

*Welcome to*  
*Purple Peak Curry Reserve*

*Flora and fauna to spot on your walk....*

*Flora illustrated by Hugh Wilson. Fauna photographed as credited.*

# Halls Tōtara

*Podocarpus halli*



Common on Banks Peninsula, this upland species of tōtara is represented on this reserve by some large specimens and young regeneration.

# Horopito

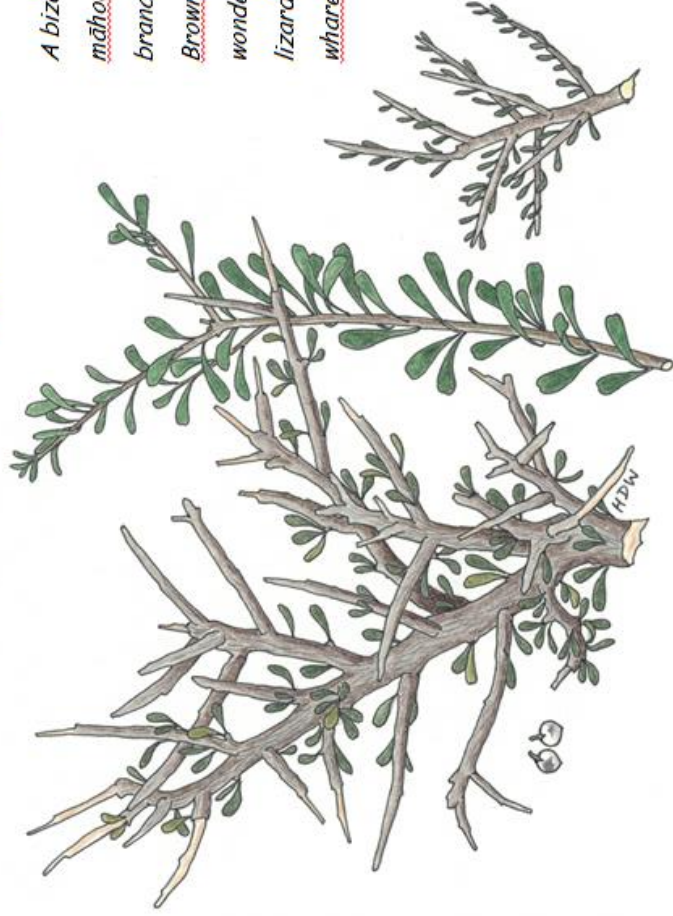
*Pseudowintera colorata*

One of the most primitive flowering plants still in existence, it is better known to most people by its fiery, hot-tasting, red-stained leaves.



# Porcupine shrub

Meliccytus alpinus



A bizarre relative of the abundant māhoe, this low-growing tightly branched shrub is common on Browntop Saddle. It provides such wonderful habitat for native lizards that the Māori name is wharekārara (house of lizards).

# Gorse

*Ulex europaeus*

*A hated spiny exotic scrub weed for pastoral farmers, gorse is tolerated here as it serves as a temporary nurse canopy for native forest regeneration.*



# Kānuka

*Kunzea ericoides*

*A prolific coloniser, this small tree contains aromatic oils and is often known as tea tree. A nice drink can be brewed from the leaves, but sheep and cattle barely eat it. Kānuka in time facilitates regeneration of a much more diverse native forest.*



# Māhoe

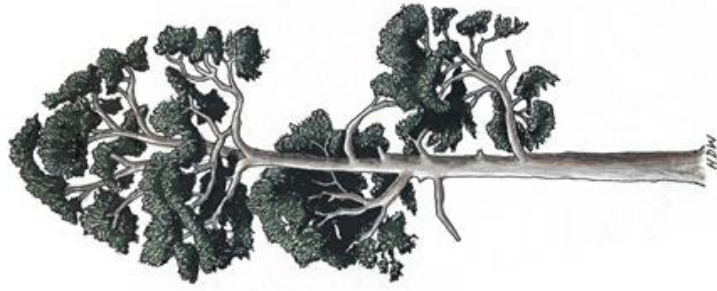
Meliccytus ramiflorus

*Sheep and cattle love eating this small tree, but surprisingly it is the most abundant native hardwood tree on Banks Peninsula. Other names include whiteywood and cowleaf.*



# Kahikatea

*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*



*New Zealand's tallest native tree, a few splendid mature specimens remain on Purple Peak Curry Reserve.*

*Regeneration will start now in the absence of grazing.*



# Matai

*Prumnopitys taxifolia*

*Unlike kahikatea, this tall podocarp does regenerate well despite grazing, and specimens of all ages occur on the reserve.*



