

file:foreman.doc(26.01.98)

Re. Swamp maire remnant at Carterton, Wairarapa Plains Ecological District, PNA 619, grid S26.167.186.

On 20.01.1998 I had a look at a remnant of swamp forest (PNA619) with the owner, John Foreman. The plant info in the PNA reconnaissance report is brief, but mentions swamp maire as the dominant tree.

Mr Foreman, who is a farmer, has bought the property for farming purposes. The swamp forest (approx. 1 ha.) is one of a number of small forest remnants on his land. The swamp maire forest has been fenced off 18 months ago and the amount of regeneration is incredible.

The canopy of the forest remnant is dominated by swamp maire and kahikatea, but also includes totara, titoki, hinau, tawa and cabbage tree. The understory is dense, with a ground cover of grasses, sedges and ferns. A large nikau palm is found in the centre of the remnant.

There is a weed problem. Weeds include hawthorn, broom, blackberry, *Hypericum* and Japanese honeysuckle. Only the last species is at present a problem and should be controlled urgently.

Mr. Foreman is a very conservation minded farmer (also owner of Foremans Wetlands at Clareville). He has already fenced off the swamp forest remnant and wants to protect a nearby small remnant of matai dominated forest.

I believe that the rare vegetation type of the swamp maire forest warrants a conservation covenant. Fencing has already been completed, and DOC's expertise could assist the land owner in controlling the honeysuckle.

It is possible (and likely) that the site will be identified as an RAP in the Wairarapa Plains PNA report.

Tuis, bellbird, NZ pigeon (up to 8), grey warbler and fantail were all seen in the small forest. Pigeons were feeding on swamp maire fruit.

Plant list (not complete), compiled during a one hour visit on 20.01.1998:

trees and shrubs

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| <i>Alectryon excelsus</i> | titoki |
| <i>Aristotelia serrata</i> | wineberry |
| <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i> | tawa |
| <i>Brachyglottis repanda</i> | rangiora |
| <i>Carmichaelia arborea/australis?</i> | native broom |
| <i>Carpodetus serratus</i> | putaputaweta |
| <i>Coprosma areolata</i> | |
| <i>C. grandifolia</i> | |
| <i>C. propinqua</i> | |
| <i>C. rhamnoides</i> | |
| <i>C. robusta</i> | |
| <i>C. propinqua</i> x <i>C. robusta</i> | |
| <i>Cordyline australis</i> | cabbage tree |
| <i>Dacrycarpus dacrydoides</i> | kahikatea |
| <i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i> | hinau |
| <i>E. hookerianus</i> | pokaka |
| <i>Fuchsia excortica</i> | tree fuchsia |

<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i>	hangehange
<i>Hebe stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood
<i>Hoheria</i> sp.	lacebark
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i> (hybrid?)	ramarama
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicope simplex</i>	
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	whitey wood, mahoe
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>M. divaricata</i>	weeping matipo
<i>Nestegis cunninghamii</i>	black maire
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemmonwood
<i>P. tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five-finger
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau palm
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	poroporo
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	kowhai
<i>Syzygium maire</i>	swamp maire
<i>Urtica ferox</i>	
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi

climbers

<i>Calystegia tuguriorum</i>	
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	
<i>M. complexa</i>	
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>	
<i>P. heterophylla</i>	
<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>	kohia
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack

We also visited a second remnant on drier ground, approx. 1 ha., that Mr Foreman wants to protect through fencing. The forest has been used by cattle, and as a result there is little else but a canopy. However, the forest canopy is closed and the forest should regenerate rapidly once stock has been excluded. The tall vegetation is dominated by titoki and matai, with scattered rewarewa, totara and even swamp maire. *Melicope simplex* is dominant at the forest edges. Grid. S26.169.189.

Tuis and NZ pigeons were present in the matai dominated forest remnant.

trees and shrubs

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau

Knightia excelsa
Melicope simplex
Melicytus ramiflorus
Pennantia corymbosa
Podocarpus totara
Prumnopitys taxifolia
Solanum aviculare
Syzygium maire

rewarewa

whitey wood, mahoe

kaikomako

totara

matai

poroporo

swamp maire

climbers

Metrosideros perforata
Muehlenbeckia australis
M. complexa
Passiflora tetrandra
Ripogonum scandens

kohia

supplejack

Aalbert Rebergen
Conservation Officer
DOC Masterton

