

# The 5th Decade

*2005 - 2015*



*W* AIPAHIHI  
BOTANICAL SOCIETY INC  
TAUPO New Zealand

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### From the Waipahihi Botanical Society Inc

Although only a decade has passed since the story of the first 40 years was published, there has been much progress.

The philosophy of the Society has always been that new areas will not be developed unless they can be maintained, and by and large this policy has been adhered to.

About 10 years ago the balance of an estate was bequeathed to the Society with a proviso that a walkway of flowering natives and rhododendrons be established. This is now known as the "The Floral Walk". This bequest also eased the financial restraints that the Society hitherto had to observe. Since then a number of items of machinery have been replaced and other items purchased.

We are fortunate at the moment to have skilled and knowledgeable volunteers who are able to make the most of the equipment we have.

The volunteer workers are the strength of the Society. Their dedication, hardwork and enthusiasm is much appreciated and visitors frequently comment on the attractiveness and tidiness of the Reserve.

Bill Chrystall  
*Chair*

### From the Waipahihi Botanical Society Endowment Trust Fund

Most not-for-profit organisations rely on donations, bequests, grants, sponsorships and member fund-raising to run their operations. These sources are often difficult to obtain, vary from year to year, are inconsistent and there is no guarantee that funds will be available when needed.

The relationship between the Society and the Endowment Trust Fund is very special. The Fund ensures the Society receives a regular income for ongoing operations and maintenance of the Reserve, and enables development projects to be planned and implemented.

While income earned from the Fund should be sufficient to cover the Society's operating expenses and occasional capital items, additional Trust Fund capital would ensure interest rate fluctuations do not diminish the income paid to the Society. Bequests, in particular, future-proof the income for the Society, and ensure the Reserve remains a feature of the town and environment for future generations.

The Trustees and I acknowledge the hard work of the volunteers, who willingly give their time and energy to developing and maintaining the gardens and the Reserve generally. Very few organisations have such committed and long-term volunteers. Through their efforts, Taupo is indeed blessed with a refuge for birdlife and a haven for everyone.

Dennis Jenkins  
*Chair*

### From the Department of Conservation Turangi & Taupo

Such is the community profile of the Waipahihi Botanical Society that few of the visitors to this special place, known formally as the Waipahihi Botanical Gardens Scenic Reserve, would realise that this is an area of public conservation land.

Before 1987 and the formation of the Department of Conservation, some forward-thinking person in the Department of Lands and Survey granted the Society a formal 'Appointment to Control and Manage' this 34.3 hectare gem of a reserve.

The continued enthusiasm, hard work and dedication of the trustees and volunteers of the Society ensure that this reserve continues to remain an outstanding example of what the local community can achieve for conservation of our local environment with the need for very little involvement (or interference) by the department.

In recent years it has been great to see that the Society's conservation efforts have extended into control of the predators of our local native wildlife with the result that the Reserve is now a haven for native birds as well as its botany.

Dave Lumley  
*Operations Manager*



## Work as usual

The Reserve continues to be dominated by tall trees but closer up you will notice splashes of colour from smaller native and exotic trees and shrubs. Ten years on, let's take another walk.

First, finding the Reserve is easier than it was. In December 2015 the Taupo District Council erected three brown 'Botanical Gardens' signs: at the Lake Terrace and Napier Taupo Road intersection, at the Arrowsmith Avenue and Napier Taupo Road intersection and at the Arrowsmith and Shepherd crossroad. Before you go through the gates, notice the sign on the left, recently renovated, and a new sign through the gates on the right.

The entrance to the Reserve has been renewed, mostly on the left, with low growing natives to allow views into the bush behind. The corokias that were growing at the entrance have been removed.



## Hyde Avenue Block

In 1995, a team of enthusiastic volunteers led by Larry Stent started work on the Hyde Avenue Block (the area on the right as you enter the Reserve), clearing a dense understory, cutting a loop track to gain access to areas for planting, then planting a range of trees to see what suited. Now, 20 years later, we can record that most species have thrived and others have disappeared. Kauri, maire, kamahi, kawaka, and tawa have done well; tanekaha, rewarewa and totara have done exceptionally well, and some seed freely. Titoki did not survive – they're not keen on a cold wind. Puketea survive but not happily.

Originally seven different types of native orchid were growing in this area. Now we regularly see only one – the common greenhood orchid, *Pterostylis banksii*.



