

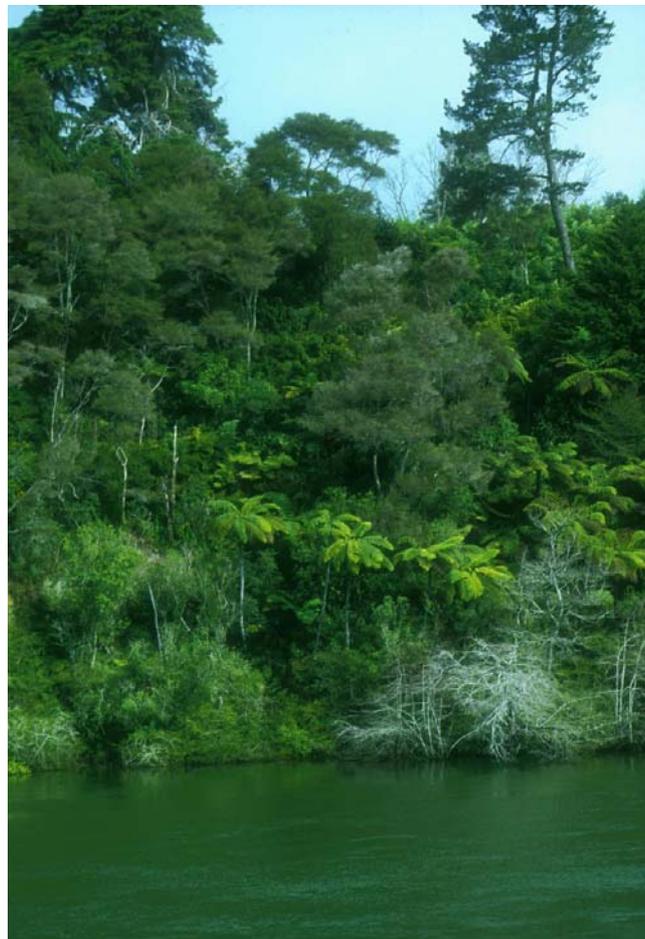
# Indigenous Vegetation Types of Hamilton Ecological District

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Secondary stand of kanuka, mamaku and kowhai;  
Waikato River bank, southern Hamilton City



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*



## **Indigenous Vegetation Types of Hamilton Ecological District**

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**April 2007**

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# INDIGENOUS VEGETATION TYPES OF HAMILTON ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT

## INTRODUCTION

The following descriptions of indigenous vegetation types and lists of the most characteristic species have been compiled for the major landform units of the Hamilton Ecological District, which lies within the Waikato Ecological Region (McEwen 1987). The boundaries of the Hamilton Ecological District correspond approximately to those of the Hamilton basin, with the addition of parts of hills and foothills at the margins of the basin. The vegetation descriptions and species lists are based on knowledge of the flora of vegetation remnants in the ecological district, historical records (e.g., Gudex 1954), and extrapolation of data from other North Island sites with similar environmental profiles.

Indigenous vegetation in the Hamilton Ecological District has been severely depleted. A 1995 report (Leathwick et al.) calculated that less than 2% of all indigenous ecosystems remains within the Hamilton ED. The vegetation types described here would be suitable targets for restoration projects within the Hamilton ED. However, in attempting such restorations, it is important to recognise the need for staged restoration projects; as many of the species characteristic of long established vegetation are not tolerant of conditions at the outset of a restoration project. As well, many of the species listed in a given vegetation type will vary in microhabitat requirements e.g., degree of tolerance of poor drainage. It is best to try and mimic natural successions and plant early successional species first. Later, once an initial cover is established, mid and late successional species can be added by enrichment planting or spreading of seed. It should also be noted that there is no definitive endpoint to be achieved in such restoration projects. The general aim is to establish a range of locally-sourced indigenous species that would have once occurred on the site and let nature take its course. The first major threshold towards successful achievement of the restoration project will be the onset of natural (unassisted) regeneration of the species that have been planted.

To date, no specific guide to restoration of the indigenous ecosystems in the Hamilton ED or Hamilton basin has been prepared. However, some useful information for those starting out on restoration projects can be found in the Gully Restoration Guide (Wall & Clarkson 2006), Native Forest Restoration (Porteous 1993), Hamilton Gullies – a workshop hosted by the University of Waikato (Clarkson et al. 2000) and Botany of the Waikato (Clarkson et al. 2002).

