### INDIGENOUS PLANTS OF THE SHORES OF LAKE COLERIDGE

#### COLIN BURROWS

Over the summer 1994-95 I surveyed the flora and vegetation of the shores of Lake Coleridge, in the middle Rakaia catchment (Fig. 1). This task was done for the Working Party convened by the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand to investigate many aspects of the hydrology, geomorphology, biology and human use of the lake, prior to reapplication for a water right for the operation of the Lake Coleridge Hydro-Electric Power Station. Apart from a short stretch of the lake shore along Kaka Hill, a longer stretch at the west end of Peak Hill and the island in the middle of the lake (Fig. 1), which were not able to be visited at the time, I traversed the entire lake shore on foot, making notes on the plant life in a zone from just below lake level to about 20 m above lake level. From these notes a report to the Working Party was compiled (C. Burrows, 1995a).

The present article comprises an updated species list (indigenous plants only) and two maps from the report (which is not widely available). Diverse terrain is present around the lake; habitats include rock cliffs, gravel cliffs, colluvial slopes, alluvial fans where streams enter the lake, muddy lake deposits, swampy areas and lagoons dammed behind gravel bars formed by wave action. Beaches are bouldery or gravelly and they are exposed to varying degrees as the lake level fluctuates with use of water for power generation (and inflows from the diverted Harper and Wilberforce Rivers). The altitude of the lake is relatively high (509.5 m); mountains around it rise to much higher elevations (Peak Hill 1240 m, Mt Oakden 1633 m, Mt Cotton 1470 m, Kaka Hill 994 m). Morainic downlands and ice-scraped rock border the lake at Coleridge Downs and the Peninsula. There and elsewhere, rocky cliffs plunge steeply into the lake.

Although forest is of limited extent around the shores of Lake Coleridge (Fig. 2), scrub is very abundant. The woody plant flora is moderately varied. Beech forest is mainly at the western end of the lake and broadleaved angiosperms are prominent in other forest patches. Common trees are Cordyline australis, Griselinia littoralis, Pseudopanax crassifolius and Sophora microphylla. Metrosideros umbellata, Carpodetus serratus and Myrsine australis are less common. Olearia avicenniifolia is prominent, and in certain places, so are Coriaria arborea and Helichrysum lanceolatum. Other locally abundant shrubs include Kunzea ericoides, Coprosma lucida, C. crassifolia, Olearia paniculata and Myrsine divaricata. The very common shrubs, however, are Discaria toumatou, Corokia cotoneaster and Coprosma propingua. In many places they form almost impenetrable thickets, laced together with Muehlenbeckia australis, M. complexa, Parsonsia capsularis and Rubus Other quite common vines are Clematis paniculata and Fuchsia sauarrosus. perscandens.

Other species, normally local to rare so far inland in Canterbury, include Adiantum cunninghamii, Pelargonium inodorum, Muehlenbeckia ephedroides, Tupeia antarctica, Scandia geniculata and Haloragis erecta. Anaphalioides trinervis (a real rarity in our province), Carmichaelia cf. corrugata and Carex cf. resectans are other interesting finds. The Adiantum is very common on wet rock faces between the lake

and overhanging forest. This also is the habitat for the *Gnaphalium* but it was seen in only two places. *Scandia* and *Haloragis* are also found in many places at Lake Coleridge, in scrub and on gravelly cliffs, respectively.

Some of the striking species of wetland sites (marshes, swamps, lagoons and muddy beaches) include *Eleocharis gracilis, Leptinella maniototo, Pratia perpusilla, Hypsela rivalis, Schoenus concinnus* and *Leptocarpus similis*. The *Leptocarpus* was an important find; it is very rare inland in Canterbury, known by me, otherwise, only from one colony at the Lake Coleridge powerhouse tailrace, where it is now extinct. The population in the Lake Stream is extensive and thriving. I searched without success near the confluence of the Lake Stream with the Wilberforce River for *Lepidosperma australe* (square-stemmed sedge) which I found there in the 1950's.

