

WAIPAUA (CABBAGE TREE) RESERVE Surveyed 9-11-87

**Vegetation**

Canopy species include Olearia traversii, Plagianthus regius var. chathamicus, Coprosma chathamica, Myrsine chathamica, Pseudopanax chathamicum, Rhopalostylis sapida and Dracophyllum arboreum. The dominant canopy species varies in different areas of the reserve. D.arboreum dominates on ridge tops, P.regius var. chathamicus along the Waipaua and Second Water Creek valleys, and C.chathamica in swampy hollows. R.sapida is common on the slopes into Waipaua Stream. Subcanopy species include Dicksonia squarrosa, P.chathamicum, M.chathamica, C.chathamica, and Myoporum laetum. Understorey species include saplings and seedlings of most of the above species as well as Melicytus chathamicus, Macropiper excelsum, Corokia macrocarpa, Brachyglottis huntii, and Polystichum ricardii. D.squarrosa is the commonest understorey species, and forms dense thickets here, and in previously burnt areas. Ripogonum scandens is common along the stream sides. B.huntii is common only at the forest edge in the north part of the reserve (see comments below).

**Bird List**

weka - common  
starling - common  
blackbird - occasional  
dunnock - occasional  
chaffinch - common  
silvereeye - common  
Chatham Id tui - occasional  
Chatham Id warbler - common  
Chatham Id tomtit - rare  
red-crowned parakeet (two seen, three heard)  
Chatham Id fantail (four seen)

**Animal Impact**

C.25 black sheep, c.15 domestic sheep and two bulls were seen in the reserve. Pig tracks and rooted ground were common along the stream sides and in the headwaters of the streams. Regeneration in areas under forest canopy appears rapid, however in grassy clearings and along the fence lines where animals concentrate, regeneration appears much slower.

The fence was in good condition where checked - except for a hole under the wires where it crosses the Waipaua Stream. Both cattle and sheep could gain access into the reserve through this hole.

**Comment**

This reserve appears to be regenerating well in most areas, it is important that the wild and domestic animals are removed from the reserve.