

WeedWorks

Environmental Weed Specialists
Native Plant Nursery

Rewanui Weed Survey

July / August 2006

Overall

- Limited weed species and distribution.
- No high priority weeds / no immediate action required.
- Most bush blocks have good buffer areas to limit weed invasion.
- Excellent regeneration of native vegetation and high seedling numbers.
- Most mature native tree species in reasonable health.
- Little possum or rodent damage seen but plenty of evidence of past control programmes.
- Cattle damage to unfenced native vegetation very evident.
- All fences including newly finished fence require repairs to be effective.
- Stinging nettle starting to be out competed within bush blocks.

Rewanui Survey – Weeds.

Ground cover species

Area A: None

Area B: None

Area C: None

Area D: Unknown spp

Area E: None

Area D: An unidentified plant is spreading down a small slip under some pines and should be targeted for removal before spreading further.

Woody/herbaceous shrub and tree species

Block A: Elderberry, Pine

Block B: Broom

Block C: Briar

Block D: Pine, Sweet Briar, Tree Lucerne, Cotoneaster, Broom, Barberry

Block E: Wattle spp, Pine, Poplar and Willow.

Block A. Despite there being two large pine trees and a neighbouring pine plantation no seedlings were located in bush areas.

x5 small 6 year old Elderberry plants located high up in Area A and subsequently cut and stump treated. A further 6 large trees are located outside of Area A but within the farm (see map) but seedlings occur in a localised area spreading into fenced off area.

Block B. Two small broom bushes were located just inside the new fenceline and we assume they were probably brought in by stock from the large infestation in Area D. (Plants cut and treated)

Area C. Apart from a few scattered single plants of Sweet Briar that were located the area is basically weed free with the biggest current threat being the cattle stripping the bark off all the Lacebark (photos attached)

Area D. Pine, Tree Lucerne, Willow, and Poplar are all located as scattered trees mostly along the lower stream edge and show no signs of out of their current area.

The area of scattered broom is relatively contained at the moment and should be taken out now before spreading further down slope

The single Barberry plant should be chainsawed and stump treated

A group of scattered Sweet Briar was located and stump treated.

Area E. Pine, Willow, Poplar, Wattle and Tasmanian Blackwood were located in large numbers in the lower eastern area. In other conservation blocks they would be targeted for immediate removal but due to their current importance to slope stability only a few trees of pine on the upper northern slopes where the bush is regenerating well should be targeted immediately.

Vines

Area A: None

Area B: None

Area C: None

Area D: Convolvulus

Area E: None

Area D. A few Convolvulus vines were located which should be controlled.



Sweet Briar growing out of Coprosma

Additional Search Areas

The Homestead & Stream

In addition to the designated blocks I searched around the house and main stream leading out of area B.

While there were numerous species around the homestead and stream none of the species listed below were located in the bush blocks and so due to the large amount of work required to control the weeds around these areas it would be of low priority and the moment.

Balm of Gilead, Flowering Cherry, Cherry Laurel, Cotoneaster, Holly
Honeysuckle, Periwinkle, Sydney Golden Wattle

Road Reserve

The road frontage and road reserve land adjacent to the survey areas were inspected to locate any serious future potential threats.

While tree lupin, pampas and cotoneaster were all located along the road frontage no plants were located in bush areas but these plants plus pine, tree lucerne, climbing pea and sweet briar are all widespread along the road reserve block outside areas D and E and would require substantial work to control to any degree other than some sort of buffer zone which would have to be constantly checked.

Other Threats

The main threat will always be stock with cattle being especially destructive to native vegetation and once the remaining blocks are fenced off and the existing fences upgraded only minor repairs will hopefully prevent too much damage occurring.

Unfortunately over large areas such as these blocks fencing is always going to be a problem but if not maintained to a high standard stock especially cattle and really do a lot of damage in a small amount of time.

The western boundary fence of area A is getting loose with several places where stock from the neighbouring farm have been accessing the grass areas by going under and over the existing fence. Fortunately at this stage it has been only sheep which have concentrated on the grass and left the native regeneration untouched.

