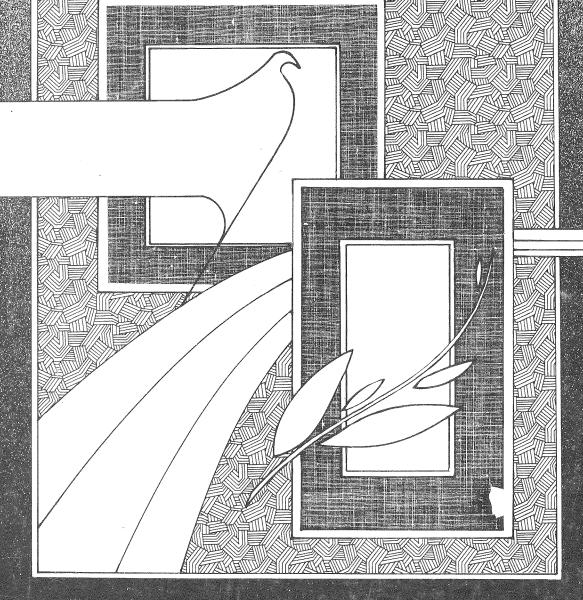
Auckland Conservancy DEDICATED AREAS REPORT Number 14



Kaihu Ecological Area



KAIHU ECOLOGICAL AREA



N.Z. FOREST SERVICE
AUCKLAND CONSERVANCY
C.P.O. BOX 39
AUCKLAND

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Location (see Figure 1)

Kaihu Ecological Area is situated about 20 km northwest of Dargaville on the west coast of Northland (approximate midpoint at map ref. NZMS 1 N19 305925). The area is a region of indigenous forest in the Tutamoe Ecological District (Simpson, 1982) and forms part of Northland Forest Park. Most of the forest is unmodified and occupies a plateau which constitutes the southern and highest section of the 30 km long Tutamoe Range. This landform is a dominant feature of the Northland landscape. Marlborough Forest, just to the northwest, is also part of this range as is Mataraua Forest further to the north.

The Dargaville Water Supply Reserve (Overlay 1, Figure 2), covering 1277 ha, abuts the proposed Ecological Area in the southwest and is also largely unmodified indigenous forest.

The Kaihu Ecological Area is 2425 ha in size and is one of two scientific reserves in the Tutamoe Ecological District. The other, Waipoua Forest Sanctuary measures 9105 ha.

The most recent aerial photographs are NZ Aerial Mapping Survey No. 3 B's Run No. 19 8A flown on 22nd December 1968. Photographs of the regenerating area southeast of Tutamoe were flown on 29th June 1984 by Flight No. 192, photograph no's 1-10.

Access

The Tutamoe Track (part of the New Zealand Walkway System) starts from the Karaka Tutamoe Road, 10 kilometres from the Tangowahine Valley Road junction. It crosses farmland of 2 kilometres before entering the Ecological Area and ascending to Tutamoe Trig (775 m a.s.l.). This track is the only track developed for public use in the reserve (Overlay 1 of Figure 2).

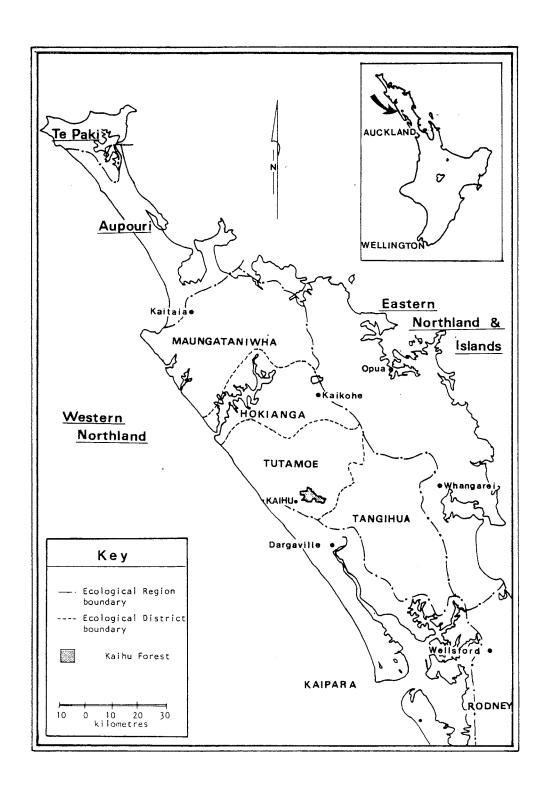
Access to the southwest is gained from the Upper Awakino Valley Road, an unformed grass road off Maropiu Kairara Road. From here the Awakino Stream can be followed up to the plateau area.

New Zealand Forest Products own an extensive area of land abutting Kaihu Forest, in the north and east. A network of tracks and roads, many still under construction, cross their land and provide good access off Massey Road, Opouteke Road and Kaimai Road. Permission is required to cross their land.

History of Reservation

Kaihu Forest was proposed as an ecological area in 1981 by J.L. Nicholls (Forest Research Institute, Rotorua) (file 32/3/1). The proposal was considered and approved in principle by the Scientific Co-ordinating Committee (S.C.C., renamed the State Forest Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee) in July 1981 and was gazetted on the 17th of May 1984 (NZ Gazette Page 1605).

Fig 1 : Location Map of Kaihu Ecological Area Showing Boundaries of Ecological Regions and Districts .



Rationale and Objectives of Designation

Kaihu Ecological Area fulfils many of the criteria for the selection of ecological areas as set down by the S.C.C. (1980). The proposed reserve is large (2425 ha), compact in shape, unroaded and contains a variety of landforms and vegetation types characteristic of the area. These include both regenerating and virgin forest with an altitudinal range between 100 m and 750 m a.s.l. Several undisturbed catchments draining the plateau are incorporated.

The proposal for reserving the area (NZFS file 32/3/1) states:

'the main feature of this proposed reserve is the large virgin area of a unique high - rainfall upland forest type between 600 and 700 m a.s.l. which has been widely modified elsewhere on the Tutamoe Plateau. The forest is generally valuable for wildlife with especially high kiwi numbers reported as present.'

(Nicholls, 1981)

The proposal also states that although indigenous forest on the gradual westerly fall of the plateau is amply reserved in Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, a coastal to plateau-top vegetation sequence is incomplete, since the highest point of the Sanctuary reaches only 600 m a.s.l.

Climate

The climate of Northland is subtropical with an airflow which is predominately from the southwest. Occasionally Northland is affected by tropical cyclonic storms (Town and Country Planning Branch, Ministry of Works, 1964).

On the Kaihu Plateau altitudinal effects will, to some degree, influence the climate therefore meteorological data from nearby stations may not be fully representative. The nearest meteorological stations to Kaihu Forest are at Waipoua Forest 26 km to the northwest and in Dargaville 19 km to the south. Waipoua Forest received a yearly average of 1651 mm of rain during 1928-1980 while Dargaville received a yearly average of 1248 mm during 1943-1980. Over the period 1928-1980 the average daily maximum temperature in Waipoua was 18.8° C and the average daily minimum was 9.4° C with a yearly average of 14.1° C. In Dargaville over the period 1943-1980 the average maximum daily temperature was 19.2° C and the average minimum daily temperature was 10.3° C with a yearly average of 14.7° C.

