

KEKERENGU ECOLOGICAL DISTRICT – PHOTO ESSAY

**WETLANDS IN A DRY LANDSCAPE -**

Wetlands are rare in South Marlborough. This one is even more unusual in being a spring-fed pond high on a hillside. Silver tussock is common in the dry hill country, imparting an indigenous element and serving a useful purpose for pastoral farming.

**COASTAL VEGETATION -**

Exotic marram grass has invaded most of the sand dunes in the ecological district at the expense of the specialist native sand plants. However, there are still some of the native plants in places and techniques for restoration and marram control are available. On the slopes behind is typical coastal shrubland, also worth retaining and restoring.



LIMESTONE HABITATS -

Limestone scree, a distinctive feature in parts of South Marlborough. It provides habitat for lizards (skinks and geckos), native invertebrates and native plants, some of which are confined only to limestone.

DRY CLIMATE VEGETATION PATTERNS -

The great importance of aspect in a low rainfall area is demonstrated in this photograph. On the north-facing slope to the right of the photo, silver tussock and prostrate kowhai are dominant, being exposed to prolonged sunshine and drying winds. On the south-facing slope to the left of the photo, dense tauhinu is being colonised by broad-leaved tree species, especially five-finger.

