

# In Search of the Matagouri at Himatangi

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In early spring, members of the Levin Native Flora Club travelled to the Himatangi farmland, sand dune area to make an all out effort to find any remaining matagouri. In the 1950s it was plentiful on the dry flats, but only one survived to 1990, and it had obviously been a good sized shrub but had been broken by cattle. When the photo (Fig. 1) was taken by Ian Cooksley (DoC, Waikanae) in 1989, it was 60 cm high and covered in new growth coming from a thickish stump. Since then, the plantation, where it was growing near a fence line has been thinned and the plant was dragged out. After searching all day, in fenced and unfenced areas, through scrub, pines, lake edges and sand dunes, we found nothing. Was the plant in the photograph the last surviving matagouri in the Manawatu/Horowhenua?



Fig. 1. Matagouri at Himatangi.  
Photo: Ian Cooksley.

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