Topography

Kaihu Forest has gently rolling to steep topography with an altitudinal range from approximately 90 m a.s.l. to nearly 775 m a.s.l. at Mt Tutamoe. This is slightly lower than the highest point in Northland. From Mt Tutamoe the land slopes gently away to the northwest to a large, flat plateau. In places the rim of the plateau is steep, dropping away to private farm land and pine plantations.

The Awakino, Opouteke and Kaihu Rivers drain the Kaihu Plateau. These eventually join the Wairoa River which flows through Dargaville.

<u>Geology</u>

Information on the geology of the Kaihu region was derived from Geological Maps compiled by the Geological Survey Unit for the Department of Lands and Survey (1982).

Kaihu Forest lies on a hard volcanic basement of basalt which forms the Tutamoe Range. This was extruded as massive flows of crystaline basalt and is occasionally thickly interbedded with minor belts of tuff, scoria and breccia.

The lower slopes of Tutamoe as well as the lower regions and slopes west of the Awakino Stream are micaceous sandstone which is calcareous in places. There is also weathered to soft, brown, non-calcareous, silty clay to depths of 10 m.

The eastern slopes of the forest are underlain by grey, brown and green mudstone which is locally silicious and contains small amounts of muddy limestone and greensand. Weathered to soft clay, which reaches depths of 10 m, is also present. It is unstable in places.

In the extreme southeast a region of alluvial mud, sand and gravel just overlaps the forest boundary.

The lower reaches of a tributary of the Opouteke Stream (midpoint at approximately map ref. NZMS 1 N19 278948), and the upper reaches of Awakino Stream (midpoint at approximately map ref. NZMS 1 N19 284927) are characterised by unusual basaltic rock formations. Here, rock has fractured into well defined columnar structures which form canyons and numerous waterfalls.

In the upper reaches of Tangowhine Stream (approximately map ref. NZMS 1 N19 330923) we found a large boulder containingwell fossilized marine animals. These probably date from the upper Mesozoic Era (circa. 100 million years ago) (F. Brook, personal communication).

Pedology and Erosion

Information on the pedology of the Kaihu region was derived from Pedological Maps compiled by the Soil Bureau for the Department of Lands and Survey (1980).

Kaihu Forest contains steepland soils and soils of rolling and hilly land.

The soils to the west of Tutamoe Trig are brown granular clay loams and clays, and related steepland soils. The majority of the plateau has Tutamoe friable clay while the rim and lower slopes have Te Kie steepland soils of stony and reddish clay loams.

A much smaller area to the east of Tutamoe Trig has yellow-brown earth and related steepland soils (Omu clay loams and Waimatenui clay loam). Hukerenui silt loam, a podzolized yellow-brown earth and Okaka clay and silty clay are present in the extreme south and southeastern portion of the Forest. (Department of Lands and Survey, 1980)

Steepland soils are moderately fertile with shallow topsoils liable to sheet or slip erosion under pastoral use (Town and Country Planning Branch, Ministry of Works, 1964). Slopes around the rim of the plateau are very steep in some places. Large earth and rock slips were noted, several along the steep slopes to the west of the Awakino Stream and two near the northern forest boundary (approximate map ref. NZMS 1 N19 285950). Several slips were also seen in the broken, scrub covered country southeast of Mt Tutamoe.

Vegetation

A list of plant species recorded using both common and scientific names is provided in Appendix 1.

The method used to describe the vegetation is a modified New Zealand Forest Service recce-type description in which vegetation is recorded in the following five tiers:

Emergents - 5 m above mean canopy height

Canopy - variable height
Subcanopy - below canopy to 2 m

Shrub - 0.5 to 2 m Groundcover - below 0.5 m

Information was gained from 17 days field work (the 21st - 28th of March, 10th - 15th of April, 9th - 10th of June 1984). A study by W.J. Lyford (1982, unpublished New Zealand Forest Service report) on the regenerating forest area southeast of Tutamoe and an F.R.I. survey (1983) was also used.

Vegetation descriptions have been grouped into forest types, where possible, based on Nicholls (1976) typing. The following types were distinguished:

- 1. plateau vegetation (Nicholls 1976, F1);
- 2. rimu-rata-tawa-taraire (Nicholls 1976, E3);
- 3. rimu-rata-tawa-towai (Nicholls 1976, D8);
- 4. hardwood forest;

5a & 5b kauri-softwood-hardwood (Nicholls 1976, B2); and

6. regenerating forest.

Tables 1A - F give a detailed stand structure and composition for each type. Overlay 2 of figure 2 shows their distribution within Kaihu forest.

Distributions and Descriptions of Each Forest Type

Type 1: Plateau vegetation (Table 1A)

A swampy plateau occupies the middle of Kaihu Forest. It is covered by a dense forest type which according to Nicholls (1976) occurs between 500 and 600 m a.s.l. on the plateaux of western Northland. This type is also found away from the main Kaihu plateau in areas of the forest that are flat and swampy.

This plateau forest is characterised by a dense canopy without clearly differentiated subcanopy tiers. The occasional large fallen tree has left gaps in the canopy under which a high diversity of species are regenerating. The rotting debris strewn around and the dense tangles of supplejack and kiekie make travelling through this area difficult. Bryophytes abound on the plateau sometimes covering the trees and forming thick spongy mats on the ground.

Large emergent rimu are locally frequent and reach up to 30 m in height. Kahikatea, northern rata and pukatea are also occasional constituents of this tier.

A dense 12-18 m canopy comprises mainly towai with maire tawake. Ogle and Bartlett (1980) found southern rata in Mataraua and Herekino forests confirming earlier unsubstantiated records. Kaihu Forest represents another localised habitat for this species in Northland. Abundant supplejack and kiekie reaches the canopy level.

Kanono and large-leaved mahoe are common in both the subcanopy and shrub layers. In addition the subcanopy comprises a high diversity of species including most of the species found in the canopy. The shrub layer has Dicksonia lanata as a co-dominant species.

The ground cover is locally dense with frequent areas of bryophytes. Hymenophyllum spp., kidney fern and aka grow abundantly both on the ground and as epiphytes. The ferns Grammitis billardieri and G. pseudociliata are common epiphytes. Ogle and Bartlett (1980) extended the range of G. billardieri which was not previously known from Northland, into several other western Northland forests. G. billardieri is common in the plateau vegetation and occasional in other forest types.

Type 2: Rimu-rata-tawa-taraire (Table 1B)

This forest type is found in unmodified areas in the northeastern section of the forest and also below 450 a.s.l. in the southwestern section. The understorey is open under a dense high canopy which is dominated by tawa and taraire with scattered large emergent rimu and northern rata. The sparse subcanopy and shrub layer comprises mainly wheki and ponga. The ground layer is also sparse with scattered piupiu and *Blechnum fraseri*. A thick layer of leaf litter is present.

