

Our plan was to fence off the property from stock, and allow the native cover to regenerate. Although some of our neighbours would have it otherwise, the presence of cattle has in the past caused serious damage to the property. In much of the bush the understorey had been almost entirely eaten out, and blackberry and broom were infiltrating it.

The constant trampling of cattle-hooves was preventing slips on the unstable hillside from healing over, and we suspected that they were also helping to spread blackberry from one part of the property to another. On the other hand, by fencing off we would probably lose certain herbs growing on the grazed slopes; and more subjectively, there would be a sense of diminished space as glades and hilltop clearings became grown over. Nevertheless, there was never any doubt in our minds that the cattle must go. The effects have been quite dramatic. It has been a delight to see damp, mossy banks, formerly bare, sprouting miniature rock gardens of seedling broadleaf, acaena, nertera depressa, pseudowintera and fuschia.

We were particularly pleased to see the rapid spread of fuschia excorticata, from a few severely-browsed clumps. These too, have recovered remarkably well. The regeneration of podocarps appears at the moment to be confined to kahikatea seedlings, which are emerging in dozens on the mossy floor within a radius of several metres of the parent trees. Regeneration of young manuka on the grazing land above the bush-line has been rapid; in the first 12 months existing manuka grew approximately 8" - 9" above the previous year's browsing level, and seedlings are now spreading over a large neighbouring area of rough grazing land. Further north, where the ground rises to an exposed hill-top, grass still predominates, but reversion to native cover seems only a matter of time. In the meantime, spot spraying of noxious weeds will remain important, particularly in open areas, where it seems likely that the spread of blackberry and broom from neighbouring thickets would inhibit colonisation by native species.

An important part of our plan was to prepare an initial list of the present plant cover, by which to measure the future pattern of regeneration. Our own botanical knowledge was quite inadequate for this task, and we were fortunate to have the expertise of the botanical society so generously placed at our disposal. The list compiled by members during visits to the property in December, 1976, and in February of this year, will be a valuable source of reference in years to come; no doubt when a new list is made in 5 years' time, further interesting changes will have taken place.

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A check list of plants found by members of the Canterbury Botanical Society on the property of Mr. A. Holcroft, adjacent to View Hill Reserve on 13th February, 1977.

Note: This is not a critical species list, identifications having been made in the field with in many cases incomplete specimens. It is based on a list of plants from the View Hill Reserve compiled by Mr. Kelly but adds to it considerably. It is hoped that as we further study the property and its ensuing regeneration progress, verification of names used in this check list will be attempted.

I Filicopsida

1. Ophioglossales

Ophioglossaceae

Ophioglossum coriaceum

2. Filicales

Hymenophyllaceae

Hymenophyllum multifidum

Polypodiaceae

Phymatodes diversifolium

Grammitidaceae

Grammitis billardieri

Thelypteridaceae

Thelypteris pennigera

Dennstaedtiaceae

Hypolepis millefolium

H. rufobarbata

H. tenuifolia

Pteridaceae

Histiopteris incisa

Paesia scaberula

Pteridium esculentum

Aspleniaceae

Asplenium bulbiferum

A. flabellifolium

A. flaccidum

A. richardii

Blechnaceae

Blechnum "capense"

B. discolor

B. fluviatile

B. lanceolatum

B. minus

B. membranaceum

B. "procerum"

B. penna-marina

Dryopteridaceae

Polystichum vestitum

II Spermatopsida

1. Gymnospermae

Podocarpaceae

Dacrydium cupressinum

Podocarpus dacrydioides

2. Angiospermae

a. Monocotyledones

Liliaceae

Astelia fragrans

Bulbinella angustifolia

Agavaceae

Cordyline australis

Phormium tenax

Juncaceae

Juncus gregiflorus

Luzula picta var pallida

L. rufa

Orchidaceae

Caladenia carnea

C. lyallii

Chiloglottis cornuta

Corybas trilobus

Microtis unifolia

Prasophyllum colensoi

Pterostylis banksii

P. montana

Pterostylis venosa

Thelymitra longifolia

T. pauciflora

Cyperaceae

Carex breviculmis

C. coriacea

C. flagellifera

C. secta

C. virgata

Schoenus pauciflorus

Scirpus sp.

Uncinia angustifolia

Poaceae

Festuca novae-zelandiae

Microlaena arvenacea

Notodanthonia clavata

N. gracilis

Poa caespitosa

2. Angiospermae (Cont'd):

b. Dicotyledones

Winteraceae

*Pseudowintera colorata*

Ranunculaceae

*Clematis paniculata*

*Ranunculus hirtus*

Cruciferae

*Cardamine debilis*

Violaceae

*Hymenanthera* sp.

*Viola filicaulis*

Polygonaceae

*Muehlenbeckia australis*

*M. complexa*

Onagraceae

*Fuchsia excorticata*

Pittosporaceae

*Pittosporum anomalum*?

? *divaricatum*

*P. tenuifolium*

Myrtaceae

*Leptospermum scoparium*

*Lophomyrtus obcordata*

*Neomyrtus pedunculata*

Elaeocarpaceae

*Aristotelia serrata*

*Elaeocarpus hookerianus*

Escalloniaceae

*Carpodetus serratus*

Rosaceae

*Acaena anserinifolia*

*A. novae-zelandiae*

*Rubus australis*

*R. cissoides*

*R. schmidelioides*

*R. squarrosus*

Papilionaceae

*Sophora microphylla*

Fagaceae

*Nothofagus solandri*

var. *cliffortioides*

Loranthaceae

*Elytranthe flavida*

*Korthalsella lindsayi*

var. *clavata*

Rutaceae

*Melicope simplex*

Araliaceae

*Pseudopanax anomalum*

*P. arboreum*

*P. crassifolium*

*Schefflera digitata*

Cornaceae

*Griselinia littoralis*

Umbelliferae

*Anisotome aromatica*

*Hydrocotyle moschata*

*H. novae-zelandiae*

Ericaceae

*Gaultheria antipoda*

? *G. crassa*

Epacridaceae

*Cyathodes fasciculata*

*C. fraseri*

*C. juniperina*

Myrsinaceae

*Myrsine australis*

*M. divaricata*

Apocynaceae

*Parsonsia capsularis*

*P. heterophylla*

Rubiaceae

*Coprosma crassifolia*

*C. linariifolia*

*C. lucida*

? *C. microcarpa*

*C. parviflora*

*C. propinqua*

*C. rhamnoides*

*C. rigida*

*C. rotundifolia*

b. Dicotyledones (Cont'd):

Rubiaceae

Nertera depressa

N. setulosa

Compositae

Cassinia fulvida

Celmisia gracilentia

C. graminifolia

Cotula squalida

Erechtites (? Senecio) sp.

Gnaphalium audax

Helichrysum bellidioides

H. filicaule

Lagenophora pumila

Raoulia glabra

R. subsericea

Lobeliaceae

Pratia angulata

Scrophulariaceae

Hebe salicifolia

Labiatae

Mentha cunninghamii

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