# *Climbing groundsel*

*Brachyglottis sciadophila*

*Small yellow daisies adorn this climber which flowers in late February. Common on this reserve, it is a nationally rare species.*

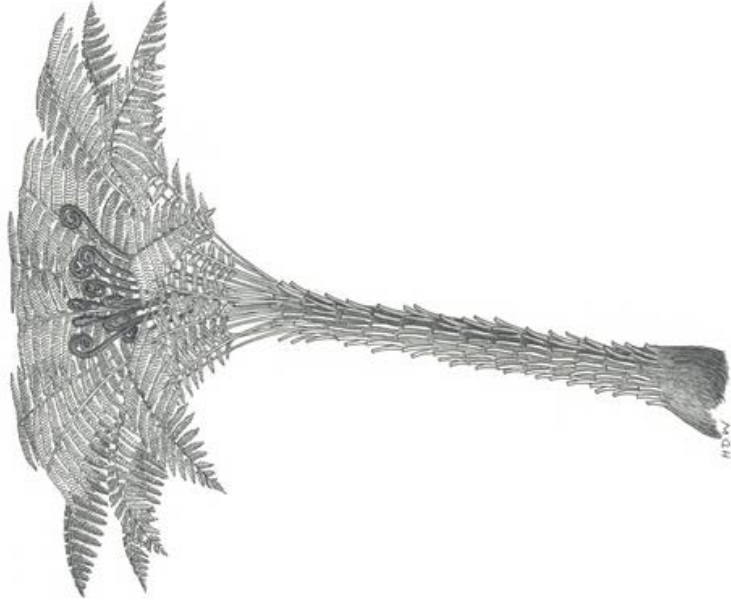


# Silver tree fern / ponga

*Cyathea dealbata*

A national symbol of New Zealand, some beautiful specimens grace the Curry Track.

Turn over a frond to see the silver underside.



# Raukawa

*Raukawa edgerleyi*

Nationally rare tree  
and very rare on  
Banks Peninsula, there  
is a good population on  
Purple Peak Curry  
Reserve.



# White climbing rātā

*Metrosideros diffusa*

An attractive vine, this is  
the only species of *rātā*  
found naturally on Banks  
Peninsula and easily seen on  
Curry Track.



# Ongaonga/Bush nettle

Urtica ferox

*Avoid this plant for its fierce sting, but appreciate it for its botanical interest - the savage sting derives from a previously unknown compound - and for its role as the food plant of the red admiral butterfly.*



# Tree Fuchsia / Kōtukutuku

*Fuchsia excorticata*

Unique to New Zealand, this tree is the largest species of *Fuchsia* known worldwide, notable for its papery orange-fawn bark, its nectar filled flowers, and its succulent berries (*kōini*).



# Worsley House Site

Frank Worsley was born in Akaroa on 22 February 1872, youngest of three surviving siblings. His mother died when he was only two. His father Henry sent the children off to school, first in Akaroa and later in Christchurch. The boys spent all their holidays with their father who was clearing forest from his land here in the upper Grehan Valley and selling timber for firewood.

At age 10 Frank possessed his own axe and helped the men clear the forest.

*I loved the awe-work and the sweet scent of wood chips. I shoured with joy and pride in my pury strength as the chips flew upwards at the axes niggling blows and the swishing branches overhead swept to destruction, carrying away another feathered songster's home and family, adding another space to the blue sky where formerly all had been green and leafy brightness. Poor young warden! I knew no better!*



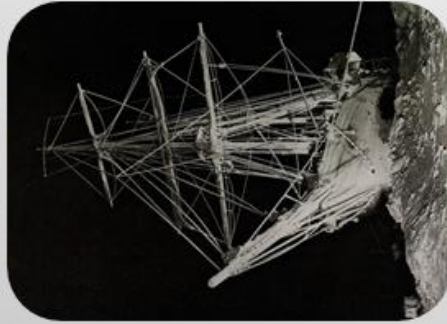
*The Worsley house in 1906, soon after it had passed to the Curry family*

Years later he admitted:

*It was a mad waste. The colonists in their greed for more grass seed and sheep pasture burned millions of pounds worth of timbers. They recklessly destroyed the wonderful beauty of the bush, baring the soil until it was carried away by landslides, and lowered the rainfall, and had waste the homes of countless sweet songsters.*



## Ill-fated Endurance



Young Frank chose the sea and by 1888 was bound for London. 26 years later, and on the brink of WWI, he joined Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition as captain of the Endurance. The ill-fated ship was crushed by sea ice, with all hands forced to abandon Worsley's navigational log of a tiny lifeboat 1300 km over the Southern Ocean to South Georgia is one of the greatest survival stories of all time. All the men were saved as a result. You can learn more about Akaroa's famous hero at the town museum.