

Flora and vegetation of Laingholm

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This plant list is very much an ongoing thing. It was begun by my father 70 years ago in 1924. I became interested myself around 1935 and have added to it ever since. I obtained much of my information on the early history of the district from the late Mr. George Lawrence, who cultivated a smallholding in the valley where Fawcett Road now is, and was a contemporary of the Laing family.

The area covered extends over rather more than the village of Laingholm, being bounded on the west and east by the Big and Little Muddy creeks, on the south by the Manukau Harbour, and on the north by the Huia Road, between Landing Road and Parau, thus including parts of Woodlands Park and Titirangi.

Not being a geologist, I am under the impression that the promontory consists of a steeply eroded block of stratified mudstone, covered by a thin layer of gum clay, and extending over approximately 2000 acres. At three points it reaches 450 feet above sea level. In the Laingfield Terrace area there is an underlay of boulders and variously sized pebbles which appear to be intruded. On the point between Taumatarea and Symonds' Bay, a reef of conglomerate comes to the surface, and this is probably an extension across the creek, of the breccia at Armour's Beach. The muddy creeks are obviously drowned valleys, so that the sea level must have once been much lower than it is at present. Photographs show Symonds' Bay and the Waikomiti clear of mangroves in 1920, so that the present dense mangrove swamps must be fairly recent.

There are two patches of workable alluvial soil, one in the Laingholm valley, the other at Symonds' Bay, and in the early 1800's both areas were visited by Maori 'absentee landlords' from Mangere and Waiuku, who cultivated kumara and taro there with some success. The taro at least, persisted at Symonds' Bay into the Laing era. By 1853, when George Laing bought the 610 acres of the Laingholm valley, the Maori cultivations had been abandoned and the valleys were reverting to manuka/kanuka scrub.

Laing's first task was to clear this scrub. The stakes were bound into rafts and towed to Onehunga for sale as firewood. The clutter was burnt and the valley sown in grass on a contour system, the gullies and near-vertical ridge slopes being left in bush. Hawthorn hedges, which have persisted and spread, were planted round the boundaries, and pine and macrocarpa planted as shelter belts.

The original vegetation was magnificent kauri forest which was largely chopped out by the Laings in the 1870's, when Matthew Roe was operating a log-pick-up service from his timber mill at Onehunga.

When we bought land here in 1926 the bush was second growth kauri/podocarp forest with most of the trees at the ricker stage. There was a scattering of mature kanuka about 60 years old, up to 2 feet dbh. The kauri stumps were still standing and could be counted and measured. They averaged 5 trees to the acre and varied from 3 to 5 feet dbh. Laing left a number of hollow kauri standing, and these seemed to be larger than those that were felled, but they were probably older too, and in the process of disintegration. The big kauri were scattered, not in groves, and not confined to the ridges, but all over. The only other mature trees were northern rata, rimu, kahikatea and puriri, the first three of which towered above the second growth canopy and were most conspicuous. These tall trees seemed to be part of an earlier forest stage (probably that to which the big kauri belonged) and to have survived the milling.

On the exposed knolls and ridges were large patches of knee-high, more or less open gum scrub, with their characteristic micro-flora, quite different from that of the adjoining forest. The sea cliffs between Tokoroa and Taumatarea points have their own coastal association, and there are several salt marshes, particularly at Symonds' Bay and on the Waikomiti Creek. There are also several fresh-water *Baumea* swamps, some in the open, some buried in the bush.

Baumea Swamp Association - (the *Typha* only occurs in swamps in the open).

<i>Baumea rubiginosa</i>	<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>
<i>B. tenax</i>	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
<i>B. teretifolia</i>	<i>Mentha x piperita</i>
<i>Coprosma x cunninghamii</i>	<i>Typha orientalis</i>
<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	

Coastal Cliff Association

<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	<i>Melicope ternata</i>
<i>Apium prostratum</i>	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>
<i>Astelia banksii</i>	<i>Peperomia urvilleana</i>
<i>Blechnum "Green Bay"</i>	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	<i>Pimelea longifolia</i>
<i>Coriaria arborea</i>	<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>
<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>	<i>Poa anceps</i>
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	<i>Polystichum richardii</i>
<i>Gahnia lacera</i>	<i>Spergularia media</i>
<i>Lagenifera pumila</i>	<i>Sticherus cunninghamii</i>
<i>Machaerina sinclairii</i>	