Another interesting group of lake shore plants includes those which usually live at much higher altitude, in alpine/sub-alpine habitats. Among them the commonest are Celmisia spectabilis var. magnifica and Aciphylla aurea. Small colonies of Chionochloa rigida, Colobanthus acicularifolia, Erythranthera pumila, Leucogenes grandiceps, Myrsine nummularia, Pentachondra pumila and Exocarpus bidwillii occur also. Table 1 lists the indigenous species found on the shores of Lake Coleridge.

Botanical studies of the upper Rakaia River have yielded many surprises already; there is still a great deal more ground to cover, however, before the flora of the catchment is as well known as is, for example, that of the Waimakariri, to the north. Complementing this article are one on the flora and vegetation of the island in Lake Coleridge (L. Burrows 1995) and another on finds of pygmy mistletoes (C. Burrows 1995).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### REFERENCES

- Burrows, C. J. 1995a: Vegetation of the Shores of Lake Coleridge. Report WP47 to the Lake Coleridge Working Party, Electricity Corporation of New Zealand, Dunedin.
- Burrows, C. J. 1995b: Some localities for pygmy mistletoes in Canterbury. Canterbury Botanical Society Journal 29: 76–78.
- Burrows, L. E. 1995: A visit to "The Island" Lake Coleridge. Canterbury Botanical Society Journal 29: 66-68.

Table 1. Indigenous Flora of the Shore of Lake Coleridge

O. bullata O. lineata

Species	Common name	Notes
Woody plants of forest an		11000
	a ser ab communicies	
Trees		1 77 1 TEU E 1 D 1 TEU
Aristotelia serrata	wineberry	only Kaka Hill, E. end Peak Hill
Carpodetus serratus	marble leaf	mod. common
Cordyline australis	cabbage tree	v. common
Metrosideros umbellata	southern rata	Kaka Hill, E. end Peak Hill, Peninsula
Myrsine australis	red mapou	only Kaka Hill, E. end Peak Hill
Nothofagus solandri var. cliffortioides	mountain beech	only 4 patches, 1 Kaka Hill; 1 Simois; 2 W. end Sheep Range
Pittosporum tenuifolium	kohuhu	only Peninsula
Podocarpus hallii	mountain totara	rare Kaka Hill (one plant)
Pseudopanax crassifolius	lancewood	v. common
Sophora microphylla	kowhai	v. common
Shrubs		
Aristotelia fruticosa	shrub wineberry	Kaka Hill, Oakden Fan, Sheep Range
A. fruticosa x A. serrata	hybrid wineberry	Kaka Hill, E. end Peak Hill
Carmichaelia cf. angustifolia	native broom	uncommon Kaka Hill
C. australis	native broom	mod. common
Coprosma crassifolia	thick-leaved coprosma	mod. common, esp. in forest
C. linariifolia	yellow-wood	mod. common, in forest
C. lucida	shining-leaved coprosma	Peninsula, Sheep Range
C. microcarpa	small-fruited coprosma	Peninsula
Coprosma species "T"	blotch-leaved coprosma	local, Sheep Range
C. propinqua	miki miki	v. common
C. rhamnoides	variable-leaved coprosma	Kaka Hill, Peninsula, Sheep Range
C. rugosa	blue-fruited coprosma	Sheep Range (scarce Kaka Hill)
Coriaria arborea	shrub tutu	common S. side of lake, Kaka Hill, Peninsula
Corokia cotoneaster	korokio	v. common
Cyathodes juniperina	prickly mingi mingi	v. common N. side of lake, Sheep Range, Peninsula
Discaria toumatou	matagouri	v. common
Dracophyllum acerosum	pale green dracophyllum	rare, Coleridge Downs cliffs
D. longifolium	long-leaved dracophyllum	local, Peninsula
D. uniflorum	single-flowered dracophyllum	rare, Peninsula
Gaultheria antipoda	bush snowberry	common
G. crassa	lily of the valley shrub	rare, Peninsula
G. antipoda x G. crassa	hybrid snowberry	rare, Peninsula
Hebe cf. glaucophylla	blueish-leaved hebe	local, Peninsula
H. salicifolia	koromiko	common
H. cf. traversii	Travers' hebe	mod. common
Helichrysum lanceolatum	shrub sungold	common N. side of lake, less so on S. side
H. depressum	dead sticks	rare, Harper Fan, Sheep Range
H. intermedium	whipcord sungold	rare, Peninsula
Kunzea ericoides	kanuka	common
Leptospermum scoparium	manuka	common W. end Sheep Range, v. common locally Peninsula, Kaka Hill
Muehlenbecka ephedroides	cryptic pohuehue	rare, Black Cliffs
Myrsine divaricata	weeping mapou	Kaka Hill, E. end Peak Hill. W. end Sheep Range
Olearia arborescens	broadleaved ake ake	Fairly local, commonest W. end Sheep Range
O. avicenniifolia	grey-leaved ake ake	v. common
O. bullata	swamp olearia	local Peninsula, Lake Coleridge Downs
O. lineata	linear leaved clearia	rare I ake Stream

