

## Covenants east of Waitahanui River

This survey and species list occurred in April 2001 by R Whyman

### Vegetation description

#### 68001 Waitahanui River

**Tall kanuku/scrub, mixed broadleaf/shrub, monoao frostflats and scattered wildings. Along the river mixed ferns shrubs and native grasses.**

The largest covenant within the area c.10km long and varying between 0.1-0.5km wide. The vegetation type throughout the majority of the Waitahanui River covenant is similar with only a few varying pockets.

At the southern end within the basin *Kunzea ericoides* and *Erica lusitanica* are abundant on the flats. There is a small area of silver poplars. Out of the basin *Kunzea ericoides*, *Pittosporum tenuifolium* var. *colensoi* and *Hebe stricta* are common there are areas of dominant kunuka on some faces. Directly along side the river there are varieties of carex's and ferns. Pockets of *Dracophyllum subulatum*, *Poa laevis* and kanuku are common throughout the middle of the covenant

#### 68002 Mangeamutu Stream

**Kanuka scrub land, conifer pines/poplar, mesotrophic mire**

The covenant area of the gully is c.2.5km long and c.0.1-0.3km wide. *Kunzea ericoides*, *Pteridium esculentum*, *Hebe stricta* and *Cyathodes juniperina* dominate the vegetation of the steep scarps. Within the basin there is a variety of vegetation types *Pittosporum tenuifolium* var. *tenuifolium*, *Hebe stricta* and *Kunzea ericoides* is common at the eastern end, within the centre there is a large infestation 100+ of large silver poplar trees underneath these the vegetation is sparse with few ferns and *Astelia*'s. At the western end the gully is wider and the habitat is wetland with grassy flats incl. *Dicksonia fibrosa*, *Cordyline australis*, *Phormium tenax* and *Carex sp.* Wilding pines incl. Douglas fir *p.pinaster*, *p.radiata* are common throughout notably along the tops, few contorta were noted.

#### 68003 Ruahakune Bush

**Broadleaf / regen podocarps miro, rimu and kahikatea. Kamahi / Broadleaf. Kamahi / kanuka.**

The road dissects this area of bush with similar vegetation on both sides. The bush is prevalent *Carpodetus serratus* *Pittosporum sp* and *Coprosma sp* with pockets dominated with *Weinmannia racemosa* and *Kunzea ericoides* there were few emergent *Dacrydium cupressinum*, *Podocarpus totara* and *Nothofagus fusca* a number of seedlings noted. Along the roadside *Hebe stricta* is common and there are many weed species with Douglas fir being common along the edge and

within the covenant, contorta was common on the east side and there was a old stand of pinaster within the block 883 595.

There are large old lancewoods throughout the forest and a few old lemonwoods, a possibility of *Dactylanthus taylorii* being present, more likely in the southside of the bush alongside an old track. A quick searched was done but no plants were located.

A variety of forest birds were noted bellbirds, grey warbler, harrier, tui and robins. No deer sign was noted small amount of possum browse and sign.

### **68004 Wairango Lookout / Bush**

#### **Mixed broadleaf/Podocarp – Kamahi, remaining emergent red beech & miro**

A steep road cuts through the bush up to the lookout at 937m. Broadleaf species including a variety of pittosporum's and pseudopanax are prevalent there are plenty of small shrubs including coprosma's, koromiko and pepperwood. Among the emergent and canopy trees are *Weinmannia racemosa* *Nothofagus fusca* and *Prumnopitys ferruginea*.

At the lookout the majority of the native has been cleared and is replaced by grass. Around the edges the vegetation is shrubby with *Olearia arborescens*, snowberry and kanuka. There are many weed species: gorse, broom and Spanish heath are abundant within local patches, individual cotoneaster plants are scattered throughout, along the road edge there are low infestations of buddleia and Himalayan honeysuckle. Wilding Douglas fir seedlings and mature trees are abundant along the road edge and throughout the covenant.

### **68005 Pukerimu Bush**

#### **Tall podocarp beech/ rimu, miro over broadleaf kamahi, putaputaweta, mtn mahoe & kohuhu**

A small pocket of bush on a hill, at present the entire surrounding area has been milled. Previously *Dactylanthus taylorii* had been caged in this bush and monitored but the plants had been stolen. Pukerimu Bush is dominated by *Nothofagus fusca*, with fewer *Prumnopitys ferruginea*, *Dacrydium cupressinum* emergents. *Carpodetus serratus* – *Pittosporum tenuifolium* var. *tenuifolium* – *Melicetyus lanceolatus* dominated the sub-canopy. Seedlings represent the forest floor with few ferns.

Small amount of possum sign noted and one deer heard and sign seen. Douglas fir had been planted up to the bush edge there were many wilding seedlings noted around the covenant and damaged had been done to vegetation around the fringe. Douglas fir is noted in varies stages within the covenant. Three *Pinus radiata* had been felled within Pukerimu Bush.