Creek Mud / Sand Flats

<i>Avicennia marina</i> subsp. <i>australasica</i>	<i>Zostera ?muelleri</i>
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Gum Scrub Association

<i>Caladenia</i> aff. "iridescens"	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>
<i>C. minor</i>	<i>Microtis unifolia</i>
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	<i>Morelotia affinis</i>
<i>C. pumilio</i>	<i>Myrsine salicina</i>
<i>Corokia buddleioides</i>	<i>Olearia furfuracea</i>
<i>Corybas oblongus</i>	<i>Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae</i>
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	<i>Phebalium nudum</i>
<i>Cyathodes juniperina</i>	<i>Pomaderris kumeraho</i>
<i>Dracophyllum sinclairii</i>	<i>P. phyllicifolia</i> var. <i>ericifolia</i>
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	<i>Pterostylis graminea</i>
<i>Gonocarpus incanus</i>	<i>P. trullifolia</i>
<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>	<i>Schizaea bifida</i>
<i>Hakea sericea</i>	<i>S. fistulosa</i>
<i>Lepidosperma australe</i>	<i>Thelymitra</i> spp.
<i>L. laterale</i>	<i>Toronia toru</i>
<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>	<i>Wahlenbergia "australis"</i>
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	

Salt Marsh Association

<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	<i>Leptocarpus similis</i>
<i>Baumea juncea</i>	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>
<i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i>	<i>Parapholis incurva</i>
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	<i>Paspalum distichum</i>
<i>Carex litorosa</i>	<i>P. vaginatum</i>
<i>C. pumila</i>	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
<i>Cassinia leptophylla</i>	<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	<i>Portulacca oleracea</i>
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	<i>Samolus repens</i>
<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>
<i>I. nodosa</i>	<i>Selliera radicans</i>
<i>Juncus kraussii</i> var. <i>australiensis</i>	<i>Triglochin striata</i>
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	<i>Stipa stipoides</i>

Figure 1: Photograph of my mother, taken in 1926, at the foot of a hollow kauri on the north-facing ridge between Tane Road and Laingholm Drive. When I last visited it 10 years ago, it was in poor condition but I presume it is still standing.



Mrs Jane Laing died in 1921 and in 1923 the property was sold to a syndicate of lawyers, who surveyed it into building sections and sold it off as a holiday resort, subsidising a bus service and converting the old homestead into a boarding house, while the scrub quietly encroached on to the grassland. Apart from the baches along the shore and on the cliffs and ridges, there was no great change until after the war, when the City re-formed and tar-sealed the Huia road to enable their short-wheel-base concrete mixer trucks to get to the construction works of the lower Nihotupu dam at Parau. The better road brought an upsurge of building activity which increased again about 10 years ago when the advent of pole-construction enabled houses to be built on the unstable slopes. The district is now thoroughly suburbanised and the vegetation is being steadily destroyed, which is why I have decided to record it while it is still recordable. Already many native species, common 40 years ago, have gone.

Invasive weeds which have reached pest proportions are Kikuyu grass, Kahili ginger, wandering Jew, giant reed, and the strangling vines Japanese honeysuckle and *Asparagus scandens*. The steep embankments above and below Victory Road in particular, have had to be crib-walled and these open-mesh walls have been colonised by an interesting assortment of seeds and spores blown in across the harbour from the south-west. Loads of top-soil to fertilise the barren gum-clay, and road metal, brought in from far away weed-infested places, have increased the weed population immeasurably.

As I pointed out long ago (Hatch 1981), the settlers brought their garden plants with them, and these too have spread through the district, notably arum lily and tazetta daffodil.

In the list -

* = adventive
 O = no longer occurs
 BS = *Baumea* swamp
 CC = coastal cliffs
 CM = creek mud / sand flats
 GS = gum-scrub
 SM = salt marsh

THE SPECIES LIST

Fern Allies

Lycopodium cernuum
L. deuterodensum
L. varium

L. volubile
 **Selaginella kraussiana*
Tmesipteris elongata

Ferns

Adiantum aethiopicum
A. cunninghamii
A. hispidulum
Asplenium bulbiferum
A. flaccidum
A. lamprophyllum
A. oblongifolium
A. polyodon
Blechnum "black spot"
B. discolor
B. filiforme
B. fraseri
B. "Green Bay" CC
B. membranaceum
Ctenopteris heterophylla GS