linear-leaved olearia

rare, Lake Stream

golden ake ake

vellow tauhinu

hvbrid kowhai

three-finger

mountain tauhinu

O. paniculata Ozothamnus fulvida O. vauvilliersii Pseudopanax colensoi Sophora prostrata x S. microphylla

Vines

Calystegia tuguriorum Clematis forsteri C. marata C. paniculata

Fuchsia perscandens Muehlenbeckia australis M. complexa Parsonsia capsularis Rubus cissoides

R. schmidelioides R. sauarrosus Scandia geniculata

**Parasites** Exocarpos bidwillii

Ileostylus micranthus

Tupeia antarctica Korthalsella clavata

Acaena anserinifolia

Astelia fragrans

Cardamine debilis

Epilobium pubens

Galium tenuicaule

Gingidia montana

Anaphalioides trinervis

Hydrocotyle moschata

Nertera cf. scapanioides

Phormium cookianum

Ranunculus reflexus

Rytidosperma gracile

Lagenifera cuneata

L. strangulata

Libertia ixioides

Poa breviglumis

Senecio minimus

Uncinia uncinata

Stellaria parviflora

E. rotundifolium

A nervosa

Corybas spp.

Arthropodium candidum

Herbs of forest and scrub

native convolvulus

large green-flowered clematis small green-flowered clematis white-flowered clematis

climbing fuchsia pohuehue scrub pohuehue aka-kiore large-leaved lawyer

hairy-leaved lawyer narrow-leaved lawyer climbing aniseed

leafless sandalwood common mistletoe

white mistletoe pygmy mistletoe

common bidi bidi delicate lily

big bush lily subalpine bush lily bittercress spider orchids

downy willow herb round-leaved willow herb native bedstraw big aniseed trinerved cudweed

hairy pennywort small daisy small daisy

native iris hairy creeping nertera mountain harakeke

delicate poa bush buttercup hairy-sheathed danthonia

fireweed bush chickweed large hook-sedge

maidenhair fern

mod. common mod. common

Peninsula, Sheep Range rare, Oakden fan rare, Oakden fan

v. common common

local, Peak Hill, Coleridge Downs Kaka Hill, E. end Peak Hill, W. end Sheep

common v. common v. common common

local Kaka Hill, E. end Peak Hill, Oakden

mod. common v. common mod. common

rare, Peninsula

common Intake, uncommon Peak Hill, rare elsewhere

rare, Kaka Hill, Peninsula rare, Sheep Range

common rare. E. end Peak Hill, W. end Sheep Range

mod. common local, Kaka Hill, Sheep Range

mod. common

local, possibly several species common

common local, forest local, beneath trees on rock

rare (also very rare in Canterbury) mod. common mod. common

mod. common rare, shore between Peak Hill, Oakden Fan

rare, W. end Sheep Range mod. common

local, forest local, forest

local, Sheep Range, Peninsula

rare, Kaka Hill local, forest local, forest

# Ferns and Lycopods of forest and scrub

Adiantum cunninghamii Asplenium colensoi

fine-leaved spleenwort

common local, in forest A. flabellifolium A. hookerianum A terrestre Blechnum chambersii B. fluviatile