Type 3: Rimu-northern rata-tawa-towai (Table 1C)

This forest type is present on the steep slopes of the plateau rim on the southern side of the forest above Awakino Stream. The vegetation here is dominated by large emergent northern rata and rimu with a dense canopy of towai and tawa with occasional tawari. The shrub tier and ground cover are sparse with scattered kiekie, wheki, piupiu and hen and chicken fern.

Type 4: Hardwood forest (Table 1D)

Dense hardwood forest extends along the steep slopes of the plateau edge on the northern side of the forest. The canopy is low reaching approximately 13 m and consists mainly of towai, makamaka and tawa.

Southern rata has a scattered distribution throughout this forest type. Generally vegetation in this category is very dense with abundant supplejack and kiekie, numerous fallen logs and rotting debris are strewn around. Damp open areas formed by fallen trees support dense coverings of parataniwha up to 2 m high.

Type 5: Kauri-softwood-hardwood (Table 1E (I) and (II))

Kauri are found in small isolated groups through the forest, except on the plateau. In the regenerating area southwest of Tutamoe Trig several kauri of about 0.5 m diameter are scattered over an area of approximately 3 ha.

Two other kauri areas are about 1-2 ha in size and have approximately eight trees in them. These trees are up to 1.5 m diameter. Kauri associates such as kauri grass, Gahnia xanthocarpa, kawaka and tanekaha also grow here. Tawa is the dominant canopy tree in the area to the east of Tutamoe (Type 5a). In the other area northwest of Tutamoe, tawari and towai are co-dominant (Type 5b). It is probable that this area is the highest stand of kauri (640 m a.s.l.) in Northland (J. Nicholls, personal communication).

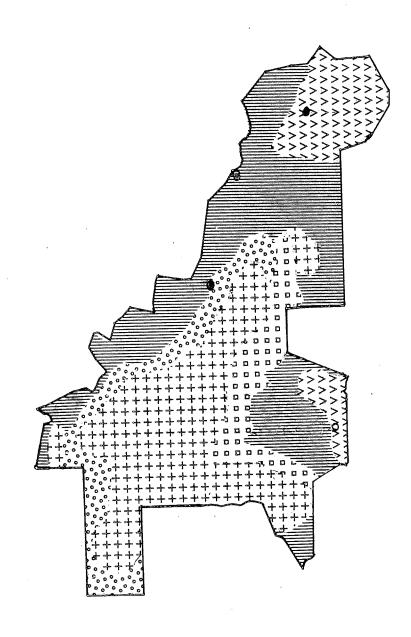
A few scattered kauri trees can be seen on the northern slope of Tutamoe.

Type 6: Regenerating forest type (Table 1F)

This forest type covers approximately 300 ha in the southeastern section of the forest below Tutamoe, and also the lower river flanks of the Awakino Stream. The area in the southeast was logged for kauri around the turn of the century and has been subsequently burnt several times, however there is no evidence of a fire in the last 20 years (Lyford, 1982). The most abundant species are manuka and kanuka forming a dense canopy under which podocarps are regenerating frequently. Toatoa, a species with a limited distribution, is found in this area. A high diversity of species and associations are present including areas covered with low kiokio and bracken, as well as open grassy areas beside the streams and along the old logging roads. There are many adventive species in this region (see Appendix 1) including a large pine tree, willow-leaved hakea and many grass and herb species.

The regenerating area around the lower reaches of the Awakino Stream shows signs of grazing by cattle. It is also flood prone; many of the streamside colonisers are adventives and wash away periodically. There are many totara and regenerating podocarps (miro, rimu and kahikatea) in this region. Blackberry and areas of grass and bracken grow around the forest boundary and on the lower stream banks. A swampy area of approximately 1 ha of sedges and rushes (mainly Carex and Juncus species) is found beside the lower reaches of the stream.

Of particular floristic interest are the streams draining the plateau eg Opouteke and Awakino Streams. Close to these streams or in the stream beds all the species of Hymenophyllaceae known in Northland were found; of note are Trichomanes endlicherianum, T. strictum, Hymenophyllum armstrongii and H. flexuosum but of particular interest is H. atrovirens, which is usually rare but in Kaihu grows abundantly in the stream beds. Found commonly on the stream banks is Viola filicaulis, a plant of limited distribution in Northland. Blechnum colensoi was found growing on the banks in the upper reaches of the Awakino Stream; this is the northernmost record of this fern.



