

### Monocotyledons

*Allium triquetrum* - single small population, SW end  
*Bromus diandrus* - common throughout sward  
*B. hordeaceus* - mostly confined to SW end  
*B. willdenowii* - common in sward  
*Dactylis glomerata* - occasional in sward  
*Lolium perenne* - frequent in sward  
*Poa annua* - confined to SE end on bare clay  
*Sporobolus africanus* - frequent, especially along N margin of sward  
*Stenotaphrum secundatum* - patches along N and E cliff tops  
*Thelymitra longifolia* - single dry plant in moss mat, S face  
*Vulpia bromoides* - locally common, especially on sward margin

### SPECIES LIST: 2. Mosses

*Campylopus ?introflexus* 71440\*  
*Hypnum cupressiforme* 71443  
*Thuidium furfurosum* 71442  
*Trichostomum brachydontium* 71439  
*Triquetrella papillata* 71441

\* AKU herbarium numbers

### REFERENCE

Gardner, R.O. 1984. *Geranium solanderi* and allies in New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Botany 22(1): 127-134.

Received 12 May 1988.

## ROSEBANK ROAD BUSH, AVONDALE

R.O. Gardner

Professor Millener's note about this unique forest remnant -- the only substantial piece of bush between Henderson and the city -- was I had thought both sole description and obituary:

"coastal forest of wet ground, unfenced and invaded by many exotics ... almost certainly soon to be entirely lost [through industrialization] to Auckland. The last large pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*), a swamp forest dominant, was destroyed only two years ago. Huge *Vitex* and *Beilschmiedia tarairi* are still present, with *Collospermum* the typical epiphyte. There are smaller *Corynocarpus*, *Knightia* and *Dysoxylum*. *Cordyline australis* reaches 70 ft in height. *Coprosma areolata* (cf. Smith's Bush) is abundant in the undergrowth: and there are thousands of *Corynocarpus* seedlings." (Millener 1965)

However, among the factories here today, close to the property boundaries, quite a number of fine trees still stand. There are ten or so puriri, about twenty-five taraire, a dozen karaka, smallish cabbage trees, a totara and a rewarewa. The taraire and karaka are healthy mature specimens mostly 12-15 m tall 40-70 cm dbh, perhaps 100-150 years old.

I could find only one Coprosma areolata and one Cyperus ustulatus clump among wandering jew, flannel leaf &c. Under the best group of trees (in the grounds of Williamson Construction Ltd at the boundary with Ciba-Geigy) young karaka are abundant, but the very few taraire seedlings noted were all moribund.

According to Mr Dan Connell, long-time resident nearby, the bush was known locally just as "The Puriri Bush". I had wondered if it was ever known as "Pollen's Bush", after Dr Daniel Pollen, the first settler here and whose farmhouse, which I suppose was named "Rosebank", is shown on the 1884 plan opposite. (His brickyard here, the first in west Auckland was recently subject to rescue excavation).

Mr Connell believes that no other large trees were to be found on the Avondale peninsula last century and does not think that kauri gum has ever been found, at least on the higher ground. It can be conjectured then that by the time of European settlement a once-continuous forest cover had been burnt back to bracken, but with Rosebank Bush spared because of its swampy nature.

#### REFERENCE

Millener, L.H. 1965. Forest, scrub and fresh-water communities. In "Science in Auckland" ed. L.O. Kermode. Royal Society of N.Z.