The general landform units for Hamilton Ecological District referred to are:

- |   |                 |       |  |
|---|-----------------|-------|--|
| A | Hills           | (i)   | hilly land and foothills of ranges at margins of the Hamilton ED |
|   |                 | (ii)  | low rolling hills - summits, shoulders, backslopes               |
|   |                 | (iii) | low rolling hills - footslopes                                   |
| B | Alluvial Plains | (i)   | low mounds or ridges   |
|   |                 | (ii)  | shallow depressions or swales                                    |
|   |                 | (iii) | low terraces adjacent to the Waikato River                       |
| C | Gullies         | (i)   | terrace scarps and gully sides                                   |
|   |                 | (ii)  | narrow gully floors  |
| D | Peatlands       | (i)   | peat lakes   |
|   |                 | (ii)  | peatland margins   |
|   |                 | (iii) | peat bogs  |
|   |                 | (iv)  | peat domes   |

## A HILLS

- (i) **Hilly land and foothills of ranges at margins of Hamilton Ecological District**
- (ii) **Low rolling hills – summits, shoulders, backslopes**

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

### Hilly land and foothills of ranges at margins of Hamilton Ecological District

Late Quaternary, composite rhyolitic and andesitic tephras (>1 m thick in south, <1 m thick in north), usually well drained, over weathered Hamilton Ash or colluvium where easy rolling to rolling; underlying units (mainly weathered sedimentary rocks or basalt) exposed on steepland

### Low rolling hills – summits, shoulders, backslopes

North of Hamilton City: Thin (<0.5 m) late Quaternary, composite rhyolitic and andesitic tephras on weathered Hamilton Ash, moderately well drained (non-allophanic)

South of Hamilton City: Thick (> 1.0 m) late Quaternary, composite rhyolitic and andesitic tephras, well drained (allophanic)

Vegetation types:

#### 1. Rimu/tawa forest

The low rolling hills throughout the Hamilton Ecological District and the hilly land and foothills of ranges at the margins of the district, to a height of approximately 100 m, were mostly covered in rimu/tawa forest. Typically, occasional rimu, and local miro, kahikatea, totara, and northern rata were emergent over a canopy dominated by tawa. Other widespread broadleaved species in the canopy included titoki, hinau, rewarewa, and pukatea. The understorey was characterised by a variety of small trees, shrubs, and tree ferns including mahoe, pigeonwood, raurekau, and silver fern. Ferns and grasses such as hen and chicken fern, crown fern, *Hymenophyllum demissum*, and *Microlaena avenacea* occurred in the ground layer. Remaining examples of this vegetation type are present on the foothills of the Karakariki Range and Mt Pirongia.

| Characteristic Species   | Life Form |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Asplenium gracillimum</i>   | fern      |
| <i>Blechnum filiforme</i>  | fern      |
| <i>Coprosma lucida</i>   | shrub     |
| crown fern ( <i>Blechnum discolor</i> )                                | fern      |
| fragrant fern ( <i>Microsorium scandens</i> )                          | fern      |
| hangehange ( <i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> subsp. <i>ligustrifolium</i> ) | shrub     |
| hen and chicken fern ( <i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> )                   | fern      |
| hinau ( <i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i> )                                  | tree      |
| <i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>  | fern      |
| kahakaha ( <i>Collospermum hastatum</i> )                              | epiphyte  |
| kamahi ( <i>Weinmannia racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i> )             | tree      |
| kahikatea ( <i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i> )                          | tree      |
| kawakawa ( <i>Macropiper excelsum</i> )                                | shrub     |
| mahoe ( <i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i> )         | tree      |
| mamaku ( <i>Cyathea medullaris</i> )                                   | tree fern |
| mangeao ( <i>Litsea calicaris</i> )                                    | tree      |
| matai ( <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> )                                 | tree      |
| <i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>  | liane     |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <i>M. perforata</i>                           | liane     |
| <i>Microlaena avenacea</i>                    | grass     |
| miro ( <i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i> )        | tree      |
| northern rata ( <i>Metrosideros robusta</i> ) | tree      |
| <i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>                  | grass     |
| pate ( <i>Schefflera digitata</i> )           | shrub     |
| pigeonwood ( <i>Hedycarya arborea</i> )       | tree      |
| <i>Polystichum richardii</i>                  | fern      |
| pukatea ( <i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i> )   | tree      |
| raurekau ( <i>Coprosma grandifolia</i> )      | shrub     |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )          | tree      |
| rimu ( <i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i> )         | tree      |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )       | tree fern |
| supplejack ( <i>Ripogonum scandens</i> )      | liane     |
| tawa ( <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i> )            | tree      |
| titoki ( <i>Alectryon excelsus</i> )          | tree      |
| totara ( <i>Podocarpus totara</i> )           | tree      |
| turepo ( <i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> )      | tree      |

## 2. Kauri-hard beech forest

Kauri-hard beech forest had a limited distribution within the Hamilton Ecological District, restricted to the hills and foothills of ranges at the northern end of the district. Major canopy species were kauri, hard beech and tanekaha, with canopy associates of rimu, tawa, and rewarewa. The understorey was characterised by the presence of shrubs such as mingimingi and prickly mingimingi, and silver fern and wheki tree ferns. In the ground layer sedges, grasses, and ferns such as crown fern and *Doodia media* were common, with occasional kauri grass. This vegetation type is still represented within the Hamilton ED and accessible to the public at Pukemokemoke Reserve, north-east of Gordonton.