B. penna-marina B. cf. montanum Botrychium australe Ctenopteris heterophylla Cystopteris tasmanica

Hypolepis millefolium Lycopodium scariosum

L. varium

Phymatosorus diversifolius Polystichum richardii

P. vestitum Pteridium esculentum Pyrrosia eleagnifolia

fan-leaved spleenwort small spleenwort ground spleenwort lanceolate hardfern stream hardfern

little hardfern big hardfern parsley fern comb fern bladder fern soft fern harsh lycopod

variable lycopod tongue fern dark shield fern prickly shield fern bracken

snake fern

common local, in forest mod. common common

rare, Sheep Range common

common rare, Peninsula rare, Peninsula mod. common

local, Kaka Hill, Sheep Range

rare, Peninsula rare, Sheep Range mod. common common mod. common v. common

local E. end Peak Hill, Peninsula

## Herbs and dwarf shrubs of grassland, rock, gravel

Acaena caesiiglauca A. microphylla A. novae-zelandiae Aciphylla aurea Anisotome filifolia Brachyscome sinclairii

Carex breviculmis C. colensoi C. cf. resectans

Carmichaelia cf. corrugata

Celmisia gracilenta C. spectabilis var. magnifica Chionochloa rigida Colobanthus acicularifolia

C. strictus Coprosma acerosa C. atro-purpurea C. petriei

C. sp. cf. prostrate microcarpa

Coriaria cf. plumosa C. sarmentosa

C. sarmentosa x cf. plumosa

Crassula sieberiana Dichelachne crinita Dichondra repens Elymus cf. tenuis Epilobium hectori E. melanocaulon

E. microphylla Erythranthera pumila Festuca novae-zelandiae Gaultheria depressa Gentiana serotina Geranium sessiliflorum

Gnaphalium audax Gonocarpus aggregatus G. montanus

Haloragis erecta Helichrysum bellidioides

blueish bidi bidi red-fruited bidi bidi bright green bidi bidi golden spaniard fine-leaved aniseed grass daisy short grass sedge brown grass sedge

pale sand sedge

small native broom

dainty daisy large alpine daisy stiff snow tussock alpine pincushion riverbed pincushion blue-fruited rock coprosma wine-fruited coprosma grassland bead coprosma mauve-fruited rock coprosma

small tutu tutu hybrid tutu

reddish crassula plume grass common two-seeds blue-grass

small grassland willowherb black-stemmed willowherb small-leaved willowherb mountain tuft grass

hard tussock snowberry autumn gentian common geranium grev cudweed

grassland notch-leaf mountain notch-leaf tall notch-leaf common everlasting common

v. common mod. common local, grassland local, grassland mod. common mod. common

local, Coleridge Downs rare, Sheep Range rare, Ryton Spit

common local, Kaka Hill local, Peninsula rare, Sheep Range mod. common local, Peninsula common v. common local, Sheep Range

local, Oakden Fan, Harper Fan

v. common

local, Oakden Fan, Sheep Range local, Boat Harbour, Peak Hill

v. common mod. common v. common local, Sheep Range v. common v. common local, Peninsula v. common

local, Peninsula, Sheep Range v. common

common local, Harper Fan mod. common common mod. common

mod. common

H. filicaule Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae Lachnagrostis sp.

Leptinella squalida Leucogenes grandiceps Leucopogon colensoi

L. fraseri

L. sp. cf. fraseri "dwarf"

Luzula rufa

L. rufa var. albicomans Mentha cunninghamii

Microtis sp.