## Flax lookout

In 2013 the lower part of the island of flaxes was revamped. Many of the established clumps were reduced in size or removed, and replaced with a variety of smaller, modern hybrid flaxes.

## Wilderness and Boundary Tracks

Having planted the Hyde Avenue Block, Larry's attention turned to rata. The word came down – "If you want to plant rata, find a place." So, starting in 1998, patches were cleared in the scrubby bush cover near the western boundary, 100 metres in from the lower Shepherd Road entrance.

In time, 350 each of southern and northern rata were planted. There have been heavy losses over the years but many have survived. The southern rata flowered for the first time in 2014 and one of the northern variety produced flower in 2015. In time these trees will give an impressive display of red.

In 2005 Beth Okeby suggested a path to maintain this area and so the Wilderness Track came into being. It runs from the Gully path west through the rata collection and up the hill to emerge opposite the Reservoir. Like other tracks in the Reserve, parts of this path have a hard pumice base and a shingle top layer, and wooden run-offs across the paths to channel water away.



From about 2007, there followed major clearance of the north-western corner where Himalayan honeysuckle and blackberry had lived undisturbed for decades. The baddies were dealt to and more respectable citizens were planted in groups – kawaka, totara, rimu, lancewood, tawa, hinau, kauri, pigeonwood, celery pine, matai, silver pine and yellow silver pine. The last two are being watched carefully – they may not survive in this situation because they prefer damper conditions.

This has been another huge effort over a long period. The pay-off is now obvious as the groups become distinctive.

## The Lemonwood Walk

The luxuriant growth of the bigger trees of the Lemonwood Walk has posed a problem. As time has gone on the larger species have grown to create a canopy that restricts light to the small native plant collections.

In 2014 Philip Smith (manager of The Native Plant Nursery) was invited to comment on what might be done to this area. In general he agreed that in the medium term we may need to sacrifice some trees in order to provide more light for lower growing species. He noted that this area provided an opportunity to make a living museum for local endangered plants, and he made a number of specific suggestions as to what might be planted where. This work has started and will be ongoing.

Attached to the Lemonwood Walk is an area Bill and Jan Drake cleared and planted in natives. This was named the Drake Memorial Area and now a loop track has been formed in it.

### Subdivision boundary

In 2014 the Taupo District Council completed earthworks for a further section of the Botanic Heights subdivision, this time on the northern boundary of the Reserve. These earthworks cleared the ground up to the boundary fence and disclosed its dilapidated condition. A decision was made to clear the Reserve side of the fence, which involved the spraying and removal of blackberry, broom, bracken, muehlenbeckia etc. The clearing work was good running-in exercise for the new John Deere tractor. Long term the plan is to tidy up and repair the major part of the fence but it will not be quick or easy.

Another entrance into the Reserve has been agreed by the Board of Management allowing walking access to the Reserve from a road yet to be built by the Taupo District Council.

### Camellia Walk

The Reserve has missed the expertise of Richard Clere (past Society chair and current patron, and past-president of the NZ Camellia Society), who has moved to New Plymouth to be near his family.

During 2014, Harvey Howard, a Camellia Society judge, was invited to the Reserve to show volunteers and others how to prune camellias. Half of the camellias in the Camellia Walk were pruned after his visit; the remainder will be pruned when the first group flower. Harvey noted that most of the camellia plants (there are around 600 of them) were planted under Richard's guidance. Harvey also commented that the Reserve's collection would be by far the biggest in New Zealand and that there were a number of varieties growing well that he had not seen anywhere else in the country.

### The Floral Walk

In October 2005 the Society received a generous bequest from the late Frederick and Elsie Geange. Whilst not locals, they had had a soft spot for our gardens and had visited often in the last years of their lives.

The terms of the bequest were to develop a broad avenue planted with flowering native shrubs and rhododendrons. The Board decided the avenue could be developed through a previously undeveloped area of bush, linking the road opposite the Azaleas to the northern end of the Memorial Area.

In April 2007, Wim Rademaker and Larry Stent decided on a line through heavy



bracken, blackberry, broom and medium-sized bush growth, avoiding as many established trees as possible. They marked it with string and, over the period of about a year, forged a track about 250 metres long.

Gradually a wide swathe was cleared by contractors and volunteers. Then a path was formed through the middle, lined with wooden edges, and covered with the tried and trusted hard pumice base and metal chip topping, with the occasional run-off channel. In the beds on either side, holes for planting were drilled and filled with compost. By May 2009 the avenue was ready for planting.