OVERLAY 2

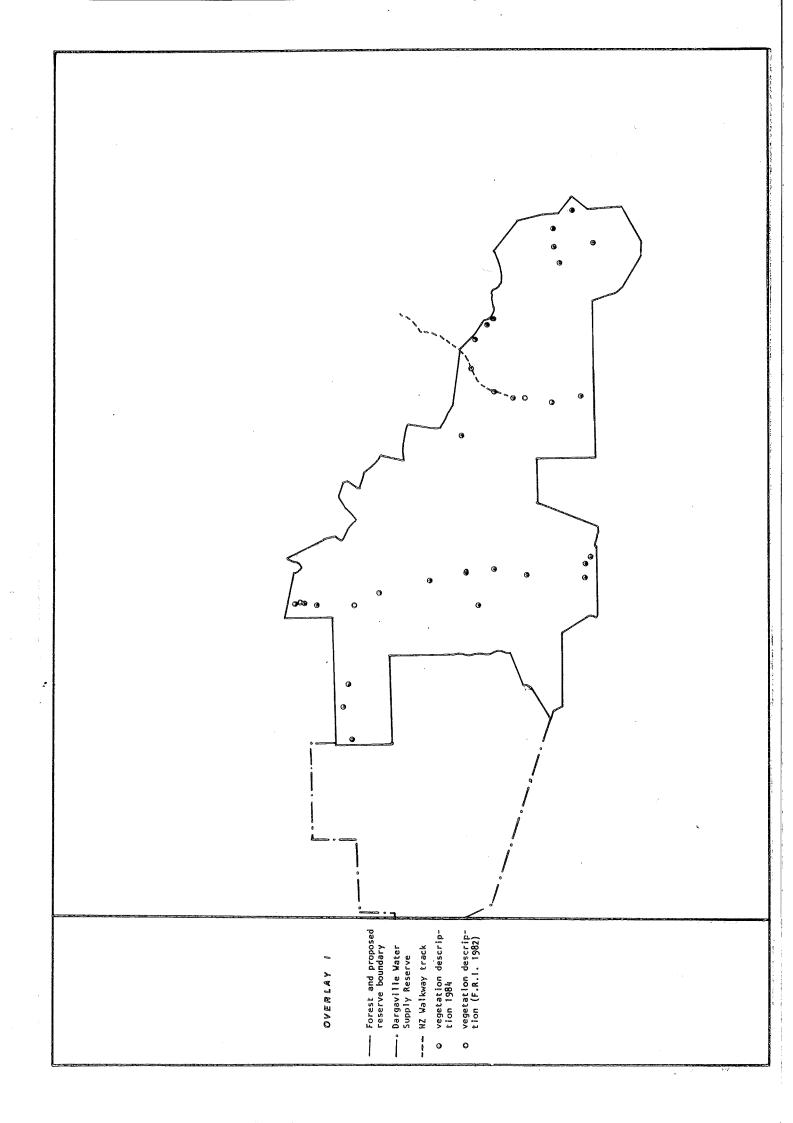
나 나 나 나 Plateau vegetation

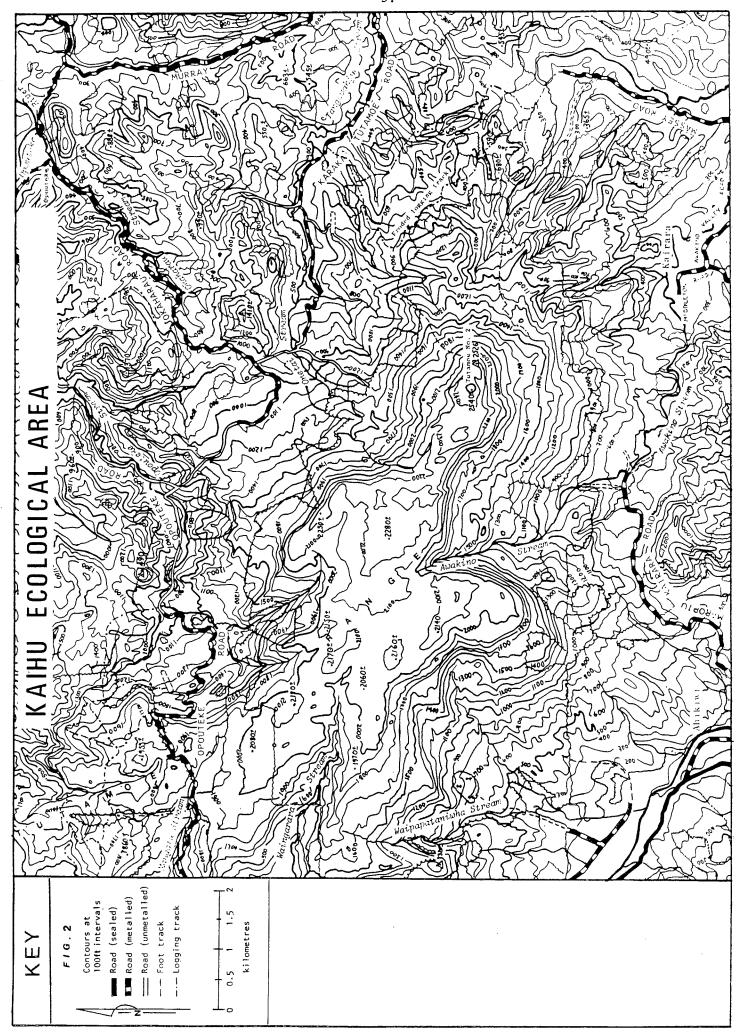
" ... Hardwood forest

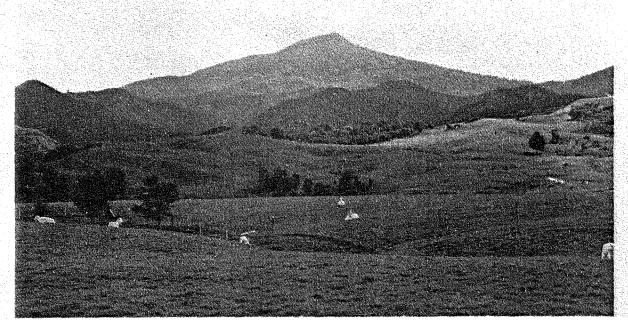
V V Regenerating forest

Kaur i

O Rushes







Above : Mt Tutamoe from the south-east, photograph by Lisa Forester.

Below: A waterfall in the upper Opouteke Stream. Photograph by Lisa Forester.



TABLE 1A :

GENERALISED STAND STRUCTURE FOR TYPE 1 PLATEAU VEGETATION

					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		-			
TIER	HEIGHT	ABUNDANT	FREQUENT	OCCASIONAL	RARE
EMERGENT	20-30 m		rimu	kahikatea northern rata pukatea	·
CANOPY	12-18 m	towai supplejack kiekie	maire tawake	pukatea tawheowheo tawari southern rata	rimu
SUBCANOPY	2-12 m	supplejack kiekie	large-leaved mahoe kanono Griselinia littoralis	pukatea pigeonwood pate tawari towai hangehange	tawa wineberry maire tawake miro Hall's totara putaputaweta
SHRUB *	0.5-2 m	supplejack kiekie	Dicksonia lanata kanono G. littoralis	hangehange white maire large-leaved mahoe	lancewood maire tawake nikau putaputaweta rewarewa towai
GROUNDCOVER	0.5 m	Hymenophyllum demissum bryophytes kiekie	hook sedge hen and chicken fern Hymenophyllum dilatatum	aka piupiu Astelia sp. (cf.A.nervosa) bush rice grass kiokio kidney fern	tanekaha miro
EPIPHYTES AND LIANES			Collospermum hastatum kidney fern mangemange H. dilatatum H. revolutum H. demissum H. multifidum Blechnum filij	aka hanging spleenwort puka orme	

Astelia solandri Grammitis billardieri G. pseudociliata TABLE 1B :

GENERALISED STAND STRUCTURE FOR TYPE 2 RIMU-RATA-TAWA-TARAIRE

TIER .	NE LOUT	ABUNDANT	FREQUENT	OCCASIONAL	RARE
	HEIGHT	ABUILDAN	\$ 11 E W O E 11 1		
EMERGENT	23-24 m		northern rata rimu		
CANOPY	12-20 m		tawa taraire miro makamaka	towai toru mamaku rewarewa northern rata kohekohe	
SUBCANOPY	2-12 m		miro taraire wheki ponga	nikau pigeonwood supplejack kiekie Smiths tree tawari mamaku	rimu makamaka pukatea tawa
SHRUB	0.5-2 m		ponga	supplejack Dicksonia lanata nikau kauri grass kiekie mamaku, miro wheki	makamaka tawari tawa <i>Astelia trinervia</i> taraire white maire rewarewa
GROUNDCOVER	0.5 m		piupiu Blechnum fraseri Hymenophyllum demissum	shining spleenwort hen and chicken	
EPIPHYTES AND LIANES	·		shining spleenwort mangemange Collospernum hastatum Astelia solandri	Hymenophyllum demissum H. dilatatum Metrosideros diffusa Dendrobium cunninghamii aka hanging spleenw	Anarthropteris lanceolata kidney fern Griselinia lucida H. sanguinolentum hound's tongue fern

TABLE 1c : GENERALISED STAND STRUCTURE FOR TYPE 3 RIMU-NORTHERN RATA-TAWA-TOWAI

7.55			1		
TIER .	HEIGHT	ABUNDANT	FREQUENT	OCCASIONAL	RARE
EMERGENT	23 m			northern rata rimu	
CANOPY	12-18 m		tawa towai	tawari northern rata makamaka	
SUBCANOPY	2-12 m		tawa makamaka supplejack kiekie	kanono large-leaved mahoe tawari raukawa toru tawheowheo	miro
SHRUB	0.5-2 m		wheki supplejack kiekie	tawa	
GROUNDCOVER	0.5 m		piupiu hen and chicken fern kiekie	akakura supplejack	Blechnum chambersii B. colensoi
EPIPHYTES AND LIANES			Hymenophyllum dilatatum H. demissum	Asplenium polyodon Easter orchid H. ferrugineum mangemange kidney fern Rumohra adiantiformis	