## 68006 Rotuakui Bush

**Broadleave: broadleaf, kohuhu, five finger with few emergent red beech. Forest floor: regenerating podocarps miro and rimu with broadleaf seedlings**

A near continuation of Ruahakune bush with a very similar vegetation (there is exotics of 500m between the two). The bush is abundant with broadleaf *Pseudopanax's* & *Pittosporum's* a perfect environment for *Dactylanthus taylorii*. There are fewer emergent podocarps 2 *Nothofagus fusca* was noted and *Dacrydium cupressinum* and *Prumnopitys ferruginea* were only noted as seedlings, there is a small area of dominant kamahi. There are many wildings with Douglas fir being common, most notable along the old track and scattered within the covenant. There are a few large contorta within and along side the covenant.

Severe damage has been done to the covenant due to development of the old track to access the skip, the development of the skip has also created immense damage. Felling of the pines directly behind the covenant is to start soon.

A variety of forest birds were noted grey warbler, harrier, robin, tomtit and Tui. No deer or possum sign were noted.

## 68007 Mangakahakaha

**Mixed broadleave with regen. Podocarp. Ferns and native grasses along the stream edge.**

Otherwise known as pitchfork creek, a steep sided gully with the source of the spring at the northern part of the covenant. Pines planted to the edge at the top with only a few wildings down within the covenant. The vegetation included a variety of *Coprosma's* *Pittosporum's* and *Pseudopanax's* with kanuka *Cyathodes* & *Leucopogon*.

## 68008 Waioratene

**Kanuka, kohuhu, koromiko / wildings incl. Douglas fir *P.radiata*, *p.pinaster* & *p.contorta* and exotic grasslands**

The most northern part of this covenant is the area that had a fire 5-7 years ago, evidence of the fire is still visible, exotic grassland has covered the area. Further down the gully narrows the vegetation becomes shrubby with Kanuka, kohuhu, koromiko and five fingers being the most common with bracken and wildings throughout.

Historically goats have been prolific within this area. No severe damage of any pest animal was noted a small amount of browse on a five finger and some possum sign were noted. There seemed to be a well used track down into the basin possibly a hunter's track. Wetas were visible within the kanuka trunks, and there were many large spiders

### Key

Presence of species was only identified.

- = adventive

<b>Species</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>68001</b>	<b>68002</b>	<b>68003</b>	<b>68004</b>	<b>68005</b>	<b>68006</b>	<b>68007</b>	<b>68008</b>
<b>Gymnosperm trees</b>									
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	Kahikatea			P					
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu			P	P	P	P		
* <i>Pinus contorta</i>	logpole pine	P	P	P	P		P		
* <i>Pinus pinaster</i>		P	P	P				P	P
* <i>Pinus radiata</i>		P	P	P	P	P	P		P
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara			P					
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro			P		P	P		
* <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Monocot trees and liannes</b>									
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	P	P	P	P		P	P	P
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supple jack			P	P				
<b>Dicot trees and shrubs</b>									
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomao, wineberry	P		P	P	P	P		
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	P			P	P	P		
* <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	buddleia			P	P				
<i>Carmichaelia arborea</i>	native broom		P						
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta			P	P	P	P		
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kaono	P		P	P		P		
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>		P				P	P		
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	P	P	P					
<i>Coprosma sp. t: "taylorae" (Eagle, 1982)</i>				P	P			P	
<i>Coprosma tenuifolia</i>		P	P	P		P	P	P	
<i>Coriaria arborea</i>	tutu		P	P	P	P		P	P



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<i>*Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse	P		P	P	P			
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi			P	P	P		P	

**Dicot liannes**

<i>Clematis forsteri</i>	clematis	P	P		P				P
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	pohuehue			P	P	P			
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>	NZ jasmine			P	P				P
<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>	kohia, native passionfruit								
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer	P		P	P	P			P
<i>*Rubus sp. (R. fruticosus agg.)</i>	blackberry	P		P	P	P			P
<i>Rubus schmideloides</i>	bush lawyer	P		P					

**Ferns**

<i>Asplenium bulbiferum subsp. bulbiferum</i>			P	P	P				P
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>				P					
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>				P					
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>				P					
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>				P			P		
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>		P	P	P			P		P
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>		P	P	P			P		P
<i>Blechnum pennamarina</i>		P							
<i>Blechnum procerum</i>			P	P					
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>		P							
<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>		P	P				P		P

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<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>		P							
<i>Grammitis billardierii</i>				P		P			
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	waterfern			P					
<i>Hypolepis ambigua</i>									
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>				P				P	
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>									
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>									
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>									
<i>Leptolepia novae-zelandiae</i>									
<i>Leptopteris superba</i>				P		P		P	
<i>Microsorm pustulatum</i>									
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	lace fern		P	P					P
<i>Phymatosorus pustulatus</i>	hounds tongue	P			P				
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gully fern								
<i>Polystichum vestitum</i>	shield fern	P	P	P	P	P			
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken	P	P	P					
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather leaf fern				P	P		P	
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	leathery shield fern								
<i>Sticherus cunninghamii</i>			P	P					P
<b>Orchids</b>									
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>								P	
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	bamboo orchid								
<i>Winika cunninghamii</i>	ladies slipper orchid								
<b>Monocot herbs and grasses</b>									
<i>Astelia fragrans</i>	astelia	P	P	P				P	
<i>Astelia solandri</i>									
<i>Carex dissita</i>		P	P						

