

## Appendix. Mosses recorded in Mahood-Lowe Reserve, Taranaki, on 31 Jan 2021.

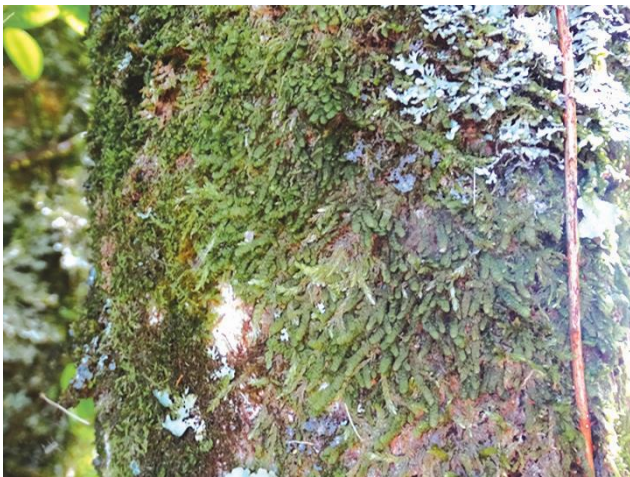
AK = vouchers in Auckland War Memorial Museum Herbarium

<i>Breutelia pendula</i>	<i>Hypnum chrysogaster</i>	<i>Pyrrhobryum bifarium</i>
<i>Calomnion complanatum</i>	<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i>	<i>Racomitrium crispulum</i>
<i>Campylopodium capillaceum</i> (AK)	<i>Leptostomum inclinans</i>	<i>Rhaphidorrhynchium amoenum</i>
<i>Campylopus clavatus</i>	<i>Leptotheca gaudichaudii</i>	<i>Rhizogonium novae-hollandiae</i>
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	<i>Leucobryum javense</i>	<i>Thuidiopsis furfurosa</i>
<i>Cladomnion ericoides</i>	<i>Lopidium concinnum</i>	<i>Trachyloma diversinerve</i>
<i>Crosbya straminea</i>	<i>Macromitrium longipes</i>	<i>Weissia controversa</i>
<i>Cyathophorum bulbosum</i>	<i>Papillaria flavolimbata</i>	<i>Weymouthia cochlearifolia</i>
<i>Dicnemon calycinum</i>	<i>Polytrichum commune</i> (AK)	<i>Wijkia extenuata</i>
<i>Dicranoloma menziesii</i>	<i>Ptychomnion aciculare</i>	<i>Zygodon intermedius</i>

## Liverworts of Mahood-Lowe Reserve, Taranaki

Joshua Salter

On the day of our ABS visit on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021, the battery of my new camera decided to expire, so having resolved to return another day to take some photos, I contented myself with walking around the grassy 'farm tracks' and admiring the kamahi-dominated forest (for map see Fig. 20, in Davidson 2021, p. 16 this issue). Especially memorable was a climbing rata (*Metrosideros perforata*) in full flower that had reached the top of a young rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*). The central bush patch seemed inaccessible, being ringed by a deep ditch filled with blackberry, but we noted two spots (arrowheads A & B, Fig. 20, p. 16) where no ditch barred the way. However, by the time I had walked the 'farm road' circuit (red dotted line, Fig. 20, p. 16) there was no time to explore the small central patch let alone the much larger forest that extended to the boundary of the National Park.



**Fig. 1.** *Radula grandis*, amongst mosses and lichens on a small kamahi at the edge of the central bush patch. Photo: J Salter, 5 Feb 2021.

A few days later, on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021, I returned with my partner Bill (who had joined me after the ABS trip ended). This time I had made sure the camera was charged overnight. And, since Jessica was going to record the mosses, and there was no liverwort expert available, I decided to see what liverworts I could find (see Appendix). If the festooned forest higher up the mountain was anything to go by, a forest at the foot of Mt Taranaki was surely going to yield some interesting gems, even to a rank amateur like me.

