

**SOME INDIGENOUS VASCULAR PLANTS ON THE KAIWHARAWHARA/NGAHAURANGA ESCARPMENT, INCLUDING KAIWHARAWHARA PARK, CENTRED ON NZMS 260 R27 G.R. 603931, AND HOMEBUSH PARK, G.R. 615936; LIST COMPILED ON 21-10-96 BY B.J.MITCALFE AND J.C.HORNE.**

**NOTE: (P) = planted, i.e. not naturally-occurring; KP = Kaiwharawhara Park only.**

**MONOCOT TREES**

<i>Cordyline australis</i>	tii koouka	cabbage tree
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**DICOT TREES/SHRUBS**

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	tiitoki	titoki
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomako	wineberry
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	rangiora
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kaanono	kanono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu	karamu
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	taupata	taupata
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	karamu
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka	karaka
<i>Dodonea viscosa</i> (P)	akeake	akeake
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	kootukutuku	tree fuchsia
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange	hangehange
<i>Hebe speciosa</i> (P)	koromiko	koromiko
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>atkinsonii</i>	koromiko	koromiko
<i>Hoheria populnea</i>	houhere	houhere
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa	rewarewa
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kaanuka	kanuka
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	maanuka	manuka
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	maahoe	whiteywood
<i>Melicope ternata</i>	wharangi	wharangi
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> (P)	pohutukawa	pohutukawa
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	ngaio	ngaio
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	maapou	mapou
<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i> (P)	karo	karo
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	tarata	lemonwood
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu	kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	whauwhaupaku	5 finger
<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	poroporo	poroporo
<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	koowhai	kowhai

**MONOCOT LIANES**

<i>Freycinetia baueriana</i> ssp. <i>banksii</i>	kiekie	kiekie
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**DICOT LIANES**

<i>Clematis forsteri</i>		
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i> (KP)	raataa	clinging rata
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	poohuehue	poohuehue

Muehlenbeckia complexa	poohuehue	pohuehue
<b>FERNS</b>		
Asplenium bulbiferum	manamana	hen & chickens
Asplenium flabellatum		
Asplenium oblongifolium	huruhuruwhenua	shining spleenwort
Asplenium terrestre		
Blechnum chambersii	nini	
Blechnum discolor (KP)	piupiu	crown fern
Cyathea dealbata	ponga	silver fern
Cyathea medullaris	mamaku	mamaku
Dicksonia squarrosa (P)	whekii	wheki
Histiopteris incisa (KP)	maataataa	water fern
Lastreopsis glabella		
Lastreopsis velutina		velvet fern
Pellaea rotundifolia	tarawera	
Polystichum richardii	pikopiko	hard fern
Pteridium esculantum	raarahu	bracken
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia	ota	leather fern
<b>ORCHIDS</b>		
Microtis unifolia	maikaika	onion orchid
Thelymitra longifolia	maaikuku	sun orchid
<b>GRASSES</b>		
Cortaderia fulvida	toetoe	toetoe
Poa anceps		
<b>MONOCOT HERBS (OTHER THAN ORCHIDS AND GRASSES)</b>		
Libertia ixioides	miikoikoi	NZ iris
Phormium cookianum	wharariki	coastal flax
<b>DICOT HERBS</b>		
Haloragis erecta		
Senecio minimus		fire weed

## **ECOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF KAIWHARAWHARA-NGAHAURANGA ESCARPMENT.**

**TENURE:** Private

**ASPECT:** Southeast

**SLOPE:** Steep

**PHYSIOGRAPHY:** Fault scarp dissected by steep gullies; greywacke talus/colluvium.

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We visited the site on 21-10-96, descending via a steep gully from Homebush Rd just below its intersection with Onslow Rd, to the Hutt Rd. We then walked northeast, parallel to and just above the Hutt Road to approximately 100m northeast of the steep gully which descends from Homebush Park. We then climbed the escarpment to the Park. Next we went to the southern end of Jarden Mile and continued our survey in the bush, both southwest of the road end and also above Jarden Mile towards the Ngahauranga Gorge Road. Later, from the top of Winchester St, we walked up the Bridle Track and descended a steep track to Kaiwharawhara Football Ground, then sidled southwest, finally climbing to the Bridle Track again.

**HISTORY/CULTURAL ASPECTS :** We found two historic stone walls. One of them is drystone, in bush above the Hutt Road roughly opposite where the railway goes under the motorway. The other, which is partly cemented, is in the bush immediately southwest of Kaiwharawhara Park Football Ground. We believe these walls are remains of structures associated with the original Hutt Road. We also came across a few old fence posts on the slopes. Domestic rubbish was scattered in some sites, and we saw two possible pot plots.

**VEGETATION, GENERAL :** Canopy height ranges from 3 - 10 metres. On the terrace immediately above the Hutt Road, karaka is the dominant canopy species and we noted numerous karaka seedlings, saplings and poles. The terrace also supports emergent pohutukawa, which do not appear to be regenerating, mahoe and emergent ngaio. Leaf litter ranges from abundant to sparse. Near the top of the escarpment there are several substantial fivefingers.

**BIOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS :** This is a relatively weedfree second-growth, coastal forest of approximately 50 years, with substantial, planted pohutukawa and karo.

**RARITY :** There are a few, significant remnants of original vegetation such as kiekie and some large fuchsia trees.

**DIVERSITY :** Moderately diverse: we listed 32 tree and/or shrub species, 6 lianes, 16 ferns, and 8 monocot and dicot herbs.

**DISTINCTIVENESS :** The vegetation provides a scenic approach to the city, a green background of largely-indigenous vegetation contrasting with the industrial foreground, and forming a natural extension of the Ngauranga/Korokoro escarpment.

**CONTINUITY/LINKAGES** : The site is ecologically continuous with the regenerating indigenous vegetation on the Ngahauranga-Korokoro escarpment to the northeast, and with Trelissick Park. It is listed as Site Nos. 2 and 3 in "Natural Wellington" published by Wellington Branch, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

**SUSTAINABILITY/ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION** : Animal and plant pest control will help increase the biological diversity of the forest as it continues to regenerate. In time, later successional species will come in from Trelissick Park and other sites in the Kaiwharawhara catchment.

**THREATS** : We saw what appeared to be pig-rooting and pig droppings below the Bridle Track, southwest of Kaiwharawhara Park Football Ground. There were possum scratches particularly on mahoe, throughout.

**RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL** : The existing track from the Bridle Track down to the Kaiwharawhara Park Football Ground is worth upgrading. The cemented stone wall about 10 metres southwest of the Park is accessible along an old road alignment. There is also potential for a track to be constructed above the Hutt Road, from Kaiwharawhara Park, northeast to the drystone wall, thence to the Jarden Mile.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

We recommend that:

1. the forest be zoned Open Space in the District Plan;
2. the Council seek to obtain the forest by purchase or by land- swap.

B. MITCALFE

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