In the meantime Barry Hickling with the assistance of Bette Davies, Fay Craig, Beth Okeby, Neville Davies and Lorna Chinn had decided on a planting plan to fulfill the benefactors' wishes for a floral display. So – patches of kakabeak grow alongside groups of camellias; bright red Rhododendron Kaponga alongside bronze flaxes. In spring you can look up and see the occasional, now well-developed, cloud of native clematis.



Waipahihi Primary School Environment Team, led by teacher Mandy Thomas and accompanied by parents, planted about 50 native plants – mostly ground covers and kowhai. On another occasion the Taupo Sea Scouts spent a morning planting and spreading mulch.

All the planted areas were gradually covered in mulch and in 2011 an automated irrigation system was installed, running off the main system. The plants have flourished.

Two seats were installed near the middle of the walk to acknowledge the substantial financial contribution of the Geanges.

A rough wilderness of broom, bracken and scrubby trees has been converted into an attractive walk linking the road to a previously undeveloped part of the Memorial Area.

### Memorial Area

Over the years several non-memorial trees and shrubs have been removed thereby increasing the lawn area.

This is a popular place for weddings and picnics. The trees in this area continue to prosper with the attention of the Tuesday volunteers.



### The south-eastern extremity – what was no-man's land

About six years ago an access way was made along the south-eastern boundary.

In January 2015, Wayne Porteous mowed the wide storm-water easement behind and below the clubroom. He had to use a high cut to get through the long, weedy grass. He did it again and again – each time a lower cut and eventually he established good quality grass cover. By then he was hooked and decided to clear the broom off the banks on the other (Greenwich Place) side of the channel. He got in deeper and attacked the blackberry. Other volunteers helped him. They mulched the broom and blackberry and tossed the mulch back on the cleared bank. Graeme Robinson

organised planting of the bank in flax, kanuka, korimiko, pittosporum, hoheria, toetoe and other quick-growing natives – some of which were given by the Taupo District Council.

That done, volunteers advanced on the flattish area on the top of the bank – rough bush, thick with cherry seedlings, rampant blackberry, broom and bracken, and peppered with dead trees. Gradually the undesirables were sprayed and as time goes on the whole area will be planted in a mixture of native shrubs and trees.

In 2016 the south-eastern boundary of this area will be landscaped and planted in large groups of five different kowhai varieties.



### Hebe collection

A number of years ago, the Reserve was given a collection of unusual but neglected (and, unfortunately, mostly unnamed) varieties of hebe. After a spell in the shadehouse, the best ones were planted on the roadside by the entrance to the Millennium Walk. They have been given a lot of attention (new soil and regular weeding and mulching) and are now beginning to thrive. A good number of corokias have been planted alongside the hebes.

### Exotic planting throughout – mainly rhododendrons

There has been extensive planting of exotics throughout the Reserve over the last 10 years. It has been an ongoing battle to establish plants with the recent dry summers. To help conserve moisture and suppress weeds, more waterlines with access to taps have been laid and irrigation has been installed in some areas. Added to this there has been mulching with woodchips, especially where there are new plantings.

Since 2005 some 150 rhododendrons have been planted in the Rhododendron Walk, Lance's Area adjacent to the Link Track, the Tauhara Lookout, at the top of the steep hill, and in gaps in the ring road.



In 2012 three different varieties of kowhai were planted along the roadside bank of the Shepherd Road boundary.

Also in 2013 an area on the right of the entrance to the Rhododendron Walk was cleared and planted with rhododendrons given to the Reserve by Pukeiti.

In 2013-2015, a good number of magnolias, dogwoods and maples, gifted to the Reserve, were planted – all give autumn colour against the bush background.

Early in 2016 a non-member from the Manawatu gifted over 400 exotic and native trees to the Reserve – these plants had been part of an experiment on camellia petal blight.

### Signage

In the last ten years a lot of new signs have been installed and old ones replaced.



### Theft and damage

The Reserve continues to lose recently planted shrubs – not many. From time to time there is minor vandalism and graffiti – not great.

In 2014 the two picnic tables in the Memorial Area were unbolted and removed. At some expense they have been replaced by tables from the makers of the originals. All furniture has now been securely welded in place.

### Pest control

With the arrival of Hugh Eccles in 2011 into the ranks of the volunteers, pest control in the Reserve began in earnest. He started with three possum traps and one he bought himself. The Society bought another two. Sadly, four were stolen. The Society then purchased two self-setting possum traps.

