

# Native Flora of the Bush at Stoney Creek QE II Trust Covenant Rapsons Road, Kaukapakapa

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Stoney Creek Forest is a privately-owned pine plantation of some 200 ha at Kaukapakapa. Within the plantation area is a 2.6 ha-area of native bush (Map reference Q10, 483 085) that has been covenanted as a QE II permanent reserve. The bush remains in good condition as no cattle, sheep, or goats have got in there, and possums have been kept under control. It is haven for native birds, with resident populations of native pigeon, tui, grey warbler, and fantail. Kauri (*Agathis australis*) was logged from the site in the distant past.

The bush has marginal stands of kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), with plentiful silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*). The damp valley floor is dominated by pole stands of kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*), with an understorey of putaputaweta (*Carpodetus serratus*) and nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) and colonies of kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*). The dominant tree on bush slopes is taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*), with frequent rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*). Lianes and epiphytes are not prominent. The common forest sedges are *Carex dissita* and *Uncinia uncinata*. A noteworthy feature of the reserve is the strong regeneration of taraire, with numerous groups of

seedlings 20-90 cm tall in the forest, though no saplings.

There is a small wetland dominated by *Eleocharis acuta*, *Carex virgata*, *C. lessoniana*, and *C. geminata*, and there is a population of the tall swamp native willow-herb, *Epilobium pallidiflorum*. Raupo (*Typha orientalis*) occurs in another nearby wetland.

Introduced weeds have not been covered in our species list, but mention should be made of the thriving colonies of bordered panic grass (*Entolasia marginata*) near the top entrance to the reserve, a colony of wandering willy (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) in the bush near the wetland, Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*) on the reserve margins, and *Carex vulpinoidea* and *Juncus effusus* fringing the wetland. Outside the reserve, near the forest cabin is a vigorous colony of the South African composite *Helichrysum petiolare*, and an unusual exotic sedge, possibly the European *Carex pallescens* (AK 255332), occurs on logging tracks, together with tall composite weeds such as oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), and Australian fireweed (*Senecio bipinnatisectus*).

## The species list was compiled from visits made on 23 August and 14 November 2001.

### Ferns and Fern allies

<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	hanging spleenwort
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	shining spleenwort
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	sickle spleenwort
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	climbing hard fern
<i>Blechnum fraseri</i>	pygmy tree-fern
<i>Blechnum membranaceum</i>	
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	silver fern
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku
<i>Deparia petersenii</i>	
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Doodia australis</i>	rasp fern
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	hairy fern
<i>Lindsaea trichomanoides</i>	
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	hound's tongue fern
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	fragrant fern
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	pig fern
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>	fork-fern
<i>Tmesipteris lanceolata</i>	broad-leaved fork-fern
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	bristle-fern
Other ferns noted in Stoney Creek Forest, but outside the QE II covenant block were	
<i>Paesia scaberula</i> , <i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i> , <i>Pteris tremula</i> , and <i>Trichomanes elongatum</i> .	

### Conifers

<i>Agathis australis</i>	kauri
<i>Dacrydium dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu
<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	tanekaha
<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>	Hall's totara
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro

### Dicot trees, shrubs, climbers

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki
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<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	taraire
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	puawhananga
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	mamangi
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	raureka
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	
<i>Coprosma rigida</i>	
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma spathulata</i>	
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hanghange
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus macrophyllus</i>	large-leaved mahoe
<i>Melicytus micranthus</i>	small-leaved mahoe
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	rata vine
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	rata vine
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	rata vine
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Myrsine salicina</i>	toro
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolium</i>	lancewood
<i>Rubus australis</i>	ground lawyer
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	puriri
<b>Dicot herbs</b>	
<i>Centella uniflora</i>	centella
<i>Epilobium pallidiflorum</i>	swamp willow-herb
<i>Haloragis erecta</i>	toatoa
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	punakuru
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	

*Nertera dichondrifolia*  
*Ranunculus reflexus*  
*Senecio minimus*  
*Solanum americanum*

bush buttercup  
 native fireweed  
 small-flowered nightshade

**Monocots**

*Carex dissita*  
*Carex geminata*  
*Carex lambertiana*  
*Carex lesssoniana*  
*Carex virgata*  
*Collospermum hastatum*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Dianella nigra*

forest sedge  
 cuty grass  
 forest sedge  
 cuty grass  
 tank lily  
 cabbage tree  
 turutu

*Eleocharis acuta*  
*Freycinetia baueriana* subsp.  
*harmsii*  
*Juncus planifolius*

sharp spike sedge  
 kiekie  
 flat-leaved rush

*Juncus prismatocarpus*  
*Isolepis reticularis*  
*Opismenus hirtellus* subsp.

bush panic grass

*imbecillis*  
*Rhopalostylis sapida*  
*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Schoenus maschalinus*

nikau  
 su. splejack

*Uncinia uncinata*  
*Schoenus apogon* occurs outside the reserve in Stoney Creek Forest on logging tracks, and *Juncus sarophorus* in pasture.

**Acknowledgements**

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**Round-fruited panic grass (*Panicum sphaerocarpon*)  
 at Coroglen**

**Mike Wilcox**

Round-fruited panic grass (*Panicum sphaerocarpon* Elliott) is native to North America, including the USA and Mexico. It was first collected in New Zealand by C. Jones (WAIK 11139) in 1988 at Parakau, Whenuakite (Edgar 1998). A description of it is given in Edgar & Connor (2000).

On 16 November 2001 whilst exploring the scrublands on Kirihe Peninsula (Fig. 1) at Coroglen above Mill Creek, Whitianga Harbour I came across this unusual grass. It grows abundantly there along the weedy centres of the rough gravelled roads of Dan Hansen's "Wilderland" property, and adjoining properties. The species has rather broad leaves, and is of a decumbent habit (Fig. 2). Although Edgar & Connor (2000) state (p. 563) that no seed was set on all specimens they had seen, judging by its spread along the "Wilderland" roads, the species is obviously now seeding here. The specimens I collected had flower heads, and several florets had well-developed seeds.



Fig. 1. Location of Kirihe and Wilderland.

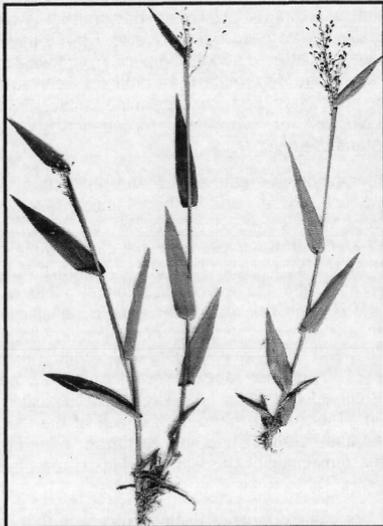


Fig. 2. *Panicum sphaerocarpon* "Wilderland", Coroglen. 16-11-01.

**References**

Edgar, E. 1998: Supplement to checklist of panicoid grasses naturalised in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 36:163.  
 Edgar, E. & Connor, H. E. 2000: *Flora of New Zealand Vol. 4. Grasses*. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln.