



Trees on the section

There are many beautiful trees on the property, though some, like the old Japanese maples out back, haven't leafed out yet for spring.

The Kahikatea grove is located in the protected bush area, where the Kai Kai Stream flows into the pond. The pond is home to water lilies, frogs, ducks, pūkeko, and eels.

In the top garden

(Called 'picking garden') are lemon trees, Feijoa, Turkish fig and avocado and the Musi Luki Samoan banana and lots of iris and Dahlia

On the driveway

Musi Luki banana palm, which had lots of fruit last year.

On the bank above the vege garden

Fejoia, guavas (x 2 kinds), tamarillo x2 , mandarin, lime, pawpaw, orange and banana passionfruit, rhubarb, cape gooseberry, grapes, lemon tree

Side of house by greenhouse

Pawpaw . Rambling roses line that side of the walkway to the studio, putting on a stunning display in early spring.

Herbs planted

Mint, spearmint, borage, coriander, parsley, lemon balm, purple sage, sage, oregano, thyme, lemon verbena

Greenhouse

It usually produces an excellent crop of tomatoes and basil each year, and lettuce grows there for most of the year. There's no crop at the moment, as we were away in Europe and decided to wait until spring to replant.

Bird life

We get daily visits from kererū, mōporks, tūī, yellowhammers, and fantails. Rosellas drop by occasionally, but we've chosen not to encourage them, as we prefer to support the native birdlife.

The garden has been developed using permaculture principles and lasagna gardening methods. No chemicals have been used since 2017, though they may have been applied before that time.

The previous owners grew cacti, taking advantage of the unique microclimate in this valley. It's generally well-sheltered from storms, though July and August tend to be the toughest months.

Atawhai has removed some large trees around the house for us and recently inspected others, including the big tree by the vegetable garden. It has been checked and deemed safe.