

## LIST OF VASCULAR PLANTS IN KARAKA BUSH BETWEEN WESTERN LAKE ROAD AND THE LAKE

Map Ref. Topomap S27 903889 Alt 16-23 m

Extracted from original list by A.P. Druce *Indigenous Vascular Plants of "Wilderness Bush" and "Karakas Bush" near Waiorongomai, Eastern foot of Rimutaka Range (List #. 141)*

unc = uncommon

n = species added to list on subsequent visits

o = species not seen on current survey

This site is an 8.3 hectare block of bush and surrounding treeland on Waiorongomai Station just off the Western Lake Road. It has been fenced for over 50 years (owners comment). Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) and titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*) are the main component of the canopy with scattered hinau (*Eleocharis dentata*), rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) and matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*). The greatest variation in the tree species is found on the western boundary mainly outside the fence. Here there is ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius*), kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), matai and solitary specimens of black maire (*Nestegis cunninghamii*) and ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*).

A lot of the understory is open with scattered fern species and a little regeneration in the lightwells. In places however there are thickets of kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*), coprosma species and regenerating mahoe (*Melicactus ramiflorus*) and red mapou (*Myrsine australis*). These areas tend to be in better lit parts of the bush particularly along the northern margin. There are some parts of the bush that must get or retain moisture better than others and these are characterised by the presence of the ferns *Pteris macilanta* and *Asplenium bulbiferum*. Wind erosion was noticeable on the northern side of the bush with almost bare areas of gravel and only patches of waxweed (*Hydrocotyle heteromeria*) and *Schiezelema trifoliolatum* gaining a hold. The epiphytes were evident only where the light was sufficient to allow growth and hence most were growing on trees outside the fenced area. The orchid *Earina mucronata* was particularly evident on an old ribbonwood just outside the fence on the lake side on the bush. The scattered kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) trees had the odd one with the small mistletoe *Korthosella salicornioides* growing on it. This species is considered rare in most parts of the country but it is common in the area around Lake Wairarapa. It does not infect all the manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and kanuka, but seems to be selective. A lot of the host trees look less healthy than their non-infected neighbours but whether this is because of the mistletoe or the mistletoe selects the less healthy trees is debatable.

Comparing the list of plants between the two surveys (the original one was done in 1974) it appears there is little change. The species not seen on the current visit may have been missed due to very low numbers or there may have been some drying out of the area causing their demise. By the same token a number of the "new" species are single occurrences e.g. ramarama and the perching orchid *Drymoanthus adversus*. Other species are recent recruits into the area as witnessed by the age of the specimens e.g. kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), turepo (*Streblus heterophyllus*) and mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*). There also seems to have been some recruitment of herbaceous species.

Apart from exotic grasses invading from the surrounding pasture there are very few adventive species and no real weed problem at all.

There were some pest traps seen (maybe for possums) but at the time of the visit there was a thriving rabbit population resident in the bush.

### Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

- o *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* (unc) kahikatea
- Prumnopitys taxifolia* matai

### Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

- Alectryon excelsus* subsp. *excelsus* titoki
- o *Aristotelia serrata* makomako, wineberry
- Beilschmiedia tawa* tawa
- Coprosma areolata*
- Coprosma crassifolia*
- Coprosma grandifolia* raurekau
- Coprosma propinqua* subsp. *propinqua* mingimingi
- Coprosma rhamnoides*
- Coprosma propinqua* x *C. robusta*
- Coprosma robusta* karamu
- Corynocarpus laevigatus* karaka
- Elaeocarpus dentatus* hinau
- Griselinia lucida* puka, broadleaf
- Hedycarya arborea* porokaiwhiri, pigeonwood
- Knightia excelsa* rewarewa
- n *Korthosella salicornioides* (on kanuka) mistletoe
- Kunzea ericoides* kanuka
- n *Lophomyrtus bullata* (unc) ramarama
- Macropiper excelsum* subsp. *excelsum* kawakawa
- Melicytus ramiflorus* mahoe
- Myoporum laetum* ngaio
- Myrsine australis* red matipo
- o *Myrsine salicina* (unc) toro
- Nestegis cunninghamii* (unc) back maire
- Pennantia corymbosa* kaikomako
- n *Pittosporum tenuifolium* (unc young plant) kohuhu
- Plagianthus regius* manatu, ribbonwood
- o *Pseudopanax arboreus* (unc) whauwhaupaku, five  
finger
- Solanum aviculare* poroporo
- Sophora microphylla* kowhai
- Streblus heterophyllus* (unc young plants) turepo, small leaved  
milktree

### Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

- Cordyline australis* ti, cabbage tree
- Rhopalostylis sapida* nikau

### Monocotyledonous lianes

- o *Freycinetia banksii* (unc) kiekie
- n *Ripogonum scandens* supplejack

### Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

- n *Calystegia tuguriorum* native bindweed

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Metrosideros diffusa      |                        |
| Metrosideros perforata    | akatea                 |
| Muehlenbeckia australis   | pohuehue               |
| n Muehlenbeckia complexa  | pohuehue               |
| Parsonsia capsularis      | kaiwhiria              |
| Parsonsia heterophylla    | kaihua, N.Z. jasmine   |
| n Passiflora tetrandra    | passionvine            |
| Rubus schmidelioides s.s. | tataramoa, bush lawyer |

### Psilopsids, Lycopods and Quillworts

#### Ferns

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Arthropteris tenella                        | jointed fern                             |
| Asplenium bulbiferum                        | manamana, hen and chicken fern           |
| o Asplenium flabellifolium (unc)            | necklace fern                            |
| Asplenium flaccidum                         | makawa o rautuatauri, hanging spleenwort |
| Asplenium hookerianum                       |  |
| Asplenium oblongifolium                     | huruhuruwhenua, shining spleenwort       |
| o Asplenium polyodon (unc)                  | petako, sickle spleenwort                |
| n Asplenium bulbiferum x A. flaccidum (unc) |  |
| Blechnum filiforme                          | thread fern                              |
| o Cyathea dealbata                          | ponga, silver fern                       |
| n Cyathea medullaris (unc young plants)     | mamaku                                   |
| Hypolepis ambigua                           |  |
| Lastreopsis glabella                        |  |
| n Lastreopsis microsora                     |  |
| n Microsorium pustulatum                    |  |
| n Microsorium scandens (unc)                | mokimoki                                 |
| Pellaea rotundifolia                        | tarawera, button fern                    |
| Polystichum richardii                       | pikopiko                                 |
| Pteris macilenta (unc)                      | sweet fern                               |
| Pteris tremula                              | turawera, shaking brake                  |
| Pyrrosia eleagnifolia                       | ota, leather-leaf fern                   |

#### Orchids

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| n Drymoanthus adversus (unc) |             |
| n Earina autumnalis (unc)    |             |
| Earina mucronata             | peka-a-weka |

#### Grasses

|                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Microlaena stipoides | patiti, meadow rice grass |
|----------------------|---------------------------|

#### Sedges

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| n Carex breviculmis (unc) |                  |
| o Carex flagellifera      |                  |
| n Carex solandri          |                  |
| n Carex testacea (unc)    |                  |
| Uncinia uncinata          | watu, hook grass |



Stellaria media  
chickweed  
Trifolium pratense  
Trifolium repens  
Urtica urens

red clover  
white clover  
nettle

**Birds:**

eastern rosella  
fantail  
grey warbler  
kerreru  
magpie  
marsh harrier  
waxeye