Muehlenbeckia axillaris Myrsine nummularia Nertera setulosa Oreomyrhis colensoi Oxalis cf. exilis Parahebe lyallii Pelargonium inodorum Pentachondra pumila Pernettva macrostipma

Pimelea oreophila Plantago spathulata Poa cita P. colensoi

P. cf. large colensoi P. lindsayi Prasophyllum sp.

Pseudognaphalium luteo-album

Pyrranthera exigua Ranunculus multiscapus

Raoulia australis
R. glabra
R. haastii
R. hookeri
R. monroi
R. parkii
R. subsericea
R. tenuicaulis
Rytidosperma setifolia
Scleranthus brockiei
Senecio bellidioides

S. quadridentatus Thelymitra sp. Uncinia cf. divaricata

U. rubra

Vittadinia australis

Wahlenbergia albomarginata

W. gracilis

slender everlasting common penny-wort tumble grass

common cotula

N.Z. edelweiss
reddish mountain heath

bronze heath small bronze heath reddish wood rush silvery wood rush mountain mint

grass orchid small pohuehue creeping mapou hairy grassland nertera

hairy grassland nerter mountain myrrh yellow oxalis mountain parahebe N.Z. pelargonium dwarf blue heath narrow-leaved heath mountain daphne grassland plantain

silver tussock Little blue tussock medium blue tussock riverbed poa onion orchid white cudweed

mountain twitch grass grassland buttercup Pale green mat daisy lax green mat daisy bright green mat daisy whitish mat daisy

grey mat daisy Otago mat daisy grassland mat daisy

fine-leaved mat daisy bristle tussock

green grass cushion yellow daisy peka peka sun orchid

mountain hook sedge red hook sedge small rock daisy

mountain bell-flower small bell flower mod. common

common local, W. end of lake

local, damp grassland rare, Kaka Hill

local, Peninsula, Sheep Range

mod. common
mod. common
mod. common
local, Sheep Range
local, Kaka Hill. Peninsula

common v. common local, Kaka Hill local, Lake Stream mod. common mod. common local, N. side of lak

local, N. side of lake rare, Coleridge Downs rare, Peninsula local, Sheep Range mod. common common v. common local, Sheep Range mod. common local, Harper Fan

local, Coleridge Downs v. common

local, Peninsula, Sheep Range

local, Sheep Range v. common local, riverbed local, riverbed v. common

local, rock, Peninsula, Black Cliffs

local, Sheep Range

common

local, Harper Fan, Sheep Range

mod. common

local, Sheep Range, Coleridge Downs

mod. common

common

local, Peninsula, Coleridge Downs local Kaka Hill, Oakden Fan local Sheep Range, Oakden Fan

common

local S. side of lake

## Ferns and Lycopods of grassland, rock, gravel

Cheilanthes humilis Lycopodium fastigiatum rock fern mountain lycopod rare, Peak Hill common

### Herbs of wetland sites

Bulbinella angustifolia Carex berggrenii

C. comans

Maori onion small brown sedge pale sedge local, Lake Stream, Homestead area

local, lagoons local, lagoons

C. coriacea
C. diandra
C. gaudichaudiana
C. petriei
C. secta
C. sinclairii
Colobanthus apetalus
Cortaderia richardii
Eleocharis acuta
E. gracilis
Epilobium cf. chionanthum

E. pernitens
Galium cf. perpusillum

Glossostigma elatinoides Gnaphalium japonicum G. cf. laterale Gonocarpus micranthus

Hierochloe redolens Hypericum japonicum Hypsela rivalis Isolepis aucklandicus

I. cf. pottsii Juncus gregiflorus J. novae-zelandiae Lemna minor Leptinella maniototo

Leptinella maniototo Leptocarpus similis Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae Limosella lineata

Limosella lineata Montia fontana Municabullum na

Myriophyllum pedunculatum

M. propinquum
M. triphyllum

Neopaxia australasica s.l. Phormium tenax Plantago triandra Potamogeton cheesemanii Potentilla anserinoides Pratia angulata