Lastreopsis hispida
L. velutina
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lindsaea linearis GS
L. trichomanoides
Lygodium articulatum
 **Nephrolepis cordifolia*
Ophioglossum petiolatum O
Paesia scaberula
Phymatosorus pustulatus
P. scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii CC
Pteridium esculentum GS
 **Pteris cretica* - AK 206840

Cyathea dealbata
C. medullaris
Dicksonia squarrosa
Doodia media
Gleichenia dicarpa GS
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum demissum
H. dilatatum
H. flabellatum

Conifers

Agathis australis
**Cupressus macrocarpa*
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Libocedrus plumosa
Phyllocladus trichomanoides

Dicotyledons

AMARANTHACEAE

**Alternanthera sessilis*

P. macilenta
P. tremula
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia
Schizaea bifida GS
S. fistulosa GS
Sticherus cunninghamii CC
Trichomanes elongatum
T. reniforme

**Pinus radiata*
Podocarpus hallii
P. totara
Prumnopitys ferruginea
P. taxifolia

APIACEAE

**Apium nodiflorum*
A. prostratum CC
Centella uniflora
**Ciclospermum leptophyllum*
**Daucus carota*
**Foeniculum vulgare*

Hydrocotyle dissecta
H. elongata
H. moschata
**Pastinaca sativa* - AK 206823
**Sison amomum*

APOCYNACEAE

Parsonsia heterophylla

**Vinca major*

ARALIACEAE

**Hedera helix*
Pseudopanax arboreus

P. crassifolius
Schefflera digitata

ASCLEPIADACEAE

**Araujia sericifera*

**Gomphocarpus physocarpus* - AK 210703

ASTERACEAE

**Ageratina adenophora*
**A. riparia*
**Arctotheca calendula*
**Aster subulatus*
**Bartlettina sordida*
**Bellis perennis*
Brachyglottis repanda
B. kirkii
Cassinia leptophylla SM
**Chamaemelum nobile*
**Chrysanthemoides monilifera* CC
**Cirsium vulgare*
**Conyza albida*
Cotula coronopifolia SM
**Crepis capillaris*

Lagenifera pumila CC
**Lapsana communis*
**Leucanthemum vulgare*
**Matricaria dioscoidea*
Olearia furfuracea GS
O. rani
**Pericallis x hybrida*
**Picris echioides*
**Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*
**Senecio angulatus*
**S. bipinnatisectus*
**S. glomeratus* - AK 206834
S. hispidulus
**S. jacobaea*
**S. mikanioides*

**Dahlia excelsa*
**Erechtites valerianifolia*
**Erigeron karvinskianus* CC
**Galinsoga quadriradiata* - AK 218316
Helichrysum lanceolatum
**Hypochoeris radicata*

**S. petasitis*
**S. skirrhodon*
**S. vulgaris*
**Sonchus asper*
**S. oleraceus*
**Taraxacum officinale*

AVICENNIACEAE

Avicennia marina subsp. *australasica* CM

BALSAMINACEAE

**Impatiens sodenii*

BEGONIACEAE

**Begonia semperflorens*

BIGNONIACEAE

**Tecomaria capensis*

BORAGINACEAE

**Echium plantagineum*
**Myosotis sylvatica*

**Symphytum x uplandicum*

BRASSICACEAE

**Brassica rapa*
**Cardamine hirsuta*

**Coronopus didymus*
**Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*

BUDDLEJACEAE

**Buddleja davidii*

CALLITRICHACEAE

Callitriche muelleri

**C. stagnalis*

CAMPANULACEAE

Wahlenbergia "australis" GS

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Alseuosmia macrophylla
**Leycestria formosa*

