

PERAKI SADDLE TUSSOCK GRASSLANDS

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On Saturday, December 3rd 1988, 20 or so Canterbury Botanical Society members met at the waterfront Wainui for a fieldtrip into the grazed snow tussock grasslands of Banks Peninsula. Narrow leaved snow tussock, or *Chionochloa rigida*, is found on the hills on both sides of Akaroa harbour. On the Wainui side it is found on Mt Bossu, Carews Peak, Peraki Saddle, Saddle Hill, Devil's Gap, Te Oka Peak and alongside the roadside verges. The areas visited on this trip were near Carews Peak on Mr Bell's land and on the Peraki Saddle road close to the Hall property.

These areas are quite different, both in the way in which they are managed and in their floristic composition. The area near Carews Peak is grazed by sheep and has only scattered *Chionochloa rigida* amongst a matrix of introduced species and the native hard tussock, *Festuca novae-zelandiae*. Here, few tall native herbs are found with the exception being *Aciphylla subflabellata*. The main species found were the introduced grasses sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), chewings fescue (*Festuca rubra*), and cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), the native grasses silver tussock (*Poa cita*), hard tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae*) and narrow leaved snow tussock (*Chionochloa rigida*). A myriad of other species were found with the total being 52 species (34 native) (see Appendix 1).

The second area visited was an ungrazed roadside bank on the Peraki Saddle road. This area is very different to the first in that there were a lot more woody plant species and also a large number of native herbs. Here *Chionochloa rigida* is a dominant species along with mountain flax (*Phormium cookianum*), *Dracophyllum atherosum*, three *Pseudopanax* species and a variety of herb and fern species. In this area we found 72 species (55 native) compared with 52 in the previous location (see Appendix 2).

During my Masters fieldwork, I have surveyed these areas again and at the time of writing, analysis has just begun on the data collected. It is likely that analysis will show the differences among different locations is due to the amount and type of grazing present in each area.

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Appendix 1

Checklist to vascular plants in Carew's Peak tussock grassland (* naturalised, H herbaceous, T tree, M monocot, W woody, F fern).

<i>Achillea millefolium</i> * H	<i>Holcus lanatus</i> * G
<i>Aciphylla subflabellata</i> H	<i>Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae</i> H
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i> * G	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> * H
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> * G	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i> T
<i>Arthropodium candidum</i> M	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i> H
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i> F	<i>Luzula rufa</i> M
<i>Asplenium gracillimum</i> F	<i>Melicytus alpina</i> W
<i>Asplenium terrestre</i> F	<i>Muelenbeckia complexa</i> W
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i> F	<i>Podocarpus hallii</i> T
<i>Cardamine debilis</i> H	<i>Polystichum vestitum</i> F
<i>Carex breviculmis</i> M	<i>Pratia angulata</i> H
<i>Centella uniflora</i> H	<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i> T
<i>Chionochloa rigida</i> G	<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i> T
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i> W	<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i> T
<i>Coprosma rigida</i> W	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i> F
<i>Coprosma</i> sp 't' W	<i>Ranunculus foliosus</i> H
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> * G	<i>Raoulia subsericea</i> H
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> * H	<i>Rubus cissoides</i> W
<i>Elymus rectisetus</i> G	<i>Rumex acetosella</i> * H
<i>Epilobium alsinoides</i> H	<i>Trifolium dubium</i> * H
<i>Festuca novae-zelandiae</i> G	<i>Trifolium repens</i> * H
<i>Festuca rubra</i> * G	<i>Uncinia rubra</i> M
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i> T	<i>Vicia sativa</i> * H
<i>Helichrysum bellidiodes</i> H	<i>Viola cunninghamii</i> H
<i>Helichrysum filicaule</i> H	<i>Wahlenbergia albomarginata</i> H
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i> * H	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i> H

Appendix 2

Checklist to vascular plants in Peraki Saddle roadside tussock grassland (* naturalised, H herbaceous, T tree, W woody, L lycopod, M monocot, G grass, # common to both areas).

<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i> H	<i>Coprosma linariifolia</i> W
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> * H#	<i>Coprosma</i> sp 't' W#
<i>Aciphylla aurea</i> H	<i>Cortadaria richardii</i> G
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> * G	<i>Cyathea colensoi</i> F
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> * G#	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> * G
<i>Asplenium hookerianum</i> F	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> * H#
<i>Astelia fragrans</i> M	<i>Dracophyllum acerosum</i> W
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i> F	<i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> H
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i> F	<i>Epilobium pubens</i> H
<i>Blechnum penna-marina</i> F#	<i>Epilobium rotundifolium</i> H
<i>Blechnum procerum</i> F	<i>Festuca rubra</i> * G#
<i>Blechnum vulcanicum</i> F	<i>Fuchsia colensoi</i> T
<i>Brachyglottis lagopus</i> H	<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i> T#
<i>Cardamine debilis</i> H#	<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i> W
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i> T	<i>Gaultheria depressa</i> W
<i>Celmisia gracilentata</i> H	<i>Gingidia montana</i> H
<i>Chionochloa rigida</i> G#	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i> T
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i> * H	<i>Gunnera monoica</i> H

Hebe lauvaudiana W
Hebe salicifolia W
Helichrysum bellidioides H#
Helichrysum filicaule H#
*Hieracium pilosella** H#
Hierochloa redolens G
*Hypochoeris radicata** H#
Kunzea ericoides T#
Leucopogon fraseri H#
*Linum catharticum** H
Linum monogynum H
Luzula rufa M#
Lycopodium fastigiatum L
Lycopodium scariosum L
Ourisia lactea H
Phormium cookianum M
*Plantago lanceolata** H

Poa colensoi G
Poa cita T
Podocarpus hallii T#
Polystichum vestitum F
Prasophyllum colensoi M
Pseudopanax arboreus T#
Pseudopanax crassifolius T#
Raoulia glabra H
Raoulia subsericea H#
Rytidosperma gracile G
*Rumex acetosella** H#
*Sagina procumbens** H
Stellaria decipens H
Thelymitra longifolia M
*Trifolium repens** H#
*Vicia sativa** H#
Wahlenbergia albomarginata H#