P. perpusilla

Ranunculus amphitrichus

Rorippa microphylla Rumex flexuosus Schizeilema trifoliolata Schoenus concinnus

S. pauciflorus Typha orientalis

Utricularia monanthos Viola cunninghamii big green sedge fine green sedge small green sedge medium red sedge tussock sedge grass-leaved sedge lax pincushion toe toe sharp spike sedge slender spike sedge swamp willow-herb

swamp willow-nerb small shining willow-herb tiny bedstraw short tongue-leaf marsh cudweed small white cudweed

reddish bog notch-leaf

holy grass small hypericum hexangle-leaf small tuft sedge medium tuft sedge stiff rush small rush duckweed

duckweed Otago cotula oioi

tape measure long tongue-leaf water purslane small millfoil medium millfoil large millfoil

mountain portulaca harakeke star plantain pond weed silverweed hairless split-flower

hairless split-flower hairy split-flower waoriki

watercress tumbleweed dock three-leaf wiry turf sedge

red marsh sedge raupo

purple bladderwort

local, Peninsula local, Sheep Range mod. common mod. common local, Lake Stream local, Sheep Range mod. common common local, lagoons mod. common local, lagoons

common

v. common v. common local, lagoons local, lagoons local, Peninsul

local, Peninsula, Coleridge Downs

local, pennsula, Co local, lagoons local, swamps mod. common mod. common local, Sheep Range v. common local, lagoons

local, Lake Stream, Homestead area

local, Lake Stream, Hor common, lagoons local, Lake Stream common, lagoons common, lagoons local, Lake Stream mod. common, lagoons

v. common v. common v. common common common common local, Peninsula mod. common v. common

local, Lake Stream, Peninsula, Homestead

area local, Lake Stream local, Peninsula

local, Peninsula, Homestead area

v. common mod. common mod. common local, Peninsula

v common

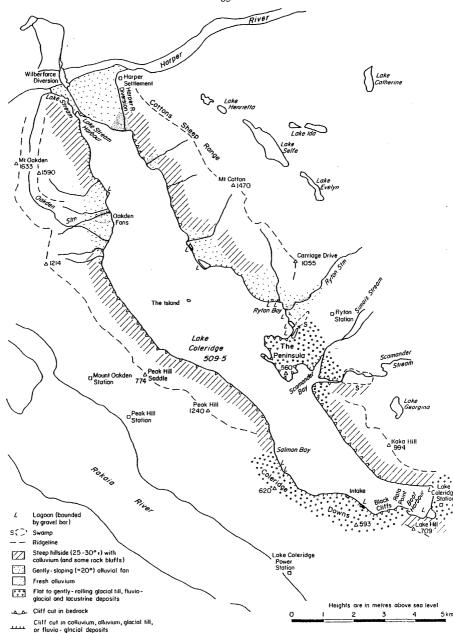


Fig. 1. Lake Coleridge: places and landforms.

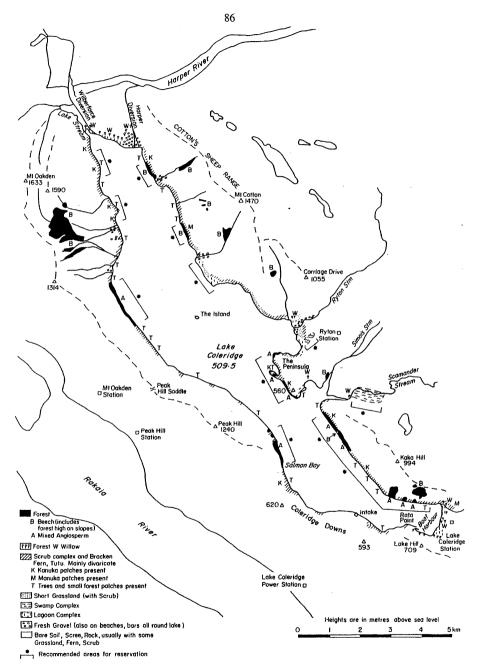


Fig. 2. Lake Coleridge: vegetation cover on lake shores