| Characteristic Species   | Life Form    |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Alseuosmia quercifolia</i>  | shrub        |
| <i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>   | fern         |
| <i>Blechnum filiforme</i>  | fern         |
| <i>Clematis paniculata</i>   | climber      |
| <i>Coprosma arborea</i>  | shrub        |
| <i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>   | shrub        |
| <i>Coprosma spathulata</i>   | shrub        |
| crown fern ( <i>Blechnum discolor</i> )                                | fern         |
| <i>Doodia media</i>  | fern         |
| fragrant fern ( <i>Microsorium scandens</i> )                          | fern         |
| <i>Gahnia pauciflora</i>   | sedge        |
| hangehange ( <i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> subsp. <i>ligustrifolium</i> ) | shrub        |
| hard beech ( <i>Nothofagus truncata</i> )                              | tree         |
| heketara ( <i>Olearia rani</i> )                                       | shrub        |
| hounds tongue ( <i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> )                        | fern         |
| <i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>  | fern         |
| kahakaha ( <i>Collospermum hastatum</i> )                              | epiphyte     |
| kauri ( <i>Agathis australis</i> )                                     | tree         |
| kauri grass ( <i>Astelia trinervia</i> )                               | monocot herb |
| <i>Lygodium articulatum</i>  | fern         |
| mapou ( <i>Myrsine australis</i> )                                     | tree         |
| <i>Metrosideros perforata</i>  | liane        |
| <i>Microlaena avenacea</i>   | grass        |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| mingimingi ( <i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i> )      | shrub     |
| <i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>                       | grass     |
| <i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>                        | fern      |
| prickly mingimingi ( <i>Cyathodes juniperina</i> ) | shrub     |
| <i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>                       | fern      |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )               | tree      |
| rimu ( <i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i> )              | tree      |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )            | tree fern |
| tanekaha ( <i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i> )    | tree      |
| tawa ( <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i> )                 | tree      |
| <i>Uncinia banksii</i>                             | sedge     |
| <i>Uncinia uncinata</i>                            | sedge     |
| wheki ( <i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i> )               | tree fern |
| white maire ( <i>Nestegis lanceolata</i> )         | tree      |

### (iii) Low rolling hills - footslopes

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

Colluvium derived from Hamilton Ash and other deposits, poorly to imperfectly drained

Vegetation type: Pukatea-kahikatea forest

On the more poorly drained colluvial footslopes pukatea and kahikatea dominated the forest, with swamp maire as a common canopy associate. Common understorey and ground layer species were fuchsia, mahoe, supplejack, kiekie, hen and chicken fern, and *Astelia fragrans*. No intact remnants of this vegetation type remain in the Hamilton Ecological District.

| Characteristic Species   | Life Form    |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Astelia fragrans</i>  | monocot herb |
| <i>Blechnum chambersii</i>   | fern         |
| <i>B. filiforme</i>  | fern         |
| cabbage tree ( <i>Cordyline australis</i> )                            | tree         |
| <i>Coprosma areolata</i>   | shrub        |
| fragrant fern ( <i>Microsorium scandens</i> )                          | fern         |
| fuchsia ( <i>Fuchsia excorticata</i> )                                 | tree         |
| hangehange ( <i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> subsp. <i>ligustrifolium</i> ) | shrub        |
| hen and chicken fern ( <i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> )                   | fern         |
| kahakaha ( <i>Collospermum hastatum</i> )                              | epiphyte     |
| kahikatea ( <i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i> )                          | tree         |
| kamahi ( <i>Weinmannia racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i> )             | tree         |
| kiekie ( <i>Freycinetia banksii</i> )                                  | scrambler    |
| mahoe ( <i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i> )         | tree         |
| matai ( <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> )                                 | tree         |
| pate ( <i>Schefflera digitata</i> )                                    | shrub        |
| <i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>  | fern         |
| pukatea ( <i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i> )                            | tree         |
| raureka ( <i>Coprosma grandifolia</i> )                                | shrub        |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )                                   | tree         |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )                                | tree fern    |
| supplejack ( <i>Ripogonum scandens</i> )                               | liane        |
| swamp maire ( <i>Syzygium maire</i> )                                  | tree         |
| turepo ( <i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> )                               | tree         |

wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*)

tree fern

## **B ALLUVIAL PLAINS**

### **(i) Low mounds or ridges**

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

Alluvium, mainly rhyolitic sand and gravel (Hinuera Formation), well drained to moderately well drained

