

More nikau in Wellington City

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Jonathan Anderson's comprehensive article (Anderson 2011) documented the presence of nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), New Zealand's only indigenous species of palm, within Wellington city's boundaries. We report below, other mature nikau which we observed during our botanical forays in Wellington city's rural hinterland. Most of these forays were recorded in Mitcalfe & Horne (1992). Some of these were on Terawhiti Station:

- several groves of nikau in steep gullies on the eastern flanks of Terawhiti Hill.
- over forty nikau at NZTopo50-BQ31 c. 397251, unnamed tributary of Waiariki Stream, and some in other parts of the valley which lies east of Outlook Hill.
- several nikau at BQ31 386299, unnamed tributary of Oteranga Stream.

We also recorded nikau on other properties:

- in Makara Covenant, Conservation Unit No. 27106, Makara Farm, at BQ31 415333, BQ31 426339 and BQ31 427336;
- at BQ31 448248, Lot 2, Long Gully, owned by Mr B Willman.

In more recent years, we have also seen:

- three nikau in the "Te Mahanga" branch of Kaiwharawhara Stream (one on the true left bank of "Bledisloe Creek", just upstream of the Otari fence; one on the true right bank of the creek, downstream of the fence; and one west of Otari's 800-year-old rimu, on the true left side of a gully).
- four nikau in "Caribbean Drive Reserve", Grenada North, in tributaries of Takapu Stream.
- numerous nikau upstream of a c.10-metre waterfall, in a tributary of Korokoro Stream, Belmont Regional Park (BQ31 c. 560378).

Long may this statuesque, long-lived palm species continue to grace Wellington City's ecosystems, protected by intensive control of pest animals by Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, and community groups.

REFERENCES

- Anderson, J. 2011: Nikau in Wellington City. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 53: 48-66.
Mitcalfe, B.; Horne, C. 1992: Some indigenous plant communities of Wellington Southwest Peninsula. ISBN 0-473-01706-7.

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