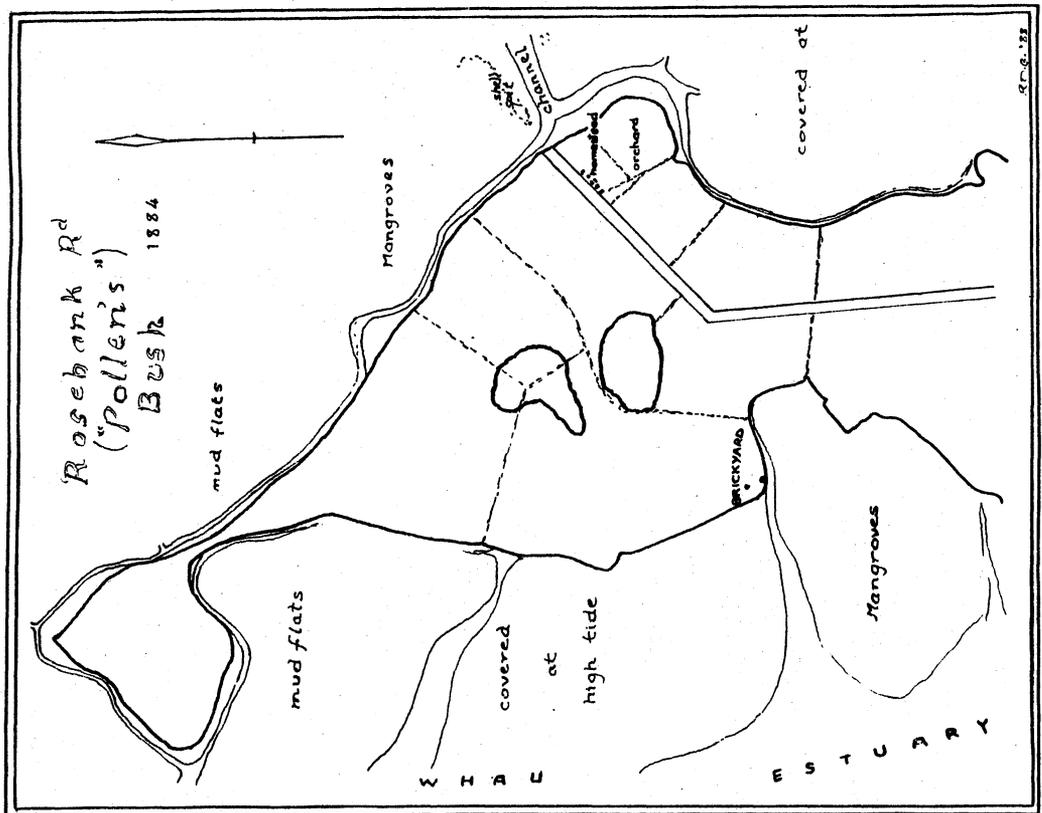
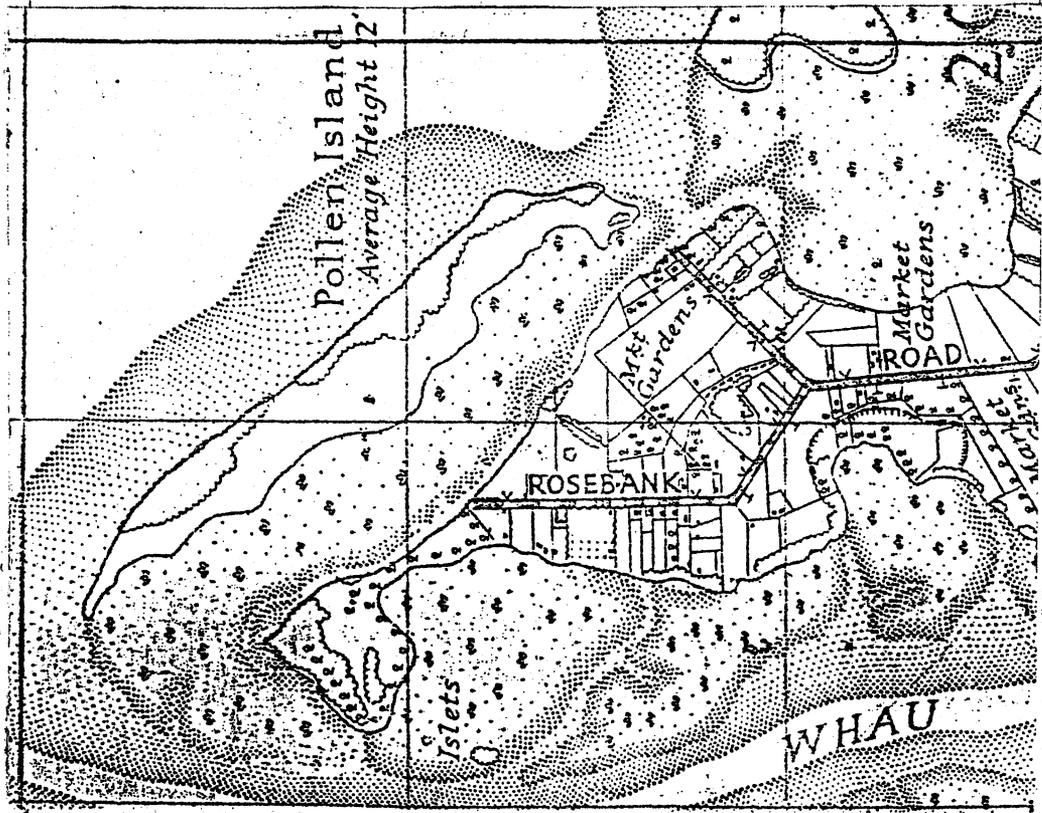
Aerial photography: SN 147/21,22 1940; 1052/5, 7 1958; 1392/9,10 1961. N.Z. Aerial Mapping, Hastings.

Received 16 March 1988.

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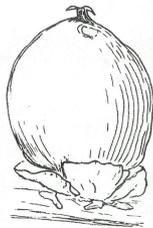
**Left** Part of "Plan of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 Titirangi Parish" 18884 (DP 880A, Dept. of Survey & Land Info. Auck.).

**Right** Part of NZMS 2A "Auckland" 1942.





cm



mm



Drupes of  
*Streblus smithii*