Vegetation type: Mixed conifer-broadleaved forest

Extensive areas of well-drained, broad low ridges of the plains were covered in a mixture of species including conifers such as totara, matai, rimu, and kahikatea, and broadleaved trees such as titoki, tawa, and rewarewa. Species common in the understorey and ground layers were mahoe, silver fern, hangehange, raurekau, lacebark, hen and chicken fern, and *Microlaena avenacea*. No intact remnants of this vegetation type remain in the Hamilton Ecological District.

| Characteristic Species   | Life Form |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Asplenium gracillimum</i>   | fern      |
| <i>Blechnum filiforme</i>  | fern      |
| cabbage tree ( <i>Cordyline australis</i> )                            | tree      |
| fragrant fern ( <i>Microsorium scandens</i> )                          | fern      |
| hangehange ( <i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> subsp. <i>ligustrifolium</i> ) | shrub     |
| hen and chicken fern ( <i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> )                   | fern      |
| kahakaha ( <i>Collospermum hastatum</i> )                              | epiphyte  |
| kahikatea ( <i>Dacrydium dacrydioides</i> )                            | tree      |
| kiekie ( <i>Freycinetia banksii</i> )                                  | scrambler |
| kowhai ( <i>Sophora microphylla</i> )                                  | tree      |
| lacebark ( <i>Hoheria sexstylosa</i> )                                 | tree      |
| mahoe ( <i>Melicactus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i> )        | tree      |
| matai ( <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> )                                 | tree      |
| mamaku ( <i>Cyathea medullaris</i> )                                   | tree fern |
| <i>Microlaena avenacea</i>   | grass     |
| <i>Metrosideros perforata</i>  | liane     |
| <i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>   | grass     |
| pate ( <i>Schefflera digitata</i> )                                    | shrub     |
| pukatea ( <i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i> )                            | tree      |
| raurekau ( <i>Coprosma grandifolia</i> )                               | shrub     |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )                                   | tree      |
| ribbonwood ( <i>Plagianthus regius</i> )                               | tree      |
| rimu ( <i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i> )                                  | tree      |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )                                | tree fern |
| tawa ( <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i> )                                     | tree      |
| titoki ( <i>Alectryon excelsus</i> )                                   | tree      |
| totara ( <i>Podocarpus totara</i> )                                    | tree      |
| turepo ( <i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> )                               | tree      |

### **(ii) Shallow depressions or swales**

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

Alluvium, mainly pumiceous silt and clay, sand in places (Hinuera Formation), poorly drained

Vegetation type: Kahikatea semi-swamp forest

Semi-swamp forest dominated by kahikatea grew on the poorly drained shallow depressions. Several other species were present in varying amounts, including rimu, matai, pukatea, swamp maire, tawa, pokaka, and occasional cabbage tree. Prominent in the understorey were silver fern, mapou, hangehange, *Coprosma areolata*, and turepo, and tangles of kiekie and supplejack. The ground cover was dominated by ferns, herbs, grasses, and sedges including *Hymenophyllum demissum*, hen and chicken fern, *Astelia fragrans*, *A. grandis*, and *Microlaena avenacea*.

The largest remnant of this once-widespread vegetation type is Yarndleys Bush (14.5 ha). Other remnants of this type include Whewells Bush and Barrett Bush. Claudelands Bush, officially known as Jubilee Park (5.2 ha), is an accessible remnant of this vegetation type located within Hamilton City, and is described in detail in Whaley et al. (1997).

| Characteristic Species   | Life Form    |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Astelia fragrans</i>  | monocot herb |
| <i>A. grandis</i>  | monocot herb |
| cabbage tree ( <i>Cordyline australis</i> )                            | tree         |
| <i>Carex dissita</i>   | sedge        |
| <i>C. lambertiana</i>  | sedge        |
| <i>Coprosma areolata</i>   | shrub        |
| fragrant fern ( <i>Microsorium scandens</i> )                          | fern         |
| hangehange ( <i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> subsp. <i>ligustrifolium</i> ) | shrub        |
| hen and chicken fern ( <i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> )                   | fern         |
| <i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>  | fern         |
| kahakaha ( <i>Collospermum hastatum</i> )                              | epiphyte     |
| kahikatea ( <i>Dacrydium dacrydioides</i> )                            | tree         |
| kiekie ( <i>Freycinetia banksii</i> )                                  | scrambler    |
| mahoe ( <i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i> )         | tree         |
| mapou ( <i>Myrsine australis</i> )                                     | shrub        |
| matai ( <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> )                                 | tree         |
| <i>Melicytus micranthus</i>  | shrub        |
| <i>Microlaena avenacea</i>   | grass        |
| <i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>   | grass        |
| pate ( <i>Schefflera digitata</i> )                                    | shrub        |
| pokaka ( <i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i> )                              | tree         |
| pukatea ( <i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i> )                            | tree         |
| raureka ( <i>Coprosma grandifolia</i> )                                | shrub        |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )                                   | tree         |
| rimu ( <i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i> )                                  | tree         |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )                                | tree fern    |
| supplejack ( <i>Ripogonum scandens</i> )                               | liane        |
| swamp maire ( <i>Syzygium maire</i> )                                  | tree         |
| tawa ( <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i> )                                     | tree         |
| turepo ( <i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> )                               | tree         |

