Cress	In puddles.
Dandelion	Common amongst grass by the road edge.
Dock	Growing in a wetland near Fisherman's Rock.
Fennel	Near Barneys Whare.
Forget-me-not	Dominating low vegetation in wetland near Fisherman's Rock, flowering.
Gorse	
Horned poppy	Occasional plants on beach.
Pennyroyal	Fairly common along the road edge, flowering.
Scarlet pimpernel	
Sheep mullein	
Sorrel	
Spanish heath	Becoming established on recent slips. Several plants were seen, but it is probably more widespread.
Sweetbriar	Between road and wetland near Fisherman's Rock. Covered in ripe hips.
Syzerinchium	
Thistle sp.	
Vetch	
Watercress	In streambeds.

### NATIVE BIRDS

Grey warbler

Shag - small and completely black, not close enough to identify.

Southern black-backed gull.

Waxeye

### INTRODUCED BIRDS

House sparrow

Rock pigeon

Skylark

White-backed magpie

Yellowhammer

### OTHER OBSERVATIONS

Many cabbage-white butterflies were seen near the road.

Native insects seen include: large cicadas, a large dragonfly, damselflies, praying mantis, green stick-insects, and nurseryweb spiders.

Common skinks were seen amongst rock debris in a streambed.

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Lyn Clark, 10 April 1994.