Even the new eastern boundary fence of block B has several gaps under it that were filled with rocks to stop sheep getting through but have moved allowing animals through.

Block B also has a recent slip right next to the new fence where a couple of drains to divert the water causing the slip may be required.

While land slippage and windfall are all evident around block E the lower eastern edge is a mess due to slumping land and gaps in the old fencing allowing cattle into the unstable and regenerating slopes

Little browsing by possums, rabbits, rodents or hares was noted although evidence of previous control work was evident and a combination of previous work by Greater Wellington and past farm managers is now evident in the number of seedlings on the ground and the fresh growth on previously browsed plants.



Recent cattle damage to Lacey bark



Slip seen from halfway down



Rewanui Survey – Native Vegetation.

Both blocks of A and B have many fine examples of large Matai, Totara, Kahikatea, Rimu and Pukatea. Along with the rest of the bush these larger species and all showing the benefits of long term possum control and judging by the seedlings on the ground possibly associated rodent control. While there were young saplings of most of the main canopy and emergent species I did not see any young rimu and the mature ones that were seen are isolated and getting knocked around with age.

Another sign of the benefits of stock removal were the several species that were had been grazed back constantly were putting out substantial amounts of new growth and should have an excellent flowering/seeding season this year adding to the seedbank. Kowhai, Ngaio and the native Broom are all coming away nicely now.

Although I have included some photos to try to give an idea you have to see it yourself to appreciate the number of seedlings appearing in the fenced off land in areas A and B. Where there is any sort of bare ground the seedlings are appearing in great numbers and will quickly grow and fill all available areas.

After cutting my way through large areas of nettle I can see how the amount of the plant would be of concern but there is already plenty of evidence that shows the nettle being out competed by mahoe and kawakawa. In areas where it has been rampant because stock have been cleaning out all the new native growth it is now being affected by shading and competition with other faster growing species like the kawakawa and poroporo.

Areas C and D are still grazed with some of the existing trees being damaged by the grazing as shown in attached photos. However once the stock are fenced out then regeneration should proceed at a good rate due to good seed sources from the steep sided stream banks where stock have not been able to get to and there are still good healthy plants.

Area E has some of the best solid blocks of bush and seedling stocks but stock are still accessing the bush through several points and are grazing down the regenerated saplings. Admittedly this area has severe slippage issues and fencing in some places would be a challenge but the block is still worth putting the effort in for.



Large Pukatea – note buttressed base of trees and surface roots



Names Of Located Weed Species

Barberry.....	Berberis glaucocarpa
Bindweed.....	Convolvulus arvensis
Broom.....	Cytisus scoparius
Cherry.....	Prunus spp
Cherry Laurel.....	Prunus laurocerasus
Cotoneaster.....	Cotoneaster spp
Elderberry.....	Sambucas nigra
Climbing Pea.....	Lathyrus latifolius
Honeysuckle.....	Lonicera spp
Tree Lupin.....	Lupinus arboreus
Tree Lucerne.....	Chamaecytisus palmensis
Pampas.....	Cortaderia spp
Periwinkle.....	Vinca major
Pine.....	Pinus spp
Poplar.....	Populus spp
Sweet Briar.....	Rosa rubiginosa
Sydney Golden Wattle.....	Acacia longifolia
Tasmanian Blackwood	Acacia melanoxylon
Willow.....	Salix spp

East	North		
E2754414	N6026711	Large totara on track	#96
E2754398	N6027036	X5 elderberry – cut and treated	#97
E2754382	N6027050	Large matai above elderberry	#98
E2754153	N6027020	Large totara off track 1.4m dia	#100
E2754233	N6026921	Matai with broadleaf	#101
E2755877	N6027222	Briar in coprosma	#102
E2756037	N6026647	X9 briar near boundary – cut & treated	#103
E2755031	N6027339	X2 broom – cut and treated	#104