

## Greyhound Road Wetland, Tokoroa – field trip, February 2021

Sarah Beadel

On 20 February a small group of keen botanists explored the Greyhound Road Wetland, approximately five kilometres west of Tokoroa, in Tokoroa Ecological District. A misty cool start to the day was a welcome relief after several hot days. We were greeted enthusiastically by the landowner who was very interested in what we might find in the wetland, and who generously turned off the electric fences around the wetland. This thoughtful act was a first for most of us in the group. Apparently, the electric fences were very powerful, and it was great to be able to negotiate in and out of the wetland without having the worry about getting an electric shock. Walking around the margin we chose an access point with the shortest distance through the marginal blackberry to get into the wetland and start exploring.

The wetland had previously (in the 2000s) been surrounded by exotic plantation forest managed by Carter Holt Harvey Forests. Following harvesting in the 2000s, the surrounding land was converted to dairy farms and the wetland was fenced to exclude stock. The wetland covers about 14 hectares and comprises a mixture of mānuka-Spanish heath-tangle fern-*Machaerina* shrubland, fernland and sedgeland, mānuka shrubland, grey willow forest and treeland, and an area of open water with small local patches of herbfield on the margins. This herbfield includes species such as *Myriophyllum propinquum*, *Eleocharis gracilis*, and *Isolepis prolifer*.

The first of these types is variable and includes patches of tangle fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa* and *G. microphylla*) and *Lepidosperma australe* fernland and sedgeland with scattered emergent Spanish heath and mānuka, with local patches of hukihuki (*Coprosma tenuicaulis*) and *Coprosma propinqua*, and local grey willow. There are also areas of shrubland comprising mānuka and Spanish heath over tangle fern and *Machaerina rubiginosa*, with mounds of *Sphagnum cristatum* and large patches of swamp kiokio. We found local patches of *Tetraria capillaris* in these areas. Dense mānuka shrubland to about three metres tall occurs in places with a sparse understorey, with some local *Gleichenia microphylla*. We heard mātātā/fernbird (At Risk-Declining) (Robinson *et al.* 2017) in these habitat types.

A pest plant management plan for the wetland (Wildland Consultants 2020) has been prepared to guide pest plant control, particularly willow and wilding pine. This plan

was funded by South Waikato District Council and includes a five-year implementation plan developed to prioritise and guide pest plant control and ensure that non-target indigenous species and ecological values in the wider wetland are not damaged during control operations.

Various species of interest were found during the day, including some that are relatively uncommon in Tokoroa Ecological District:

- A few plants of *Deyeuxia* aff. *quadriseta* (“Volcanic Plateau”) (At Risk-Declining; de Lange *et al.* 2018).
- *Tetraria capillaris*, which is only known from one other site in the Ecological District (Jaguar Road Wetland; see Beadel 2019).
- One plant of *Epacris pauciflora*, which is also not known from elsewhere in Tokoroa Ecological District.
- A few *Dianella haemata* plants were observed, also not recorded elsewhere in the Ecological District to date.
- *Nertera scapanioides* and *Hydrocotyle pterocarpa*, both of which are not particularly common.

Overall, it was a very interesting day spent ‘thrashing’ around in the wetland and there may yet be other uncommon species to be found here in the future. We were lucky to just get in front of the large dairy herd on the farm race at the end of the day, otherwise it would have been a slow long drive following the cows back out past the milking shed to the public road.

### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks to Mary-Ann Mathis for providing access to the wetland and turning off the electric fences for us.

### **References**

- Beadel S.M. 2019: Field trip to Jaguar Road Wetland and Lake Rotohokahoka, Mamaku; vascular plants of Jaguar Road Wetland, Mamaku, Lake Rotohokahoka and margins, Mokaihaha Ecological Area. *Rotorua Botanical Society Newsletter* 72: 26-34. 6 p.
- de Lange P.J., Rolfe J.R., Barkla J.W., Courtney S.P., Champion P.D., Perrie L.R., Beadel S.M., Ford K.A., Breitwiser I., Schönberger I., Hindmarsh-Walls R., Heenan P.B., and Ladley K. 2018: Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series* 22. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 82p.

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Wildland Consultants 2020: Pest plant management plan for Greyhound Road Wetland, Jack Henry Road, Kinleith. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract Report No. 5446*. Prepared for South Waikato District Council. 37 p.