### (iii) Low terraces adjacent to the Waikato River

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

Alluvium, pumiceous to non-pumiceous silt, sand and gravel (Taupo Pumice Alluvium), well drained

Vegetation type: Totara-matai-kowhai forest

Totara, matai, kowhai, and kanuka dominated the low, narrow terraces associated with the Waikato River. Several divaricating shrubs such as *Coprosma rhamnoides* and *C. rigida*, and tree ferns such as wheki and wheki ponga occurred in the understory, and ferns and grasses, e.g., *Blechnum* spp. and *Oplismenus imbecillis*, were common in the ground layer. No intact remnants of this vegetation type remain in the Hamilton Ecological District.

| Characteristic Species  | Life Form |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Astelia solandri</i>   | epiphyte  |
| <i>Blechnum chambersii</i>  | fern      |
| <i>B. filiforme</i>   | fern      |
| cabbage tree ( <i>Cordyline australis</i> )                       | tree      |
| <i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>  | shrub     |
| <i>C. rigida</i>  | shrub     |
| hinau ( <i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i> )                             | tree      |
| kahakaha ( <i>Collospermum hastatum</i> )                         | epiphyte  |
| kahikatea ( <i>Dacrydium dacrydioides</i> )                       | tree      |
| kanuka ( <i>Kunzea ericoides</i> var. <i>ericoides</i> )          | tree      |
| kiekie ( <i>Freycinetia banksii</i> )                             | scrambler |
| kiokio ( <i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i> )                        | fern      |
| kowhai ( <i>Sophora microphylla</i> )                             | tree      |
| lacebark ( <i>Hoheria sexstylosa</i> )                            | tree      |
| mahoe ( <i>Melicocarpus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i> ) | tree      |
| mamaku ( <i>Cyathea medullaris</i> )                              | tree fern |
| matai ( <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> )                            | tree      |
| <i>Melicope simplex</i>   | shrub     |
| <i>Microlaena avenacea</i>  | grass     |
| northern rata ( <i>Metrosideros robusta</i> )                     | tree      |
| <i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>                                      | grass     |
| <i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>                                       | fern      |
| <i>Polystichum richardii</i>                                      | fern      |
| raureka ( <i>Coprosma grandifolia</i> )                           | shrub     |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )                              | tree      |
| ribbonwood ( <i>Plagianthus regius</i> )                          | tree      |
| rimu ( <i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i> )                             | tree      |
| tawa ( <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i> )                                | tree      |
| totara ( <i>Podocarpus totara</i> )                               | tree      |
| turepo ( <i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> )                          | tree      |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )                           | tree fern |
| wheki ( <i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i> )                              | tree fern |
| wheki ponga ( <i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i> )                          | tree fern |

## C GULLIES

### (i) Terrace scarps and gully sides

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

Loose, mainly rhyolitic sand and gravel (Hinuera Formation), well drained

Vegetation type: Totara-matai-kowhai forest

The scarps and steep gully side slopes were covered with forest dominated by totara, matai, and kowhai. Kanuka and kamahi were also present, and mahoe occurred in more poorly drained sites. The understorey included shrubs of mapou, mingimingi, and *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, and the ground was covered in a variety of ferns such as *Blechnum chambersii*, *Doodia media*, and *Polystichum richardii*. Slopes too steep for forest had herbaceous or shrubby vegetation including *Machaerina sinclairii*, wharariki, rangiora, koromiko, and heketara. No intact remnants of this vegetation type remain in the Hamilton Ecological District.

| Characteristic Species   | Life Form    |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Blechnum chambersii</i>                                     | fern         |
| <i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>                                    | tree fern    |
| <i>Doodia media</i>  | fern         |
| <i>Earina mucronata</i>  | orchid       |
| heketara ( <i>Olearia rani</i> )                               | shrub        |
| hounds tongue ( <i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> )                | fern         |
| kamahi ( <i>Weinmannia racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i> )     | tree         |
| kanuka ( <i>Kunzea ericoides</i> var. <i>ericoides</i> )       | tree         |
| koromiko ( <i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i> )           | shrub        |
| kowhai ( <i>Sophora microphylla</i> )                          | tree         |
| <i>Machaerina sinclairii</i>                                   | monocot herb |
| mahoe ( <i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i> ) | tree         |
| mamaku ( <i>Cyathea medullaris</i> )                           | tree fern    |
| mapou ( <i>Myrsine australis</i> )                             | shrub        |
| matai ( <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i> )                         | tree         |
| mingimingi ( <i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i> )                  | shrub        |
| northern rata ( <i>Metrosideros robusta</i> )                  | tree         |
| pate ( <i>Schefflera digitata</i> )                            | shrub        |
| <i>Polystichum richardii</i>                                   | fern         |
| rangiora ( <i>Brachyglottis repanda</i> )                      | shrub        |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )                           | tree         |
| <i>Rhabdothamnus solandri</i>                                  | shrub        |
| rimu ( <i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i> )                          | tree         |
| totara ( <i>Podocarpus totara</i> )                            | tree         |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )                        | tree fern    |
| wharariki ( <i>Phormium cookianum</i> )                        | monocot herb |

