

Weeds were predominant along the whole circuit the main species being *Tradescantia fluminensis*, and *Ligustrum*. We were continually asking ourselves the question “would they eventually eliminate themselves or did they need a helping hand from Man ?”

It certainly was a patch of native regenerating bush well worthy of another visit. The sharing of ideas, range of expertise, and pooling of knowledge and experiences meant we all learnt such a lot and had an enjoyable day.



Stringy Bark of *Podocarpus totora*

Notes from *Tотора A Natural and Cultural History* by Philip Simpson, Auckland University Press, as cited in N.Z. gardener, June 2017, Vol 73, Issue 6.

“Tотора bark was probably the most useful to Maori. The fibrous outer bark is lightweight and dry, easily peeled, levered or cut into strips. It is resistant to decay because it contains totarol and other resins. Maori harvested the outer bark for sheets and strips for shelter and packing material, and powered it for tinder. The leathery inner bark went into making patua. bird preserving baskets and cooking containers.”

In Maori lore. Tотора was fathered by Tane. The skin of the totora evokes chiefly qualities such as strength, protection and persistence.