



## Arawa Park (Racecourse)

**Site Number:** SNA129  
**Ecological District:** Rotorua Lakes  
**Source of Information:** Wildland Consultants (2005c) – Geothermal Site No. 8  
**Digital Scale:** 1:2,000  
**Data Source:** RDAM 2006  
**Regional Council:** Bay of Plenty  
**1998 Site Number:** Not identified as a site in Shaw and Beadel (1998)  
**Current Tenure:** Unprotected; Racecourse Reserve  
**Site Area:** 2.4 ha  
**Altitude Range:** 290 m  
**Bioclimatic Zone:** Lowland  
**Grid Reference:** NZTM E1885615, N5772625

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE		
1	Manuka/narrow-leaved carpet grass shrubland An area of manuka with a prostrate form, its growth prostrate form is probably related to ongoing management of the site as a racecourse and the regular mowing of the site that is required as part of this. Patches of narrow-leaved carpet grass, bracken, and small populations of <i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i> and turutu are also present.	Flat	1.1 ha
2	Narrow-leaved carpet grass grassland Mown narrow-leaved carpet grass with occasional manuka, bracken, and turutu.	Flat	1.3 ha

**Indigenous Flora:** The largest population of *Calochilus robertsonii* ('At Risk - Naturally Uncommon' in de Lange *et al.* 2009) in New Zealand occurs at this site. This species is most common in the manuka/narrow-leaved carpet grass grassland, but scattered plants are found outside this vegetation type (George Pardy pers. comm.). Other species typical of geothermal habitats are present, including manuka, bracken, and turutu.

**Fauna:** No threatened or at risk species as listed in Hitchmough *et al.* (2007) or Miskelly *et al.* (2008) have been recorded from this site. Indigenous and exotic species typical of the habitat are present, including welcome swallow.

**Notes on Overall Condition:** The site is in poor condition (in terms of geothermal vegetation) as it is being managed as a racecourse. There is little evidence of geothermal activity at the surface.

**Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998):** Unknown. Probably little change.

**Threats/Modification/Vulnerability:** *Invasive Exotic Plants:* Narrow-leaved carpet grass dominates a large portion of the site (50-75% cover).

*Human Impacts:* This site has a long history of repeated disturbance, vegetation clearance, fertiliser applications, and mechanical mowing. Part of the site is managed to maintain the orchid population; riders are encouraged to keep horses away from the centre of the training track, weeds

are controlled by mechanical methods, no fertiliser is applied, and mowing is timed to avoid flowering and seed set.

- Risk Assessment:** Not applicable unless goals of site management are changed.
- Significance Level:** Regional (Appendix 10 - Table 1 - Criteria 4, 6; Table 2 - Factor R9).
- Significance Justification:** This site is of regional significance because it contains the largest population of *Calochilus robertsonii* ('At Risk - Naturally Uncommon') in New Zealand.
- Fieldwork Required:** No fieldwork is required.
- Notes:** This site was identified as a "Recommended Area for Protection" (RAP No. 107) in the natural area survey of Rotorua Lakes ED (Beadel *et al.* 1998).
- References:** Ecroyd (1991); Beadel (1988a); Beadel *et al.* (1996b); Pardy (1994 & 1995); Wildland Consultants (2005c).