TABLE 1D :

GENERALISED STAND STRUCTURE FOR TYPE 4 HARDWOOD TYPE

	1				
TIER .	HEIGHT	ABUNDANT	FREQUENT	OCCASIONAL	RARE
EMERGENT					
CANOPY	8-13 m		makamaka tawa	fivefinger wineberry tawheowheo pate hinau maire tawake southern rata	
SUBCANOPY	2-8 m		large-leaved mañoe kanono puka hangehange supplejack	pate pigeonwood wheki wineberry tawari mahoe Griselinia lin	towai makamaka raukawa Pseudopanax anomalus toralis
SHRUB *	0.5-2 m		makamaka supplejack	heketara tawheowheo Astelia sp (cf nervosa) wineberry kiekie	kauri grass karapapa towai pate Smith's tree fern
GROUNDCOVÉR	0.5 m		parataniwha hen and chicken fern kiokio Lastreopsis hispida	Gahnia setifolia supplejack hook sedge kidney fern	Blechnum spp. Nertera depressa
EPIPHYTES AND LIANES			H. dilatatum H. demissum kidney fern	H. flexuosum Collospernum hastatum Astelia solandri aka	Grammitis pseudociliata mangemange Rubus australis Trichomanes venosum

TABLE 1E(I):

GENERALISED STAND STRUCTURE FOR

TYPE 5A KAURI

TIER	HEIGHT	ABUNDANT	FREQUENT	OCCASIONAL	RARE
EMERGENT	22 m	·	kauri northern rata	tanekaha	kawaka
CANOPY	10-16 m		tawa towai	pigeonwood	
SUBCANOPY	2-10 m		mingimingi	tawari lancewood hinau white maire	
SHRUB	0.5-2 m		mingimingi kauri grass Gahnia xanthocarpa Dicksonia lanata	lancewood towai	mapou tawheowheo
GROUNDCOVER			kauri grass G. xanthocarpa	Gleichenia cunninghamii kiokio kiokideros Metrosideros perforata	common lindsaea
EPIPHYTES AND LIANES			Collespernum hastatum Astelia solandri	shining Blechnum Fraseri Hymenophyllum demissum kidney fern hanging spleenwort Metrasideros albiflora Easter orchid Dendrobium cunninghamii supplejack kiekie	

TABLE 1E(II): GENERALISED STAND STRUCTURE FOR TYPE 5B KAURI

TIED					
TIER .	HEIGHT	ABUNDANT	FREQUENT	OCCASIONAL	RARE
EMERGENT	25 m		kauri		
CANOPY	12-16 m		towai tawari rimu	Ilall's totara kauri	
SUBCANOPY	2-12 m		towai tawari	kanono white maire tawheowheo Griselinia littoralis	
SHRUB *	0.5-2 m		Gahnia xanthocarpa kauri Dicksonia lanata	karapapa kanono towai	
GROUNDCOVER	0.5 m		<i>G. xanthocarpa</i> kauri grass	pigeonwood rimu D. lanata G. littoralis mingimingi supplejack tawari turutu	Corybas rivularis miro tawa
EPIPHYTES AND LIANES			Astelia solandri Collospernum hastatum	Orooro Metrosideros albiflora Metrosideros fulgens Hymenophyllum sanquinolentu M. multifidum kidney fern Easter orchid H. revolutum	Ctenopteris heterophylla Hymenophyllum armstrongii m

TABLE 1 F : GENERALISED STAND STRUCTURE FOR

TYPE 6 - REGENERATING FOREST TYPE

***	1	·			
TIER	HE I GHT	ABUNDANT	FREQUENT	OCCASIONAL	RARE
EMERGENT	14 m			kahikatea rewarewa	
CANOPY	5-8 m	kanuka manuka	towai Hall's totara ponga kahikatea	lancewood mingimingi rewarewa tanekaha putaputaweta mapou	rimu miro
SUBCANOPY	2-5 m		ponga mingimingi wheki	toatoa miro rimu kahikatea	
SHRUB *	0.5-2 m		mingimingi	putaputaweta Dicksonia lanata Ilall's totara kahikatea miro rimu	large-leaved mahoe mapou hangehange tanekaha
GROUNDCOVER	0.5 m		bracken kiokio turutu pig fern hook sedge Lycopodium volubile Lyconodium	Centella uniflora Juncus spp Carex sp piupiu Lotus pedunculata	Gahnia setifolia blackberry kahikatea miro rimu tanekaha
EPIPHYTES AND LIANES			aka Rubus cissoides	Corybas rivularis kidney fern	

Introduced Animals and Forest Condition

A species list of introduced animals found in Kaihu Forest using common and scientific names is provided in Appendix 2.

Of the 72 circular 4 m 2 plots examined in the proposed Ecological Area, goat pellets were found in eight (11%). Goats were seen in the Ecological Area on two separate days; on one day a herd was seen near the Awakino Stream and on the other day 30 goats were seen around the slips on the plateau rim on the northeast side of the forest. A small number of the goats seen had collars on; these undoubtedly come from nearby farms.

The lower river flats of Awakino Stream the slip areas and plateau rim on the northeastern side of the forest, the scrub area to the southeast of Tutamoe and the kauri area to the northeast of Tutamoe were moderately to heavily browsed. Light browse was recorded on the plateau.

Species on which browse was most commonly recorded were kanono, Kirk's daisy, *Melicytus macrophyllus*, supplejack, hangehange, kohekohe, makamaka, pate, kiokio, kiekie, pigeonwood and five finger.

Feral cattle damage was evident in the lower regions of Awakino Stream.

Only parts of the forest boundary are fenced and many of those fences are in poor condition leaving the forest open to wandering animals. Much of the forest is surrounded by a large tract of New Zealand Forest Products pine plantations. This will to some degree act as a buffer especially when the pine stands reach maturity.

A small amount of pig rooting was seen on the plateau.

Eight rat traps were set over several nights in the northwestern section of the forest in along a transect line which ran southwest from map reference NZMS 1 N19 287955. One male and one female ship rat were caught. A small amount of possum damage (scratchings, chewed leaves of five finger, fuchsia and tree ferns) and some possum droppings were seen.

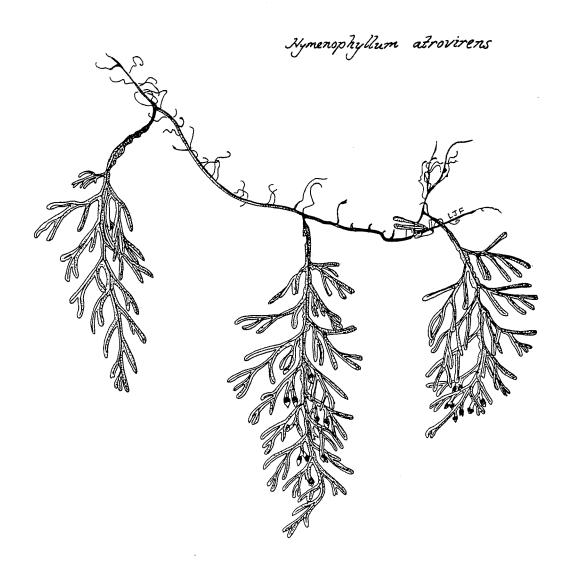
Presence of Exotic Plants

A species list of exotic plants found in Kaihu Forest is provided in Appendix 1. Most occur in the regenerating forest areas. However, the only plant which could be a threat is <code>Hakea salicifolia</code> which is present in the area of regeneration in the southwest part of the Ecological Area. A large pine tree is also growing there.