In 2012 the Department of Conservation supplied 25 DOC 200 predator traps. In 2013 the Taupo branch of Forest & Bird donated three self-setting possum traps and two DOC 200 traps.

The Waikato Regional Council has made two grants to the Society from their small-scale community initiatives fund. This money was used to purchase further DOC 200 traps.

Altogether, there are now:

- 35 DOC 200 traps designed to kill rats, stoats and weasels
- 12 possum traps, and
- 2 cage traps for cats.

In 2015 these traps accounted for 223 rats, 30 mice, 25 hedgehogs, 6 feral cats, 6 possums, 1 weasel and 1 stoat. In addition Hugh has dealt with 4 wasp nests.

Hugh also lays poison in bait stations in early spring to further assist birds during the nesting season by removing rats. Bird numbers appear to be increasing – of particular note, four kererū are frequently seen in the Reserve.



### The volunteer force

The Society is blessed with a dedicated team of willing, energetic people, who enjoy using skills they have learnt over a lifetime for the benefit of the Reserve. The main volunteer force continues to work on Thursdays – in the afternoon during the winter



months; in the mornings in the summer months. This group is now made up of more men than women. Since 2013, the Reserve has been fortunate to have another group of volunteers, led by Madeline Ridley. They work on Tuesday evenings during the summer months and take a special interest in The Floral Walk and the Memorial Area, and nearby areas as required. Some volunteers have already received mention

– Larry, Wayne and Hugh. Others have also put sizeable amounts of time into the Reserve over the last ten years, on top of working with the volunteers in the main working sessions: Mike Dinwiddie has cleared many areas for planting; Bob Tinworth was instrumental in organising the pruning of half of the camellias – many he did himself; Bob and Graeme Robinson carried out a great deal of the spraying in the Reserve; Graeme has also done a lot of planting. Bill Chrystall has maintained equipment and had general oversight.

Needless to say, the Reserve has lost a few members and volunteers over the last ten years. Wim Rademaker and Neville Davies get special mention for their particularly generous dedication and hard work.



### New machinery

During the last decade the Society's machinery and plant have been upgraded with purchases of: a ride-on mower and motorised sprayers in 2007 and in 2015, a fertilizer spreader in 2008, a wood chipper and a quad bike in 2010, various small handheld motorised pieces of equipment (eg chainsaws and trimmers), and a dishwasher!

The bigger Kubota tractor, with a front-end loader purchased new about 18 years ago had a somewhat chequered reliability history and the Board decided in 2014 to replace it with a 32hp John Deere, which has proved very satisfactory.



### Health and safety

At the November 2015 meeting, the Board of Management adopted a Health and Safety in the Workplace policy. It will be discussed with volunteers before being implemented by March 2016.

### Areas of responsibility

In 2014 the idea of having areas of responsibility was proposed by the Secretary and endorsed by the Board of Management. Graeme Robinson and Molly Lymburn are the volunteer co-ordinators.

### BNZ Closed for Good

In 2014 six BNZ employees volunteered to help in the Reserve; some came from as far away as Rotorua to work alongside our own volunteers. Sadly, in 2015 the weather interfered and the day was cancelled.

### Awards

The Society continues to enter the Trustpower Annual Community Awards and has been regularly acknowledged as a finalist in the category entered.



## 50th anniversary

On Sunday 13 March 2016 the Reserve celebrated its 50th anniversary with music throughout the gardens. Eight groups of local musicians, organised by Peter Marshall, came to entertain members and visitors – Ukes@Liston, AA65, Generation Z, Short 'n' Sweet, Peter Fleischel and Claire Cowley with their cellos, Taupo Youth Orchestra, Taupo Concert Band and Blended. While the adults listened to the music, children were occupied by activities organised by the Department of Conservation – artwork out of natural items – seeds, cones, driftwood, flowers, stones, pumice; visits into a bat cave, and colouring in. Laura Dawson and Jan McLellan provided more local colour with their beautiful felt yazebo. People were invited to bring picnics but Mr Whippy, a sausage sizzle by Waipahihi School, and a coffee truck were there to fill the gaps.



At 1.30 Graeme Robinson, in full highland regalia, piped from the Memorial Area to the clubhouse, followed by many for the official ceremony. Barry Hickling officiated, Board chair Bill Chrystall welcomed everyone, Mayor David Trewavas congratulated the volunteers and senior volunteer Beth Okeby and Bill (pictured) cut cakes made by Jenny Bishop. It was a memorable day – the music was fabulous, the Reserve looked at its peak (we had had good rain over the summer) and the day was one of Taupo's best.