### (ii) Narrow gully floors

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

Colluvium, mainly rhyolitic sand, silt and gravel (Hinuera Formation), occasional organic material, poorly drained

Vegetation type: Kahikatea-pukatea-swamp maire forest

The poorly drained gully floors and their associated backswamps were dominated by kahikatea, pukatea, swamp maire, cabbage tree and pokaka. Understorey and ground cover species included mapou, fuchsia, lancewood, pate, *Coprosma rotundifolia*, *Cyathea cunninghamii*, *Astelia grandis*, kiekie, and supplejack. This type is represented in a small (1 ha) remnant, Hammond Bush, located alongside the Waikato River in southern Hamilton City, and is described in detail in de Lange (1996). Kahikatea trees are absent from Hammond Bush, probably a result of the nutrient status at the site, although seedlings of this species have been found there. A larger (2.2 ha) remnant of this vegetation type is present on a private reserve near Temple View. This remnant, Koromatua Bush, is situated within two shallow gullies (de Lange 1996).

| Characteristic Species   | Life Form    |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Astelia grandis</i>   | monocot herb |
| cabbage tree ( <i>Cordyline australis</i> )                            | tree         |
| <i>Coprosma rotundifolia</i>   | shrub        |
| <i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>  | tree fern    |
| fragrant fern ( <i>Microsorium scandens</i> )                          | fern         |
| fuchsia ( <i>Fuchsia excorticata</i> )                                 | fuchsia      |
| hangehange ( <i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> subsp. <i>ligustrifolium</i> ) | shrub        |
| <i>Isolepis reticularis</i>  | sedge        |
| kahikatea ( <i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i> )                          | tree         |
| karamu ( <i>Coprosma robusta</i> )                                     | shrub        |
| kiekie ( <i>Freycinetia banksii</i> )                                  | scrambler    |
| lancewood ( <i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i> )                          | tree         |
| mahoe ( <i>Meliccytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i> )        | tree         |
| mapou ( <i>Myrsine australis</i> )                                     | shrub        |
| <i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>  | liane        |
| pate ( <i>Schefflera digitata</i> )                                    | shrub        |
| pigeonwood ( <i>Hedycarya arborea</i> )                                | tree         |
| <i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>  | fern         |
| pokaka ( <i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i> )                              | tree         |
| pukatea ( <i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i> )                            | tree         |
| raurekau ( <i>Coprosma grandifolia</i> )                               | shrub        |
| rewarewa ( <i>Knightia excelsa</i> )                                   | tree         |
| <i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>  | sedge        |
| silver fern ( <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> )                                | tree fern    |
| supplejack ( <i>Ripogonum scandens</i> )                               | liane        |
| swamp maire ( <i>Syzygium maire</i> )                                  | tree         |
| wheki ( <i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i> )                                   | tree fern    |

## D PEATLANDS

### (i) Peat lakes

Generalised Soil Parent Material:  
Part Unclassified (lakes)

Vegetation type: Submerged and marginal herbaceous vegetation

The shallow peat lakes had submerged vegetation dominated by charophytes (*Nitella hookeri/cristata*, *Chara corallina*), pondweeds (*Potamogeton ochreatus*, *P. cheesemanii*), and milfoils (*Myriophyllum propinquum*). The emergent marginal vegetation typically comprised narrow monospecific zones of, from the lake shore outwards, raupo, *Baumea articulata*, and *Eleocharis sphacelata*. A good example of this vegetation type occurs at Lake Rotokauri and is described in Champion et al. (1993).

| Characteristic Species            | Life Form              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Baumea articulata</i>          | sedge                  |
| <i>B. huttonii</i>                | sedge                  |
| <i>B. rubiginosa</i>              | sedge                  |
| <i>B. teretifolia</i>             | sedge                  |
| <i>Chara corallina</i>            | charophyte (submerged) |
| <i>Carex secta</i>                | sedge                  |
| <i>C. virgata</i>                 | sedge                  |
| <i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>          | sedge                  |
| <i>Eleocharis acuta</i>           | sedge                  |
| <i>E. sphacelata</i>              | sedge                  |
| <i>Glossostigma elatinooides</i>  | herb                   |
| <i>Isachne globosa</i>            | grass                  |
| <i>Isolepis prolifer</i>          | sedge                  |
| <i>Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae</i> | herb                   |
| <i>Myriophyllum propinquum</i>    | herb (submerged)       |
| <i>M. triphyllum</i>              | herb (submerged)       |
| <i>Myriophyllum propinquum</i>    | herb (submerged)       |
| <i>Nitella hookeri/cristata</i>   | charophyte             |
| <i>N. pseudoflabellata</i>        | charophyte             |
| <i>Potamogeton cheesemanii</i>    | herb (submerged)       |
| <i>P. ochreatus</i>               | herb (submerged)       |
| raupo ( <i>Typha orientalis</i> ) | herb                   |
| <i>Schoenoplectus validus</i>     | sedge                  |