Native Fauna

A list of native fauna recorded in Kaihu Forest, using both scientific and common names, is provided in Appendix 2.

The Wildlife Service has rated Kaihu Forest a high value forested habitat. North Island brown kiwi are present in high numbers (Ogle, 1982). Pied tit and kauri snail were frequently seen. In scrub and grassy areas fernbirds were heard. Old records (Forest Service Working Plan Control Report, 1965) refer to there having been plenty of bird life in the forest; kokako



(Callaeas cinerea wilsoni) were recorded and the numbers of kaka (Nestor meridionalis) were described as declining while the record of bellbird (Anthornis melanura) is probably erroneous. None of these species were recorded in this study.

The fauna of Kaihu Forest has not been thoroughly surveyed therefore no lizard, frog or invertebrate lists are available. The status of Leiolopisma gracilicorpus is given as 'indeterminate' in the Red Data Book of New Zealand (Williams and Given, 1981). It is possible that this species could be equated with a recording of a large, apparently amphibious lizard on the Mataraua Plateau (Ogle, 1982) and it should be searched for on the Kaihu Plateau.

Human History and Influence

No evidence of pre-European occupation or use of Kaihu Forest by the Maori was found although the area has not been formally surveyed.

Most of the area is unmodified. Logging was confined to the southeastern portion of the forest which has a long history of timber working and burning. Records show that the largest kauri ever known, named Kairaru, grew in this region until it perished during the disastrous fires which swept the area during 1899 to 1901. The tree had a girth of 20.1 m with a height to the first branch of 30.5 m (Mair, 1891). Several recent attempts to locate the remains of the stump were unsuccessful 3 At the beginning of this century, the Tutamoe contract for 124,000 m of kauri was signed. Large trees were removed from the area; one was 14.3 m in girth. Timber was taken out by bullocks, skidded roads and catamarans, chutes and winches and 11 km of railway track. In 1910 a big drive of kauri under Tommy Hawkins was made. After two years of felling 14 million feet of kauri was driven down the Awakino River into booms on the Wairoa River over 10 days. Just south of Kaihu Forest 5,000 ha of land was granted to disillusioned squatters from Marlborough in Nelson in 1890; the settlement still exists. Approximately 65 years ago the area southeast of Tutamoe was logged for kauri and subsequently burnt several times. Remnants of old logging roads can be found in the region and local residents talk of a large kauri dam in the steepest and most southerly catchment of the upper Kairaru Stream. Adjoining landowners extracted minor forest produce for fencing the common boundary while the most recent activity, during the 1950s and 1960s, was timber extraction for fence and sawn produce by a timber company in Dargaville (closed NZFS file 34/1/14, 1955-1971). Several subsequent applications for green timber were all declined. In 1982 New Zealand Forest Products made application to obtain 314 ha of this regenerating area for exotic afforestation. It was surveyed by New Zealand Forest Service and the application was turned The area was retained as State Forest and included in the area down. proposed as a scientific reserve.

Recreational Facilities and Opportunities

A New Zealand Walkway track starts at Karaka Tutamoe Road in the northeast and crosses farmland to enter the forest. The low grade track climbs steadily to Tutamoe Trig where spectacular views across Northland can be appreciated. No other tracks or other facilities are offered in Kaihu although remnants of old logging roads in the southeastern portion of

the forest can be followed. These offer a good day walk to the trig and the old timber workings may be of interest (Lyford, 1982. unpubl. int. report).

Research Carried Out and Suggested

An internal Forest Service report on Kaihu State Forest was produced in 1966 by M.J. Johnston. This covered timber quality, and quantity as well as other relevant information; it involved several days field inspection of the forest.

The area of regenerating forest southeast of Tutamoe Trig was surveyed by W.J. Lyford in 1982 and a report covering the feasibility of converting this area into exotics, was produced. This area provides a rare opportunity to study the process of secondary succession back to mature forest as it is the only such forest which will be afforded protection for scientific purposes in the Ecological District.

The unusual physical features of Kaihu Forest and the vegetation types present are of scientific interest and would be relevant to the study of plant communities.

Summary, Discussion and Recommendations

The proposed Kaihu Ecological Area is a 2425 ha tract of indigenous forest 20 km northwest of Dargaville. Most of the forest is unmodified and occupies a swampy plateau which constitutes the southern and highest section of the Tutamoe Range. The highest point in the forest, Tutamoe, falls just short of being the highest point in Northland. The main feature of the proposed Ecological Area is the large area of unique high rainfall upland forest which covers an altitudinal range between 90 and 760 m a.s.1.

The Dargaville Water Supply Reserve abuts the proposed Ecological Area in the west thus forming a continuous 3700 ha tract of forest, most of which is unmodified. It is therefore desirable to maintain contact with the Dargaville Borough Council to ensure that both areas are managed in a compatible and co-ordinated manner.

The edges of the Kaihu plateau are steep and a number of earth and rock slips are present. Several streams which eventually join the Wairoa River flowing through Dargaville, drain the plateau.

In places, regeneration of canopy species appears to be occurring although much of the forest is moderately browsed and a small amount of possum damage is evident. A number of goats were seen in stream beds and on the sides of the plateau but goat damage, at this stage, is not serious in the dense vegetation on the plateau. A few goats with collars on were seen and these undoubtedly came from neighbouring farms. Only parts of the forest boundary are fenced and some of these fences are in poor condition leaving the forest open to wandering animals.

Exotic plants probably do not present any threat to the forest although some <code>Hakea salicifolia</code> and a mature pine tree are growing in the area of regeneration on the southwestern slopes below Tutamoe Trig. It is possible that <code>Hakea</code> could become established in the area.

The Wildlife Service has rated Kaihu Forest as a high value forested habitat. North Island brown kiwi, pied tit and kauri snail are all present. Kaka and kokako, which have been recorded previously (Forest Service Working Plan Control Report, 1965), were not seen or heard during this study. Further faunal survey work is needed. The status of kokako in the forest should be determined and invertebrate species lists compiled. Lizards and frogs should be surveyed for.

A walkway (part of the New Zealand Walkway system) climbs to Tutamoe Trig from Karaka Tutamoe Road in the northeast and offers excellent views from coast to coast. This walkway is the only developed track in Kaihu Ecological Area. The forest has values as a semi-remote area for experienced trampers wishing to explore and navigate untracked bush country. The area to the southeast of Mt Tutamoe contains old kauri dams, camps and logging roads which could be developed and linked up to Mt Tutamoe track.

Based on the above discussion, the following management recommendations are made in order of priority.