## Vascular plants of Greyhound Road Wetland

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### Indigenous species

#### Monocot. trees and shrubs

*Cordyline australis* tī kōuka, cabbage tree

#### Dicot. trees and shrubs

*Coprosma dumosa*

*Coprosma ×cunninghamii*

*Coprosma propinqua* var. *propinqua* mingimingi

*Coprosma robusta* karamū, kāramuramu

*Coprosma tenuicaulis* hukihuki, swamp coprosma

*Coriaria arborea* var. *arborea* tutu

*Dracophyllum strictum* tōtorowhiti

*Epacris pauciflora* tūmingi

*Gaultheria antipoda* tāwiniwini, koropuka, takapo, taupuku

*Kunzea robusta* kānuka

*Leptospermum scoparium* agg. mānuka

*Leucopogon fasciculatus* mingimingi

*Pittosporum colensoi* rautāwhiri, rautāhiri

*Pomaderris amoena* tauhinu

*Schefflera digitata* patē

*Veronica stricta* var. *stricta* koromiko, kōkōmuka

#### Dicot. lianes

*Clematis paniculata* puawānanga

#### Lycopods and psilopsids

*Lycopodium volubile* waewaekoukou

#### Ferns

*Asplenium flaccidum* makawe, ngā makawe o Raukatauri

<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	petako
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i> subsp. <i>alpina</i>	
<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>	whekī-ponga, kurīpākā
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	whekī
<i>Doodia australis</i>	
<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>	tangle fern, swamp umbrella fern
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	mātātā, water fern
<i>Hiya distans</i>	
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	kōwaowao, hound's tongue fern
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	mātātā
<i>Parablechnum minus</i>	swamp kiokio
<i>Parablechnum novae-zelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	rārahu, bracken
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	karuwai

### Orchids

<i>Chiloglottis cornuta</i>	
<i>Microtis unifolia</i> agg.	
<i>Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae</i>	māikaika
<i>Simpliglottis cornuta</i>	
<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>	

### Grasses

<i>Austroderia fulvida</i>	toetoe
<i>Deyeuxia avenoides</i>	
<i>Deyeuxia</i> aff. <i>quadriseta</i> ("Volcanic Plateau")	
<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	plume grass
<i>Hierochloa redolens</i>	kāretu
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	pātītī, meadow rice grass
<i>Rytidosperma gracile</i>	

### Sedges

<i>Carex geminata</i> agg.	rautahi
<i>Carex maorica</i>	
<i>Carex secta</i>	pūrei, makura, pūreirei, pūrekireki,
<i>Carex virgata</i>	pūrei
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i> f. <i>ustulatus</i>	toetoe upoko-tangata
<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	spike sedge
<i>Eleocharis gracilis</i>	
<i>Isolepis distigmatosa</i>	
<i>Isolepis prolifera</i>	
<i>Isolepis</i> sp.	
<i>Lepidosperma australe</i>	
<i>Machaerina rubiginosa</i>	
<i>Machaerina tenax</i>	

*Machaerina teretifolia*  
*Morelotia affinis*  
*Schoenus maschalinus*  
*Tetraria capillaris*

Rushes

*Juncus edgariae* wi, wīwī  
*Juncus prismatocarpus*

Monocot. herbs (other than orchids,  
grasses, sedges, and rushes)

*Astelia fragrans* kakaha  
*Dianella haemata*  
*Dianella nigra* tūrutu  
*Phormium tenax* harakeke, flax  
*Potamogeton cheesemanii* manihi

Composite herbs

*Senecio bipinnatisectus* Australian fireweed

Dicot. herbs (other than composites)

*Centella uniflora*  
*Gonocarpus micranthus* piri-piri  
*Hydrocotyle pterocarpa*  
*Lobelia angulata* pānakenake  
*Myriophyllum propinquum*  
*Nertera depressa*  
*Nertera scapanioides*

**Naturalised and exotic species**

Gymnosperms

*Pinus pinaster* maritime pine  
*Pinus radiata* radiata pine

Dicot. trees and shrubs

*Alnus glutinosa* common alder  
*Berberis glaucocarpa* barberry  
*Buddleja davidii* buddleia  
*Cytisus scoparius* broom  
*Erica lusitanica* Spanish heath  
*Leycesteria formosa* Himalayan honeysuckle  
*Prunus* sp. flowering cherry  
*Rubus* sp. (*R. fruticosus* agg.) blackberry  
*Salix cinerea* grey willow

### Grasses

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal
<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	purple pampas
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	rye grass

### Rushes

<i>Juncus acuminatus</i>	sharp-fruited rush
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	jointed rush
<i>Juncus microcephalus</i>	South American rush

### Composite herbs

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	beggars' ticks
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Californian thistle
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
<i>Erechtites hieraciifolia</i>	American fireweed
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	catsear
<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>	hawkbit
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	puha, sow thistle
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion

### Dicot. herbs (other than composites)

<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel
<i>Galium palustre</i>	marsh bedstraw
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus
<i>Ludwigia palustris</i>	water purslane
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	gypsywort
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	tarweed
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	water pepper
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	spearwort
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup

### **Planted** (all indigenous)

<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
<i>Veronica stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>
<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>
<i>Phormium tenax</i>
<i>Pittosporum colensoi</i>
<i>Pseudopanax laetus</i>