## Donations

Society members and the public have shown their appreciation for the way volunteers maintain the Reserve by making cash and plant donations. In 2006 the Society's finances were markedly improved by the substantial donation of Fred and Elsie Geange. Interest from the capital invested by the Endowment Trust Fund Trustees provides a regular income for the Society. As stated elsewhere, the Geanges' only request was the establishment of a walk with floral native plants and rhododendrons, and this has been successfully completed.



In November 2013 the NZ Rhododendron Society's annual conference was held for the first time in Taupo and, as part of the programme, delegates visited the Reserve. They were very impressed and donated \$5,000 for the purchase of rhododendrons and other plants. Hugh Molloy, treasurer of the Taupo branch of the Rhododendron Society presented the cheque at the Waipahihi Botanical Society's 2014 Annual General Meeting (pictured).



Late in 2014 a longstanding member gifted \$1,000 and, whilst the money could have been put into general funds and used for day-to-day expenses, a separate 'Plant Donor's Account' was established to lodge future donations above \$50. The balance of the account at the end of December 2015 was \$2,550. The Society now has funds set aside for plant purchases for many years to come.

We note here particularly, the generosity of The Native Plant Nursery (formerly the Taupo Native Plant Nursery). Other financial and plant donations too numerous to acknowledge individually are received on a regular basis and the Society is grateful for them. The Reserve receives an increasing amount from the honesty boxes. (Bob Tinworth pictured with the week's takings.)

## Waipahihi Botanical Society 2005-2015 \_\_\_\_\_

### PATRON

Richard Clere (2004 – present)

### TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

John Chapman  
 Bill Chrystall\*  
 Richard Clere  
 Eric Horne *d*  
 Dennis Jenkins\*  
 Alan Menhennet\*  
 Paul Morris  
 Clayton Stent\*  
 Neville Davies (*Secretary*) *d*  
 Bob Tinworth (*Secretary*)\*

### LIFE MEMBERS – PAST & PRESENT – 50 YEARS

John Chapman  
 Richard Clere  
 Dr. Allan Cowan  
 Buntly Cox *d*  
 Fay Craig  
 Winifred (Freda) Cuming *d*  
 Henry (Lance) Hare *d*  
 Paul Morris  
 Rewi McKelvie *d*  
 Eileen Newell *d*  
 Harold (Cedric) Newell *d*  
 Beth Okeby  
 Roland (Rolly) Oliver *d*  
 Barbara Paterson *d*  
 Hutton (Barney) Peacock *d*  
 Wim Rademaker *d*  
 Malcolm (Robbie) Robertson *d*  
 Larry Stent  
 Ngarita Travers *d*  
 William (Les) Travers *d*  
 Kenneth (Ken) Young *d*

### CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Wim Rademaker 2001 – 2007 *d*  
 Bill Chrystall 2007 –

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Steve Jacobs 2005 – 2006  
 Bob Tinworth 2006 –

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

Jenny Bishop \*  
 Lorna Chinn \*  
 Bill Chrystall \*  
 Bett Davies  
 Neville Davies *d*  
 Hugh Eccles  
 Barry Hickling \*  
 Ryland Johnston  
 Molly Lymburn \*  
 David Mayne  
 Wayne Porteous \*  
 Wim Rademaker *d*  
 Graeme Robinson \*  
 Larry Stent  
 Alan Swift

