



A rat attacks a small bird

**Intensification:** the Study recommends the following:

- **Construction.** Where possible, construction should be avoided within 150 m of any coastal cliff greater than 18° and all vegetation should be retained.
- **Landscaping design** (including indigenous revegetation) should be sympathetic to the topography of the land. Best silvicultural practices should be applied to manage native coastal vegetation while affording sunlight and view shafts
- **Stormwater.** Grading of driveways, roads and building platforms can create with stormwater problems, leading to increased sediment run-off during construction with potential long term impacts.
- **Revegetation** with indigenous species that have evolved to survive in the coastal environment.



Waitemata harbour cliffs garlanded by pohutukawa

## Why do a survey?

The Auckland Plan's Vision for Auckland (2012) tells us that "by protecting and restoring our natural environment, unique geology and indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems, we ensure that these valuable taonga (treasures) are conserved and handed on to future generations. .... Ecosystems are inextricably linked to physical elements of natural heritage, including geological features and landforms such as cliffs."



*In 2015 as Tamaki Drive Protection Society and with funding from Orakei Local Board, we commissioned Wildland Consultants Ltd to study and survey the cliffs in the Orakei Ward from Mechanics Bay to Achilles Point and Tahuna Torea. A desktop analysis of vegetation was followed by a ground-truth survey of the vegetation, and assessment of the threats to the pohutukawa forest. .... The first part of the study is "Survey and Quantification of Clifftop Pohutukawa Forest in the Orakei Ward," the second part is "Assessment of potential threats to the Ecology of Clifftop Coastal Pohutukawa Forest in the Orakei Ward." The study:*

- highlights the natural character, the adaptations & ecological form and functions of these forest margins in a heavily modified & increasingly urbanised and now potentially threatened environment;
- identifies the location and distribution of individuals or groups of native & exotic trees;
- ranks the diverse range of threats and potential disrupters to the health and survival of cliff top and coastal vegetation, especially original Pohutukawa.

And concludes that we need:

- control measures for invasive weeds & pests;
- discouragement of indiscriminate development; and
- review of the notable tree schedule and coastal tree protection .

## Ecological Survey Results and Quantification:

What we once had -  
where we are now?

What can we do about it?

**Pohutukawa: The crimson glory of Auckland**  
- protect the remnants of our beautiful coastal forest



**TAMAKI DRIVE PROTECTION  
SOCIETY INC**



## President's message

In 2015 Tamaki Drive Protection Society commissioned Wildlands Consultants to conduct an ecological survey of our cliff-top pohutukawa forest. Society President Peter Morton says: "The Wildland Consultant's survey has given a valuable insight into the current state of the vegetation that fringes Auckland Eastern Bay's cliffs and shorelines. TDPS has long realised the visual and ecological contribution that this coastal strip of pohutukawa forest gives our community. With Auckland's ongoing intensification, we need to carefully manage and reduce the pressures on this unique habitat. On behalf of TDPS, I would like to sincerely thank the Orakei Local Board for their assistance in the funding of this survey."



The way we were: Kohimarama in 1852



'Kohimarama 1852': a watercolour by Caroline Abraham, held in the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

"a distinctive landscape of much value to the City and the wider region. The totality of the Tamaki Drive landscape forms a unique scenic way extending from Judge's Bay at its western end to Achilles Point in the east which warrants special consideration." Auckland City Council District Plan

## The way we are:

Thanks must go to the many residents, landowners and former councils who over decades have planted, and maintained pohutukawa on private property and public land. The results garland Auckland with red for Christmas. When the flowers fall they carpet the sands and the roads, making us the only city in the world with this legacy. In 1994 they began a planting programme along Tamaki Drive with a \$1600 Project Crimson donation. The Causeway now enhances the commuter trip each day into the city. The Survey states "The pohutukawa fringe along Auckland's Coastal cliffs makes a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the city's coastline and helps to slow down the rate of natural erosion. Pohutukawa have evolved to thrive on exposed coastal rock faces, and has aerial roots that can re-sprout if a slip occurs. The roots of pohutukawa stabilise the soft sedimentary rock that characterises much of Auckland's coastline."



## And the future?

The Unitary Plan brings new challenges. There is no space for trees in the new mixed zones- only in public places. Even in Significant Ecological Areas, mature pohutukawa may be felled without public notice to give more building sites. Do we really want a bleak concrete jungle?



## What we can do:

### Research has identified three main threats - Invasive alien weeds; Browsing predators; Intensification

We have published Fact Sheets to promote the Survey results and ways to combat the threats of invasive weeds and predators.

**Weed invasion.** Auckland's indigenous coastal vegetation and habitats are most threatened by *gorse*, *pig's ear*, *boneseed*, *Chilean rhubarb* and *evergreen buckthorn*. Buckthorn is of most concern in the cliffs surrounding the Ōrākei Ward. It grows to 5-8 m in height and can out-compete pohutukawa and can eventually smother all other plant species.



Evergreen Buckthorn



Boneseed



### Predator free Eastern Bays?

Browsing pest animals, particularly brushtail possums, cause severe damage to indigenous vegetation. The full Survey Reports may be read on [www.tamakidrive.org.nz](http://www.tamakidrive.org.nz)

**Fact Sheet 1: Coastal Ecology;**

**Fact Sheet 2: Restorative Plants and Planting;**

**Fact Sheet 3 Browsing Pest Animals.**

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