**Lonicera japonica*

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

**Cerastium fontanum*
**Sagina procumbens*
**Silene gallica*
**S. vulgaris* - AK 206824

**Spergula arvensis*
Spergularia media CC
**S. rubra*

CHENOPODIACEAE

**Atriplex prostrata* SM
**Chenopodium album*

Sarcocornia quinqueflora SM

CLEOMACEAE

**Cleome hassleriana*

CLUSIACEAE

**Hypericum androsaemum*
**H. calycinum*

**H. humifusum*
**H. perforatum*

CONVOLVULACEAE

**Calystegia sepium*
C. soldanella SM

**Ipomoea indica*

CORIARIACEAE

Coriaria arborea CC

CORNACEAE

Corokia buddleioides GS

Griselinia lucida

CORYNOCARPACEAE

Corynocarpus laevigatus

CRASSULACEAE

**Crassula multicava*

DROSERACEAE

Drosera auriculata GS

ELAEOCARPACEAE

Aristolelia serrata

Elaeocarpus dentatus

EPACRIDACEAE

Cyathodes juniperina GS

Dracophyllum latifolium

D. sinclairii GS

Leucopogon fasciculatus

L. fraseri GS

ERICACEAE

**Erica lusitanica* - AK 206839

Gaultheria antipoda GS

ESCALLIONACEAE

Carpodetus serratus

EUPHORBIACEAE

**Euphorbia helioscopia*

**E. peplus*

**Homalanthus populifolius* - AK 206843

FABACEAE

**Acacia baileyana*

**A. decurrens*

**A. longifolia*

**A. paradoxa* CC

Carmichaelia cunninghamii

**Cytisus scoparius*

**Hardenbergia violacea*

**Lathyrus latifolius*

**Lotus pedunculatus*

**L. suaveolens*

**Lupinus arboreus* SM

**Medicago lupulina*

**M. nigra*

**M. sativa* - AK 218317

**Melilotus indicus*

**Paraserianthes lophantha*

**Psoralea pinnata*

Sophora microphylla

**Trifolium campestre*

**T. pratense*

**T. repens*

**Ulex europaeus*

**Vicia sativa*

**V. tetrasperma*

FAGACEAE

**Quercus robur*

FUMARIACEAE

**Fumaria muralis*

GENTIANACEAE

**Centaurium erythraea*

GERANIACEAE

**Erodium moschatum*

**Geranium dissectum*

**G. robertianum*

Pelargonium inodorum

GESNERIACEAE

Rhabdothamus solandri

GOODENIACEAE

Selliera radicans SM

HALORAGACEAE

Gonocarpus incanus GS

Haloragis erecta

HYDRANGEACEAE

**Hydrangea macrophylla*

LAMIACEAE

**Melissa officinalis* - AK 206825

**Mentha x piperita* BS

**M. pulegium*

**Nepeta cataria* - AK 206826

**Plectranthus ciliatus*

**P. ecklonii*

**P. grandis*

**Prunella vulgaris*

**Stachys arvensis*

LAURACEAE

Beilschmedia tarairi

B. tawa

Litsea calicaris

LINACEAE

**Linum bienne*

**L. trigynum*

LOBELIACEAE

Lobelia anceps

**Pratia pedunculata* - AK 210580

LOGANIACEAE

Geniostoma rupestre

LORANTHACEAE

Ileostylus micranthus O

LYTHRACEAE

**Lythrum hyssopifolia*

MALVACEAE

Hoheria populnea

**Malvaviscus arboreus*

**Modiola caroliniana*

Plagianthus divaricatus SM

MELIACEAE

Dysoxylum spectabile

MONIMIACEAE

Hedycarya arborea

MORACEAE

Streblus heterophyllus

MYOPORACEAE
Myoporum laetum

MYRSINACEAE
Myrsine australis

M. salicina GS

MYRTACEAE
**Acmena smithii*
Kunzea ericoides
Leptospermum scoparium
Metrosideros diffusa
M. excelsa CC

M. fulgens
M. perforata
M. robusta
Syzygium maire

OLEACEAE
**Ligustrum lucidum*
**L. sinense*

Nestegis lanceolata
N. montana

ONAGRACEAE
**Epilobium ciliatum*
Fuchsia excorticata

**F. magellanica* BS

OROBANCHACEAE
**Orobanche minor*

OXALIDACEAE
**Oxalis articulata*
**O. corniculata* - AK 206828
**O. corniculata* var. *atropurpurea*
O. exilis

