

Native Flora of Herald Island

Jan Diprose

Enclosed for your records and interest is a list of local indigenous plants found on Herald Island, in the upper Waitemata Harbour. Over the last two years I have surveyed all parks and foreshore reserves and many private properties on Herald Island. Most of the plants on the list can be found in the foreshore reserve (3m wide), however quite a few can be found in only in one place on the island (e.g., *Bolboschoenus medianus* is found only at Kowhai Beach.)

The more common species were identified with reference to books by J.T. Salmon, L.J. Metcalfe, and J.C. Smith-Dodsworth. Many of these were confirmed by Ewen Cameron. The lesser-known species were identified by Ewen Cameron.

At this stage of the island's development it is impossible to tell whether the few remaining specimens of kauri, puriri or kowhai are original. Older residents report finding kauri gum in their gardens.

My interest arose both from a desire to know a plant's name, and from watching the regeneration of the foreshore reserve at the bottom of my garden, after four very large *Pinus radiata* were felled in 1990.

Early in the island's history a shelter belt of these pines was planted to protect the first upper harbour orchard. Herald Island was then called Pine Island. Over the years these pines have directly or indirectly caused slips on the coastal banks; either by falling and pulling away the bank or by reducing the growth of subcanopy native species, leaving the banks unsupported when pines were felled. (A prime example of this can be found at Kowhai Beach, which now has an almost totally unvegetated clay bank covered in pines.)

My concern now is to protect the natural character of the area, which is slowly being eroded as each year goes by. I am working towards an Herald Island "Foreshore Management Plan", whereby the Waitakere City Council will, in partnership with the community, restore and regenerate the foreshore reserves, by removing weeds and replanting with eco-sourced plants so that the structure of the coastal banks will be maintained, and the natural character of the area will be better preserved.

Botanical names	Maori names	Common names	Salt marsh	Coastal bank	Inland	Appr. ht. m
<u>Gymnosperm trees & shrubs</u>						
<i>Agathis australis</i>	kauri	-	-	-	●	30
<i>Phyllocladus</i>	tanekaha	celery pine	-	●	●	20
<u>Monocotyledonous trees & shrubs</u>						
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	ti	cabbage tree	-	●	●	4-12
<i>Cordyline pumilio</i>	tii rauriki	dwarf cab.tr.	-	●	●	1
<u>Dicotyledonous trees & shrubs</u>						
<i>Avicennia marina</i>	manawa	mangrove	●	-	-	15
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	-	-	●	●	6
<i>Dracophyllum sinclairii</i>	-	-	-	●	●	3-6
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i>	hangehange	-	-	●	●	4
<i>Kunzea ericioides</i>	kanuka	-	-	●	●	15
<i>Leptospermum</i>	manuka	tea tree	-	●	●	4
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	pohutukawa	-	-	●	●	20
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou	red matipo	-	●	●	
<i>Olearia furfuracea</i>	akepiro	-	-	●	●	5
<i>Pittosporum</i>	karo	-	-	-	●	9
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	maakaka	coastal	-	-	-	1
<i>Pomaderris kumeraho</i>	kumarahou	golden tainui	-	-	●	1-2
<i>Pomaderris</i>	tauhinu	-	-	-	●	1

<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	kowhai	-	-	●	●	10
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	puriri	-	-	-	●	20
<i>Weinmannia silvicola</i>	towai	-	-	●	●	15
<u>Ferns</u>						
<i>Asplenium</i>		shining splwt	-	●	●	.5
<i>Blechnum</i>	species "1"	kiokio	-	-	●	.5
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	ponga	silver fern	-	●	●	10
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku	black tr frn	-	●	●	20
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki-ponga	-	-	●	●	2-6
<i>Doodia media</i>	pukupuku	-	-	●	●	.5
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	rahurahu	bracken	-	●	●	1
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	turawera	shaking brake	-	-	●	.5
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	-	leatherleaf	-	-	●	.1
<u>Grasses</u>						
<i>Stipa stipoides</i>	-	needle grass	●	-	-	1
<u>Sedges</u>						
<i>Baumea juncea</i>	-	glauc.seg	●	-	-	0.5
<i>Bolboschoenus</i>	kukuraho	marsh cl.r.	●	-	-	1
<i>Carex flagellifera</i>	-	-	-	●	●	.5
<i>Gahnia lacera</i>	-	cutty grass	-	●	●	1
<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	-	slender cl.r	●	rock	-	.2
<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>	-	knobby cl.r	●	-	-	.5
<i>Machaerina sinclairii</i>	tuhara	-	-	●	-	1
<u>Rushes</u>						
<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	wiwi	sea rush	●	-	-	.5
<i>Leptocarpus similis</i>	oioi	jointd wire r	●	-	-	0.5
<u>Other monocotyledonous herbs</u>						
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	turutu	-	-	●	●	1
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	harakeke	NZ flax	-	●	●	2
<u>Dicotyledenous herbs</u>						
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	-	batch's btn	●	-	-	0.2
<i>Samolus repens</i>	maakoako	salt-mead pr	●	rock	-	0.2
<i>Sarcocornia</i>	-	glasswort	●	-	-	0.2

Kawau Island - Botanical Dilemma

Carol McSweeney

There is always a certain amount of anxiety when a mid-winter field trip involves a boat trip to an off-shore island. However the Botanical Society field trip to Kawau Island led by Rhys Gardner in July 1997 presented no problems and we were blessed with a still, mostly sunny day.

This island has a unique flora in the Auckland region. There is a fascinating array of historical plantings and these are one of the most obvious landscape features as the ferry pulls into Mansion House Bay. Lance Goffat-Hall is reporting below on the historic species visited on this trip. There is a proliferation of naturalised plant species on the island and this gives us some insight into the possible future of ecosystem composition in the Auckland region if weed species are not controlled. The effect of wallaby and possum browsing on species composition is a vivid reminder of the selective pressure these pest species have on the native and introduced flora.

Naturalised Plant Species on Kawau

One of the most dominant naturalised species in the Mansion House Bay catchment is radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*). These are establishing into a "natural" pine forest and having a major effect on the species that are regenerating. The pine seems to have some resistance to browsing from wallaby