Leaving Bill to explore the 'farm tracks', I headed for the SE corner of the central bush patch where I knew I could get into the forest avoiding the ditch of blackberry (arrowhead B, Fig. 20, p. 16). The first liverwort I found was a *Radula grandis*, on the trunk of a kamahi at the forest margin (Fig. 1). Going further in, I found another two liverworts – (*Plagiochila annotina* on another kamahi, and a shrivelled *Porella elegantula* on a kahikatea trunk). Some distance from the margin I encountered a large swamp maire (*Syzygium maire*) (asterisk no. 2 marks the spot on Fig. 20, p. 16), but although hosting an *Asplenium flaccidum* nearly 2 m long (see Fig. 23, p. 16), even this old tree lacked liverworts. All the other green coverings on roots and tree trunks examined in my short time there, were assorted mosses (see Jessica's account of the mosses in this issue: Beaver, 2021, p. 24).

What might be the explanation for this dearth of liverworts? They typically require a more moist environment than many mosses. Have the ditches altered the water table? This would perhaps account for lack of ground-dwelling liverworts. But they seemed lacking on the trees too. Does Mt Taranaki

cast a rain shadow? It does, but according to Te Ara (The Encyclopedia of New Zealand) <https://teara.govt.nz/en/taranaki-region/page-2>, this tends to be to the south and east of the mountain. Or is it simply that this forest is only at an early stage of regeneration and that bryophyte diversity will increase in time? And is this typical for the whole reserve, or just a feature of the small central bush patch that is isolated from the rest by grassy farm

tracks? A more thorough survey of bryophytes in the rest of this reserve is the first step to answering some of these questions.

### Acknowledgements

I thank John Braggins for checking and verifying or correcting my liverwort identifications.

### References

- Beever, J.E. 2021: Mosses of Mahood-Lowe Reserve, Taranaki. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 76 (1): 24–26.  
Davidson, G. (ed.) 2021: Report of the Auckland Botanical Society trip to Taranaki on 29 Jan – 1 Feb 2021. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 76 (1): 10–24.

### Appendix. Liverworts recorded in Mahood-Lowe Reserve, Taranaki, on 5 Feb 2021.

<i>Plagiochila annotina</i>	AK 382253
<i>Porella elegantula</i>	AK 382254
<i>Radula grandis</i>	AK 382252

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## Botanising with nonagenarian Auntie Anne in the King Country

Ewen K. Cameron

Anne Fraser, known to most of us as Auntie Anne, has been keen for many years to show Auckland botanists some of her local botanical oddities, specifically:

- odd hīnau (*Elaeocarpus*);
- a weeping tōtara (*Podocarpus*); and
- odd tree daisy (*Olearia*).

With the Auckland Botanical Society anniversary weekend trip to Taranaki, it seemed the ideal opportunity to take up her kind offer to come and stay, and see her interesting plants, on the way down, or on the return trip. Ewen and Cheryl Taylor decided to stay on their way down; “the girls” (Dhahara Ranatunga, Yumiko Baba, Zara Skuse), and the following day, Geoff and Bev Davidson, stayed on their way back.

Anne has lived all her life in the Ongarue Valley in the King Country, growing up on her parents’ farm and marrying the boy next door in 1949. In 1952, the day King George VI died, they moved into the 1923 farmhouse where she still lives. House improvements/additions were made over the years and since her husband’s death in 1997, Anne has lived there alone.

Her instructions to us were to: “turn off SH 4 at Ongarue, cross the railway line, go along Tuhua

Road and from the Ongarue River bridge it’s 10 km down the gravel Ngakonui-Ongarue Road – I’ll cut the grass at the front by the driveway to make it obvious”. The instructions were perfect. The cut grass was useful because the house is scarcely visible from the road. After being warmly greeted by Anne (Fig. 1) and a quick look around the slightly overgrown garden with some lovely flowering roses, we made plans to utilise the afternoon and do some botany.

### The hīnau

We were soon being driven by Anne along the backcountry gravel road for 30 minutes (later tarseal) first east, then north to Waituhi, our first destination, her grandson Guy Fraser’s farm. The newish farmhouse on a ridge had a splendid view down to a river and up to the Pureora Forest Park to the north. After a welcoming cup of tea, we drove to his southern boundary which was adjacent to the small forest patch with the odd hīnau. Anne had already spoken to the owner for permission to visit. We carefully crossed a paddock of ‘Chou moellier’ kale, over the fence by a treefall and into a small stand of forest on flat land. Both hīnau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*) and pōkākā (*E. hookerianus*) were present as adult trees and also as seedlings (Figs. 2, 3). Anne’s sharp eyes had noticed the more prominent toothing of the leaves of several of the adult trees