**O. incarnata*
**O. pes-caprae*
**O. purpurea*
**O. vallicola* - AK 206829

PASSIFLORACEAE
**Passiflora caerulea*
**P. edulis*

**P. mixta*
P. tetrandra

PHYTOLACCACEAE
**Phytolacca octandra*

PIPERACEAE
Macropiper excelsum

Peperomia urvilleana CC

PITTOSPORACEAE
Pittosporum cornifolium
P. crassifolium CC

P. eugenoides
P. tenuifolium

PLANTAGINACEAE
**Plantago coronopus* SM
**P. lanceolata*

**P. major*

POLYGONACEAE
Muehlenbeckia australis
**Polygonum capitatum*
**P. persicaria*

**P. hydropiper*
**Rumex acetosella*
**R. sagittatus*

POLYGALACEAE
**Polygala myrtifolia*

PORTULACACEAE
**Portulacca oleracea* SM

PRIMULACEAE

- **Anagallis arvensis* var. *arvensis*
- **A. arvensis* var. *coerulea*

Samolus repens SM

PROTEACEAE

- **Hakea salicifolia*
- **H. sericea* GS

Knightia excelsa
Toronia toru GS

RANUNCULACEAE

- Clematis paniculata*
- **Ranunculus ficaria*
- **R. repens*

**R. sardous*
**R. scleratus*

RHAMNACEAE

Pomaderris kumeraho GS

P. phyllicifolia var. *ericifolia* GS

ROSACEAE

- Acaena anserinifolia*
- **Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*
- **C. microphyllus*
- **Crataegus monogyna*
- **Cydonia oblonga* - AK 206835
- **Eriobotrya japonica*

**Duchesnea indica*
**Rosa rubiginosa*
Rubus australis
R. cissoides
**R. fruticosus* agg.

RUBIACEAE

- Coprosma arborea*
- C. areolata*
- C. x cunninghamii* BS
- C. grandifolia*
- C. lucida*
- C. rhamnoides*

C. robusta
C. spathulata
**Galium aparine*
**G. divaricatum*
Nertera dichondrifolia
**Sherardia arvensis*

RUTACEAE

Melicope ternata CC

Phebalium nudum GS

SALICACEAE

- **Populus alba*
- **Salix fragilis*

**S. x reichardtii*

SAPINDACEAE

Alectryon excelus

Dodonaea viscosa

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- **Cymbalaria muralis*
- **Digitalis purpurea*
- Hebe stricta*
- **Kickxia elatine*
- **Linaria purpurea*
- **Parentucellia viscosa*

**Verbascum virgatum*
**Veronica anagallis-aquatica*
**V. arvensis*
**V. persica*
**V. plebeia*
**V. serpyllifolia*

SOLANACEAE

- **Cestrum aurantiacum* - AK 206844
- **C. nocturnum* - AK 206842
- **Datura innoxia*
- **D. stramonium* - AK 210676
- **Nicandra physaloides* - AK 206827

**Physalis peruviana*
Solanum aviculare
**S. mauritanium*
**S. nigrum*
**S. pseudocapsicum* - AK 210704

THYMELACEAE
Pimelea longifolia CC

TROPAEOLACEAE
**Tropaeolum majus*

URTICACEAE
Elatostema rugosum

VERBENACEAE
**Verbena bonariensis*

Vitex lucens

VIOLACEAE
Melicytus macrophyllus
M. micranthus

M. ramiflorus
**Viola hederacea*

Monocotyledons

POACEAE
**Agrostis capillaris*
**A. stolonifera*
**Alopecurus pratensis* - AK 206838
**Anthoxanthum odoratum*
**Arundo donax*
**Axonopus affinis*
**Briza maxima*
**B. minor*
**Bromus willdenowii*
Cortaderia fulvida CC
**C. jubata*
**Cynodon dactylon* SM
**Dactylis glomerata*
Dichelachne crinita
**Digitaria sanguinalis*
**Echinochloa crus-galli*
**Eleusine indica*
**Entolasia marginata*
**Elytrigia repens*
**Festuca arundinacea*
**Glyceria fluitans*
**Holcus lanatus*

**Lagurus ovatus* SM
**Lolium perenne*
Microlaena avenacea
**Miscanthus nepalensis*
Oplismenus imbecillis
**Paspalum dilatatum*
**P. distichum* SM
**P. urvillei*
**P. vaginatum*
**Pennisetum clandestinum*
**P. latifolium*
**Parapholis incurva*
Poa anceps CC
**P. annua*
**Polypogon monspeliensis* - AK 206838
Rytidosperma biannulare
**Setaria pumila*
**Sporobolus africanus*
**Stenotaphrum secundatum*
Stipa stipoides SM
**Triticum aestivum* - AK 206833

ORCHIDACEAE
Acianthus sinclairii
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Caladenia aff. "iridescens" GS
C. minor GS
Chiloglottis cornuta
Corybas cheesemanii
C. macranthus
C. oblongus
C. trilobus
Cyrtostylis oblonga O
Dendrobium cunninghamii
Drymoanthus adversus
Earina autumnalis
E. mucronata
Genoplesium nudum O