### APPOINTED BY ROYAL FOREST & BIRD

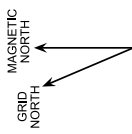
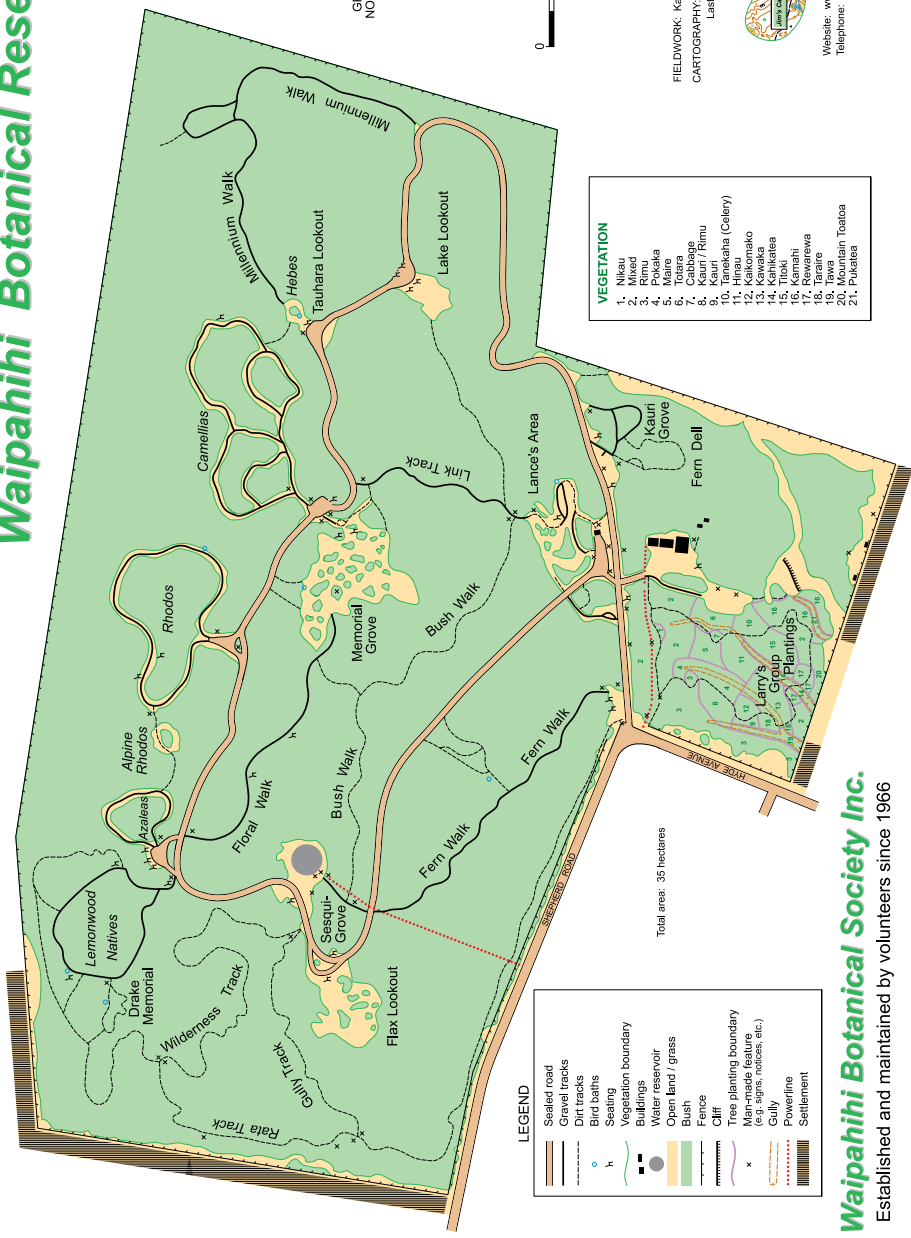
Jane Battersby \*  
 Fay Craig

### APPOINTED BY TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chris Johnston  
 Christine McElwee  
 John Williamson \*

\* Current  
*d* - Deceased

# Waipahihi Botanical Reserve



**VEGETATION**

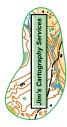
1. Nikau
2. Kauri
3. Rimu
4. Pohaka
5. Tāwhiri
6. Totara
7. Cabbage
8. Kauri / Rimu
9. Tānekeheke
10. Tānekeheke (Calery)
11. Hinu
12. Kaitomako
13. Kaitomako
14. Kaitomako
15. Titoki
16. Titoki
17. Rewatea
18. Tāraire
19. Tāraire
20. Rain Forest
21. Pukatea

**LEGEND**

- Sealed road
- Gravel tracks
- Dirt tracks
- Bird baths
- Seating
- Vegetation boundary
- Buildings
- Water reservoir
- Open land / grass
- Bush
- Fence
- Cliff
- Tree planting boundary
- Tree planting boundary (see signs, labels, etc.)
- Gully
- Powerline
- Settlement

Total area: 35 hectares

FIELDWORK: Kathleen & Alind Lonsdale  
CARTOGRAPHY: Jim Lewis (2007)  
Last updated: April 2016



Website: [www.waipahihi.co.nz](http://www.waipahihi.co.nz)  
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**Waipahihi Botanical Society Inc.**  
Established and maintained by volunteers since 1966