- 1. That goat numbers in the forest be reduced to the lowest practicable level and that their numbers and influence on forest condition be monitored thereafter.
- 2. That the influence of possums on forest condition be monitored.
- That the condition of fences around the forest be assessed and the fences upgraded where necessary.
- 4. That contact with the Dargaville Borough Council over management of the entire Kaihu Forest including the Dargaville Water Supply Reserve be established and maintained.
- 5. That a complete fauna survey be undertaken and that kokako be searched for using tapes.
- 6. That Kaihu Forest be retained as a semi-remote area with no further recreational development other than tracking in the area to the southeast of Mt Tutamoe.

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Appendix 1 : Botanical Species List

Numbers following some of the scientific names are the reference numbers of collected specimens held at the Auckland Institute and Museum. Numbers following the Bryophyte names correspond to collected specimens held at Auckland University.

Fern and Fern Allies

Adiantum cunninghamii	maidenhair fern
Anarthropteris lanceolata	lance fern
Asplenium bulbiferum ssp. bulbiferum	manamana, hen and chicken fern
	raukatauri, hanging spleenwort
A. flaccidum var. flaccidum	
A. oblongifolium	shining spleenwort
A. polyodon	
Blechnum chambersii	
B. colensoi 166566	
${\it B. discolor}$	piupiu, crownfern
B. filiforme	climbing sweetfern
B. fluviatile	
B. fraseri	Fraser's hardfern
B. membranaceum	thin hardfern
B. nigrum 166135	black hardfern
B. procerum 167637	
	kiokio
B. sp. (B. capense agg., lowland species)	
Cardiomanes reniforme	kidney fern
Ctenopteris heterophylla	.1
Cyathea dealbata	ponga, silverfern
C. medullaris	mamaku, black tree fern
C. smithii	soft tree fern, katote
Deparia petersenii (= Athyrium japonicum)16608	34
Dicksonia lanata	
D. squarrosa	wheki
Diplazium australe (= Athyrium australe)	
Doodia media sub-species australis 166119	
Gleichenia microphylla	tangle fern, waewae-kaka
Grammitis billardieri 164930 166580 167581 16	
	11
G. ciliata	11
G. pseudociliata	
Histiopteris incisa	swamp fern
Hymenophyllum armstrongii 166102 166562	filmy_fern
H. atrovirens 166120 166628	11
H. demissum	11
H. dilatatum	11
H. ferrugineum	11
H. flabellatum	11
H. flexuosum 165009 166106	T t
H. lyallii 166089	11
H. multifidum	11
H. rarum 166103	11
H. revolutum	ff .
	minimini Cilmu Comm
H. sanguinolentum	piripiri, filmy fern
H. scabrum	filmy fern
Lastreopsis glabella 166099 166585	
L. hispida	
Leptopteris hymenophylloides	heruheru, crepefern
Lindsaea trichomanoides 166583	
Lycopodium deuterodensum 166079	club moss
L. varium (incl. L. billardieri)	11

L. volubile Lygodium articulatum Paesia scaberula Phymatosorus diversifolius P. scandens Pneumatopteris pennigera Pteridium esculentum Pteris tremula 166094 Pyrrosia serpens Rumohra adiantiformis

Sticheris cunninghamii (=Gleichenia cunninghamii) Imesipteris elongata sub-species elongata

T. lanceolata T. sigmatifolia T. tannensis

Trichomanes elongatum 166104 T. endlicherianum 166103 166584

T. strictum 166088

T. venosum

club moss mangemange pig fern, hard fern, ringfern maratata, hound's tongue fragrant fern, moki pakauroharoha bracken shaking bracken leatherleaf fern climbing shield fern

umbrella fern, tapuwae kotuku

filmy fern

11

Gymnosperms

Agathis australis Dacrycarpus dacrydioides Dacrydium cupressinum Libocedrus plumosa Phyllocladus glaucus P. trichomanoides Pinus sp. * Podocarpus hallii P. totara

Prumnopitys ferruginea

kauri kahikatea rimu kawaka, cedar toatoa tanekaha pine Hall's totara totara miro

Dicotyledons

Acaena anserinifolia Ackama rosaefolia Alseuosmia macrophylla Aristotelia serrata Beilschmiedia tarairi B. tawa Brachyglottis repanda Callitriche stagnalis 167590 Carmichaelia aligera Carpodetus serratus Centaurium erythraea*

Centella uniflora Cirsium vulgare* Clematis cunninghamii (=C. parviflora) C. paniculata Coprosma arborea C. areolata C. grandifolia C. lucida C. rhamnoides C. robusta C. propingua x C. robusta 166073 Coriaria arborea

bidibid makamaka karapapa makomako, wineberry taraire tawa rangiora

putaputaweta, marbleleaf centaury

Scotch thistle

puawananga mamangi

kanono karamu

karamu

tutu

Cyathodes fasciculata Digitalis purpurea* Dracophyllum latifolium D. traversii (=D. pyramidale) 166086 Dysoxylum spectabile Elaeocarpus dentatus E. hookerianus 166582 Elatostema rugosum Epilobium rotundifolium 166117 166571 Eupatorium adenophorum* Fuchsia excorticata Gaultheria antipoda 166118 Geniostoma rupestre var crassum Gnaphalium gymnocephalum G. spicatum* Gonocarpus incanus Griselinia littoralis 166570 G. lucida Hakea salicifolia* Hebe stricta var. stricta Hedycarya arborea Hoheria populnea var. populnea Hydrocotyle dissecta 166087 H. moschata Hypericum japonicum Hypochoeris radicata* Ixerba brexioides Knightia excelsa Laurelia novae-zealandiae Litsea calicaris Lophomyrtus bullata Lotus pedunculatus* Melicytus macrophyllus M. ramiflorus Metrosideros albiflora M. diffusa M. fulgens M. perforata M. robusta M. umbellata 166083 Mida salicifolia Muehlenbeckia australis Myrsine australis M. salicina Nertera depressa N. dichondraefolia Nestegis lanceolata N. montana Olearia rani Parsonsia sp. Phytolacca otandra* Pittosporum cornifolium P. kirkii Plantago australis* P. lanceolata* P. major* Pomaderris kumeraho 166078 P. phylicifolia var. ericifolia Prunella vulgaris*

Pseudopanax anomalus

mingimingi fox glove neinei

kohekohe hinau pokaka parataniwha

Mexican devil weed fuchsia, kotukutuku

hangehange

broadleaf
puka, shining broadleaf
willow leaved hakea
koromiko
pigeonwood
lacebark

catsear tawari rewarewa pukatea mangeao ramarama

large-leaved mahoe mahoe climbing rata, akatea

, akakura , akatorotoro

northern rata southern rata willow leaved maire

mapou, red matipo toro

white maire narrow-leaved maire heketara akaiore inkweed karo

narrow leaved plantain broad leaved plantain kumeraho

selfheal

P. arboreus P. crassifolius P. edgerleyi

Pseudowintera axillaris

Quintinia serrata

Ranunculus hirtus 166080

R. repens*

Rhabdothamnus solandri

Rubus australis R. cissoides

R. fruticosus agg.* Rumex conglomeratus* Senecio bipinnatisectus*

S. glomeratus S. jacobaea* Senecio kirkii S. minimus Schefflera digitata

Solanum nigrum Sonchus oleraceus* Syzygium maire Toronia toru Ulex europaeus*

Urtica incisa 166081 Viola filicaulis 166149

Weinmannia silvicola var. silvicola

fivefinger 1ancewood raukawa horopito tawheowheo

buttercup waiu-atua bush lawyer

blackberry clustered dock

ragwort Kirk's tree daisy

pate black nightshade puha, sow thistle maire tawake, swamp maire toru gorse nettle

towai

Monocotyledons

Acianthus formicatus var. sinclairii Agrostis capillaris* A. stolonifera* Anthoxanthum odoratum* Astelia sp. (c.f. A. fragrans) 167646 A. sp. (c.f. A. nervosa) 167646 A solandri A. trinervia Bulbophyllum pygmaeum

