

Regional Round Up

Whitireia Park Restoration Group

Titahi Bay, Porirua





Porirua is 20 mins north of Wellington

Whitireia Park is on the southern headland of Te Awarua-o-Porirua
(Porirua harbours – Onepoto arm and Pauatahanui Inlet)

Covers 180 hectares of grassland with substantial areas of gorse



Highly modified but has a range of habitats all strongly influenced by salt wind

Coastal escarpment is between 20 and 60 metres above sea level

Two sites of *Leptinella nana* (Nationally critical) 300 metres apart in different habitats



Site 1 is gentle slope partly very exposed to sun and wind

Surrounded by pasture grass and tauhinu (*Ozothamnus leptophyllus*)

Photo 2006

Area – site 1

- Originally 1 tiny area around 20 x15 cm
- Currently 4 areas within the site ranging from 600 x 350cm to 15 x 15cm

Site limitations

- Lack of dappled shade
- Drought
- Competition from exotic and native species

Muehlenbeckia complexa

Coprosma propinqua

Phormium tenax (planted by guerilla gardener)

Pasture grass



Vegetative dessication from lack of water



Dessicated vegetation area following watering

Site 1 potential

- Unlimited area to spread if.....
 - some species are controlled
 - Surrounding area is planted
 - water during dry periods





Site 2 is in a steep sided valley sheltered, moister and more shaded
Surrounding vegetation mātuka, tauhinu, *Olearia solandri* and
gorse



Site 2 lower site

Area – site 2

- Originally 1 tiny area around 15 x 10 cm
- Currently 3 areas within the site ranging from 300 x 200cm to 10 x 10cm

Site limitations

- Succession and competition of native species
 - Dichondra repens*
 - Oxalis exilis*
 - Poa cita*
 - Luzula banksiana*
- Multiple native shrub seedlings – mānuka, tauhinu
- Lack of areas to spread to due to density of vegetation



Site 2 potential

- Remove kikuyu, gorse and boneseed from gully above site 2.
- Progressively plant grey scrub - tauhinu, *Olearia solandri*, matagouri, and *Muehlenbeckia astonii* to create the right conditions
- Monitor using mātauranga (adaptive management)

Site 1 and 2

Continue weeding both sites

Hand water during drought

Raise the profile of the little things.....



Questions or comments?
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Hand weeding *Leptinella nana*