Microtis unifolia GS
Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae GS
Pterostylis alobula
P. banksii
P. brumalis
P. graminea GS
P. "rubricaulis"
P. trullifolia GS
Thelymitra aemula GS
T. carnea O
T. formosa O
T. longifolia GS
T. pauciflora GS
T. pulchella O
T. tholiformis GS

JUNCACEAE

**Juncus articulatus* BS
**J. bufonius*
**J. effusus* var. *effusus*
**J. effusus* var. *compactus*

J. gregiflorus
J. kraussii var. *australiensis* SM
J. planifolius

RESTIONACEAE

Leptocarpus similis SM

CYPERACEAE

Baumea juncea SM
B. rubiginosa BS
B. tenax BS
B. teretifolia BS
Bolboschoenus medianus SM
Carex dissita
**C. divulsa*
C. flagellifera
C. inversa
C. litorosa SM
C. pumila SM
C. virgata
**Cyperus brevifolius*
**C. congestus*
**C. eragrostis*
**C. tenellus*
C. ustulatus SM

Eleocharis acuta BS
Gahnia lacera CC
G. setifolia
G. xanthocarpa
Isolepis cernua SM
I. nodosua SM
I. reticularis SM
**I. sepulcralis*
Lepidosperma australe GS
L. laterale GS
Machaerina sinclairii CC
Morelotia affinis GS
Schoenus maschalinus
S. tendo GS
Uncinia banksii
U. uncinata

Other Monocots

AGAVACEAE

Cordyline australis SM
C. banksii GS
C. pumilio GS

Phormium cookianum CC
P. tenax SM

AMARYLLIDACEAE

**Amaryllis belladonna*
**Leucojum aestivum*

**Narcissus tazetta*

ARACEAE

**Alocasia brisbanensis*
**Arum italicum*

**Colocasia esculenta* O
**Zantedeschia aethiopica*

ARECACEAE

**Phoenix canariensis*

Rhopalostylis sapida

CANNACEAE

**Canna indica*

COMMELINACEAE

**Tradescantia fluminensis*

IRIDACEAE

**Aristea ecklonii*
**Babania stricta* - AK 206832
**Chasmanthe floribunda*
**Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*

**Romulea rosea*
**Sisyrinchium iridifolium*
**S. "blue"*
**Sparaxis bulbifera* - AK 206830

**Freesia refracta*
**Gladiolus undulatus*
**Ixia maculata*
Libertia ixioides

**S. tricolor*
**Watsonia bulbifera*
**W. meriana*

JUNCAGINACEAE
Triglochin striata SM

LILIACEAE
**Agapanthus orientalis*
**Allium roseum* subsp. *bulbiferum*
**A. triquetum*
**Asparagus asparagoides* - AK 206841
**A. scandens*
**A. setaceus*
Astelia banksii CC

A. solandri
A. trinervia
Collospermum hastatum
Dianella nigra
**Lilium formosanum*
**Ornithogalum arabicum*

PANDANACEAE
Freycinetia banksii

SMILACEAE
Ripogonum scandens

TYPHACEAE
Typha orientalis BM

ZINGIBERACEAE
**Hedychium flavescens*

**H. gardnerianum*

ZOSTERACEAE
Zostera ?muelleri CM

Reference

Hatch, E. D. 1981. Persistent Garden Plants As Homestead Markers. *Auckland Botanical Society Newsletter* 36: 13.

Southern rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*) confirmed from Mt Pirongia, Western Waikato

P. J. de Lange

The 1877 and 1879 ascents of Mt Pirongia (altitude 959 m) by Thomas Cheeseman comprise the first published botanical record of that mountain's flora (Cheeseman 1879). Amongst the c. 93 species he recorded, Cheeseman noted that southern rata (*sic. Metrosideros lucida*) was 'plentiful' below the summit. From his account it seems clear that this 'summit' was either Wharauoa or Mahaukura, peaks overlooking the small town of Pirongia - the Alexandra of Cheeseman's day. Cheeseman it seems never attained the true summit noting "that after spending the greater part of a day in advancing a distance certainly not exceeding a mile, the attempt was abandoned". Remarkably few specimens were collected by Cheeseman during his visits to the mountain. Of the collections he made, I can find little trace, and there is no voucher of southern rata from Pirongia in his herbarium at AK.

Following on from Cheeseman some 76 years later Gudex (1955) provided a more detailed account of the flora. Like Cheeseman before him Gudex also recorded southern rata. When his herbarium