

Vascular Plants and Mosses on the properties at 226 and 234 Te Hapua Road

Map ref. S25 850411 5km Nth of Waikanae

The properties of Anne Stark and Bevan Burgess at 226 and Jill Abigail and Joy Anderton at 234 Te Hapua Road Peka Peka were surveyed on 1st April 2000 by the landowners and a group of Wellington Botsoc members (Peter Beveridge, Pat Enright, Chris Horne, Olaf John, Barbara Mitcalfe, Wendy Nelson and Darea Sherratt). The area is part of a large swamp complex with a series of parabolic sand dunes and ridges damming a sand plain to produce a series of swamps much of which has now been drained and converted to farmland.

Most of the swampy land on these properties has been modified with a number of artificial ponds and drainage ditches. The land has a history of grazing and aerial photographs from thirty years ago show quite a bit of scrub clearance. Rank exotic grasses such as tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) and pampas grass (*Cortadaria selleona*) along with the rush *Juncus effusus* have invaded the area and the pampas grass in particular needs to be eradicated. The other exotic notable at the time because it was in flower was marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*).

In spite of the modification the native vegetation contains a number of notable species, most for their rarity within the Wellington Conservancy although there are one or two species that are "local" on a national basis.

The species of note are as follows:

1. *Baumea articulata* is very close to its southern limit here although it is reportedly found at the Waikanae estuary as well (Ian Cooksley pers. comm.). There is an old herbarium record at Te Papa for a collection by B C Aston at Fields Swamp Waikanae. A small area of this sedge was growing on the bank above the artificial pond on the property at 224 Te Hapua Rd.
2. *Carex dipsacea* is a sedge that is now uncommon due to loss of habitat. It was locally common in several parts of the properties.
3. *Carex maorica* is another sedge that is not commonly seen in the conservancy due to loss of suitable habitat.
4. *Gratiola sexdentata* was growing in a shortly turfed area. This area would probably be inundated periodically.
5. *Potentilla anserinioides* (silverweed) is common throughout most of the area at 234 and to a much lesser extent at 226 if fact it lives up to its common name. Nevertheless this species is uncommon in the Wellington conservancy probably because of a lack of suitable habitat.
6. *Viola lyallii* is another plant that is not often seen in the Wellington area because of habitat loss.

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Coprosma propinqua subsp. propinqua	mingimingi
Coprosma tenuicaulis (unc)	swamp coprosma
Ozothamnus leptophylla	tauhinu

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis (unc)	ti kouka, cabbage tree
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Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Muehlenbeckia complexa	pohuehue
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Ferns

Blechnum novae-zelandiae (B. minus of NZ authors)	swamp kiokio
Pteridium esculentum	rauaruhe, bracken

Orchids

Microtis sp.	onion leaved orchid
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Grasses

Cortaderia toetoe	toetoe
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Sedges

Baumea articulata	
Baumea rubiginosa	
Carex dipsacea	
Carex lessoniana	
Carex maorica	
Carex secta	purei
Carex virgata	
Cyperus ustulatus	
Eleocharis acuta	
Eleocharis gracilis	slender spike sedge
Isolepis inundata	
Isolepis nodosa	
Isolepis prolifer	
Isolepis subtilissima	
Schoenus maschalinus	

Rushes and allied plants

Juncus gregiflorus
Juncus planifolius
Juncus sarophorus

Remaining Monocotyledonous plants

Phormium tenax	harakeke, flax
Potamogeton cheesemanii	manihi, red pondweed
Triglochin striata	arrow grass
Typha orientalis	raupo

Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

Euchiton involucratum	cudweed
Euchiton limosum	cudweed

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

Centella uniflora

Epilobium pallidiflorum

Galium propinquum

mawe

Glossostigma elatinoides

Gratiola sexdentata

Hydrocotyle hydrophila

Hydrocotyle pterocarpa

Lobelia anceps

Myriophyllum propinquum

water milfoil

Potentilla anserinoides

silver weed

Ranunculus amphitrichus

Viola lyallii

Mosses:

Drepanocladus aduncus