### (ii) Peatland margins

Generalised Soil Parent Material:  
Shallow peat (<0.4 m) on alluvium, poorly drained  
Moderately deep peat (0.4-1.0 m), very poorly drained

Vegetation type: Swamp forest and shrubland

Swamp forest and shrubland grew on shallow peat characteristic of the low-lying sites of the plains and the outer margins of the peat bogs. Kahikatea was the main species but individual trees were much smaller than on the better drained soils listed above. Cabbage tree, swamp coprosma, *Coprosma*

*propinqua*, manuka, flax, *Dianella nigra*, and *Hypolepis distans* were also relatively common. No intact remnants of this vegetation type remain in the Hamilton Ecological District.

| Characteristic Species                         | Life Form    |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Baumea huttonii</i>                         | sedge        |
| <i>B. rubiginosa</i>                           | sedge        |
| <i>B. tenax</i>                                | sedge        |
| <i>B. teretifolia</i>                          | sedge        |
| <i>Blechnum minus</i>                          | fern         |
| cabbage tree ( <i>Cordyline australis</i> )    | tree         |
| <i>Carex secta</i>                             | sedge        |
| <i>C. virgata</i>                              | sedge        |
| <i>Coprosma propinqua</i>                      | shrub        |
| <i>C. robusta</i>                              | shrub        |
| <i>Dianella nigra</i>                          | monocot herb |
| flax ( <i>Phormium tenax</i> )                 | herb         |
| <i>Hypolepis distans</i>                       | fern         |
| karamu ( <i>Coprosma robusta</i> )             | shrub        |
| kahikatea ( <i>Dacrydium dacrydioides</i> )    | tree         |
| kaikomako ( <i>Pennantia corymbosa</i> )       | tree/shrub   |
| <i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>                 | shrub        |
| <i>Lobelia anceps</i>                          | herb         |
| manuka ( <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> )       | shrub        |
| pokaka ( <i>Elaeocarpus hookerianus</i> )      | tree/shrub   |
| <i>Schoenus brevifolius</i>                    | sedge        |
| <i>Sparganium subglobosum</i>                  | monocot herb |
| swamp coprosma ( <i>Coprosma tenuicaulis</i> ) | shrub        |
| <i>Tetraria capillaris</i>                     | sedge        |
| wheki ( <i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i> )           | tree fern    |

### (iii) Peat bogs

Generalised Soil Parent Material:  
Deep peat (> 1.0 m), very poorly drained

Vegetation type: Shrub sedgeland

Mosaics and mixtures of low-growing shrubland and sedgeland covered extensive areas of peatland on the peat dome margins, around lakes, and in deeper depressions west of the Waikato River. The main species were manuka, cabbage tree, swamp coprosma, *Baumea teretifolia*, *B. rubiginosa*, *Carex secta*, *C. virgata*, and flax. This type is represented around parts of Lake Rotokauri, Lake Rotokaeo, Horseshoe Lake and at the margins of Moanatuatua peat bog within Moanatuatua Scientific Reserve.

| Characteristic Species                      | Life Form |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Baumea huttonii</i>                      | sedge     |
| <i>B. rubiginosa</i>                        | sedge     |
| <i>B. tenax</i>                             | sedge     |
| <i>B. teretifolia</i>                       | sedge     |
| <i>Blechnum minus</i>                       | fern      |
| cabbage tree ( <i>Cordyline australis</i> ) | tree      |
| <i>Carex secta</i>                          | sedge     |

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <i>C. virgata</i>                              | sedge          |
| <i>Coprosma propinqua</i>                      | shrub          |
| <i>Dianella nigra</i>                          | monocot herb   |
| <i>Drosera binata</i>                          | herb           |
| <i>Empodisma minus</i>                         | jointed “rush” |
| flax ( <i>Phormium tenax</i> )                 | herb           |
| <i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>                      | fern           |
| <i>Hydrocotyle pterocarpa</i>                  | herb           |
| <i>Hypolepis distans</i>                       | fern           |
| <i>Isolepis prolifer</i>                       | herb           |
| <i>Juncus planifolius</i>                      | rush           |
| manuka ( <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> )       | shrub          |
| <i>Lobelia anceps</i>                          | herb           |
| <i>Nertera scapanioides</i>                    | herb           |
| <i>Schoenus brevifolius</i>                    | sedge          |
| <i>Sparganium subglobosum</i>                  | monocot herb   |
| <i>Sphagnum cristatum</i>                      | moss           |
| swamp coprosma ( <i>Coprosma tenuicaulis</i> ) | shrub          |
| <i>Tetraria capillaris</i>                     | sedge          |
| <i>Thelymitra venosa</i>                       | orchid         |