Carex sp. (c.f. brownii)* C. dissita 167617

C. geminata agg. 167571,572,645

C. lessonianum

C. longebrachiata* 167578 C. ochrosaccus 167577,648,650

Collospermum hastatum

C. microspermum Cordyline banksii

C. pumilio

Cortaderia fulvida

C. selloana*

Corybas orbiculatus

C. rivularis

Cyperus eragrostis* Dactylis glomerata* Dendrobium cunninghamii brown top creeping bent sweet vernal

kowharawhara, perching lily kauri grass

Australian sedge

perching lily

ti ngahere, bush cabbage tree ti koraha toetoe pampas grass

cocksfoot epiphytic orchid

Dianella nigra Earina autumnalis Eleocharis gracilis 167592 Freycinetia baueriana ssp. banksii

Gahnia pauciflora 167649

G. setifolia G. xanthocarpa Holcus lanatus*

Juncus bufonius* 167618

J. effusus*

J. gregiflorus 167647

J. holoschoenus 167575, 608

J. pallidus

J. planifolius 167619

J. prismatocarpus 167621

J. tenuis* 167582

J. usitatus

Libertia pulchella Microlaena avenacea

M. stipoides

Microtis parviflora Oplismenus f. imbecillis Paspalum dilatatum* Phormium cookianum Pterostylis banksii

P. trullifolia

P. brumalis or P. trullifolia

Rhopalostylis sapida Ripogonum scandens Rytidosperma gracile

R. unarede

Schoenus apogon 167620

Scirpus inundatus S. reticularis 167586

Uncinia uncinata

U. zotovii

Vulpia bromoides

Adventive

turutu, blueberry Easter orchid

kiekie

toi-kiwi Yorkshire fog

soft rush

native iris bush rice grass meadow rice grass

paspalum mountain flax

nikau supplejack

hook-sedge hook-sedge

Bryophytes

Mosses

Achrophyllum dentatum (2) A. quadrifarium (2) Brachythecium sp. Bryum billardieri (2) Calomnion laetum (2) Camptochaete arbuscula (2) Campylopus introflexus (2) C. pyriformis (1) (2)Catharomnion ciliatum (2) Cladomnion ericoides (1) (2) Cryptopodium bartramioides (2) Cyathophorum bulbosum (2) Cyrtopus setosus (2) Dienemon calycinum (1) (2) Dicranoloma billardieri (2) D. grossialare (1) (2) D. menziesii (1) (2) D. plurisetum (1) (2) Dicranum trichopodum (1)(2)Distichophyllum pulchellum (1) (2) D. rotundifolium (1) (2) Echinodium hispidulum Eriopus cristatus (1)(2) Fissidens species Holomitrium perichaetiale (1)(2) Hymenodon pilifer (2) Hypnodendron arcuatum (1)(2) H. colensoi (1) (2)H. menziesii (1)(2) Hypnum chrysogaster (2) Hypopterygium commutatum (1)(2) Hypopterygium filiculaeforme H. rotulatum (1) (2)H. setiferum Isopterygium limatum (1)(2) Leptostomum sp. (2) Leptotheca sp. Leucobryum candidum (1)(2) Lopidium concinuum (2) Macromitrium longipes (1) (2) Orthorrhynchium elegans (2) Polytrichum juniperinum (1)(2)Pterygophyllum dentatum P. quadrifarium Ptychomnion aciculare (1) (2) Racopilum convolutaceum (2) Rhizogonium bifarium (1)(2)R. distichum (1) (2)R. novae-hollandiae (1) (2) Sematophyllum amoenum (1) (2) Tayloria callophylla (2) Thamnium pandum Thuidium furfurosum (2)

Thuidium laevisculum
Trachyloma diversinerve (1)
T. planifolius
Weymouthia cochlearifolia (1)(2)
W. mollis (2)
Wijkia extenuata(2)
Zygodon intermedius (1)(2)

Liverworts

Aneura sp. Bazzania tayloriana Chiloscyphus Lepidolaena taylorii Lepidozia glaucophylla L. microphylla L. spinosissima Lophocolea spp. Marchantia sp. Metzgeria Monoclea forsteri Pallavicinia sp. Plagiochila fruticella P. ?fuscella P. ?lyallii P. retrospectans Porella elegantula Radula dentifolia Riccardia spp. Shistochila balfouriana Symphyogyna subsimplex Treubia lacunosa Trichocolea lanata T. mollissima Tylimanthus ?saccatus

- (1) Voucher specimens lodged in the Herbarium of the Auckland Institute and Museum (Ak).
- (2) Mosses recorded on Tutamoe Walkway and area west of the trig, 23 Jan. 1985. Compiled by J.E. Beever, P.J. Brownsey, M. Whitehead and F. Barnes.

Appendix 2: Faunal Species List

Native Birds

Anthus novaeseelandiae
Apteryx australis mantelli
Bowdleria punctata
Chalcites lucidus*
Circus approximans
Eudynamis taitensis*
Gerygone igata
Halcyon sancta
Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae
Hirundo neoxena
Ninox novaeseelandiae
Petroica macrocephala
Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae
Rhipidura fuliginosa
Zosterops lateralis

NZ pipit
North Island brown kiwi
North Island fernbird
shining cuckoo
harrier hawk
long-tailed cuckoo
greywarbler
kingfisher
NZ pigeon
welcome swallow
morepork
pied tit
tui
North Island fantail
silvereye

Introduced Birds

Acridotheres tristis
Alauda arvensis
Emberiza citrinella
Fringilla coelebs
Phasianus colchicus
Platycercus eximius
Prunella modularis occidentalis
Turdus merula
T. philomelos

Indian myna
skylark
yellow hammer
chaffinch
pheasant
eastern rosella
hedge sparrow
blackbird
songthrush

Native Invertebrates

Paranephrops planifrons Paryphanta busbyi busbyi Pantosalsis sp. freshwater crayfish, kouru kauri snail bush harvestman spider

Introduced Mammals

Bos taurus
Canis familiaris
Capra hircus
Felis catus
Rattus rattus
Sus scrofa
Trichosurus vulpecula

feral cow
wild dog
feral goat
feral cat
ship rat
wild pig
brush-tailed possum

^{*} Annorated Wildlife Lists - NZ Wildlife Service