#### (iv) Peat domes

Generalised Soil Parent Material:

Very deep peat (>1.0 m), very poorly drained

Vegetation type: Restiad “rushland”

The peat domes with deeper peat were very poorly drained with water tables close to the surface for most of the year. They comprised mainly herbaceous vegetation dominated by the peat forming species *Empodisma minus* and *Sporadanthus ferrugineus*, which are members of the jointed “rush” family (Restionaceae). Associated species included stunted shrubs of manuka and *Epacris pauciflora*, sedges such as *Baumea teretifolia* and *Schoenus brevifolius*, and mosses and liverworts such as *Sphagnum cristatum* and *Goebelobryum unguiculatus*. The best remaining example of this vegetation type in the Hamilton Ecological District occurs at Moanatuatua Scientific Reserve (Clarkson et al. 1999).

| Characteristic Species                            | Life Form      |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Baumea teretifolia</i>                         | sedge          |
| <i>Campylopus acuminatus</i> subsp. <i>kirkii</i> | moss           |
| <i>Epacris pauciflora</i>                         | shrub          |
| <i>Empodisma minus</i>                            | jointed “rush” |
| <i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>                         | fern           |
| <i>Goebelobryum unguiculatus</i>                  | liverwort      |
| manuka ( <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> )          | shrub          |
| <i>Riccardia crassa</i>                           | liverwort      |
| <i>Schoenus brevifolius</i>                       | sedge          |
| <i>Sphagnum cristatum</i>                         | moss           |
| <i>Sporadanthus ferrugineus</i>                   | jointed “rush” |

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**Appendix: Soil Parent Materials of Landforms in the Hamilton Ecological District**

| <b>Landform Category</b> | <b>Landform Unit</b>  | <b>Generalised Parent Material of Soils</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Hills</b>             | Hilly land and foothills of ranges at margins of Hamilton Ecological District   | Late Quaternary, composite rhyolitic and andesitic tephras (>1 m thick in south, <1 m thick in north), usually well drained, over weathered Hamilton Ash or colluvium where easy rolling to rolling; underlying units (mainly weathered sedimentary rocks or basalt) exposed on steepland |
|                          | Low rolling hills<br>- summits, shoulders, backslopes<br><br><i>North of Hamilton City</i><br><br><i>South of Hamilton City</i> | Thin (<0.5 m) late Quaternary, composite rhyolitic and andesitic tephras on weathered Hamilton Ash, moderately well drained (non-allophanic)<br><br>Thick (> 1.0 m) late Quaternary, composite rhyolitic and andesitic tephras, well drained (allophanic)                                 |
|                          | Low rolling hills - footslopes  | Colluvium derived from Hamilton Ash and other deposits, poorly to imperfectly drained   |

|                        |   |  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Alluvial Plains</b> | Low mounds or ridges<br>(flat to gently undulating)                   | Alluvium, mainly rhyolitic sand and gravel (Hinuera Formation), well drained to moderately well drained*           |
|                        | Shallow depressions or swales<br>(flat to gently undulating)          | Alluvium, mainly pumiceous silt and clay, sand in places (Hinuera Formation), poorly drained*                      |
|                        | Low terraces adjacent to Waikato River<br>(flat to gently undulating) | Alluvium, pumiceous to non-pumiceous silt, sand and gravel (Taupo Pumice Alluvium), well drained                   |
| <b>Gullies</b>         | Terrace scarps and gully sides<br>(steep land)                        | Loose, mainly rhyolitic sand and gravel (Hinuera Formation), well drained  |
|                        | Narrow gully floors<br>(flat to gently undulating)                    | Colluvium, mainly rhyolitic sand, silt and gravel (Hinuera Formation), occasional organic material, poorly drained |
| <b>Peatlands</b>       | Peat lakes  | Part unclassified  |
|                        | Peatland margins<br>(flat to gently undulating)                       | Shallow peat (<0.4 m) on alluvium, poorly drained<br>Moderately deep peat (0.4 – 1.0 m), very poorly drained       |
|                        | Peat bogs<br>(flat to gently undulating)                              | Deep peat (> 1.0 m), very poorly drained   |
|                        | Peat domes<br>(flat to gently undulating)                             | Very deep peat (>1.0 m), very poorly drained   |

\* A thin ( $\leq 0.5$  m) mantle of composite rhyolitic and andesitic tephras overlies the Hinuera Formation in many places