

## NORTHERN KAIMAI FIELD TRIP

Mark Smale

On a somewhat overcast but otherwise acceptably pleasant day in September 1999, a dozen or so Botsoccers met at the end of Wharawhara Road just south of Katikati for a quiet stroll up the charming and apparently little-frequented Wharawhara Valley. The original intention had been to visit Cashmore's Clearing just east of the main divide. On a reconnaissance trip the previous weekend, however, the now officially closed North-South track leading to it had been found to be treacherously slippery, impassable except at a Smale's pace and with the utmost of care.

The valley was the scene nearly a century ago of latter-day kauri logging, and the track follows the route of the bullock tram to the point where the valley enters a narrow gorge. It then zigzags up a short steep spur before following the crest of a side ridge to the old North-South track.

A sizeable area in the middle of the valley shown as scrub on the original inch-to-the-mile maps is now largely clothed in regenerating (regenerated?) forest with scattered pine trees emergent through it.

We crossed the river (Katikati's water supply), tumbling cheerfully over well-worn andesite boulders, numerous times with intervening sections of the track passing through tall forest of tawa and kohekohe, and much else besides. Lunch-break was held in the mid-valley scrub section, and by mid-afternoon we were only at the start of the narrow gorge and the bottom of the zigzag. Here, the track leaves the lush broad-leaved forest of the lower valley sides, entering a section of hard beech forest (formerly kauri-hard beech forest) on steep upper valley sides before reaching the open ridge crest, where logging has destroyed - for the time being - the tall forest cover, leaving a shrub-heath of plants tolerant of very infertile soils.

Several shrubs and orchids were in flower, as in the following list from Marilyn Merrett: *Alseuosmia macrophylla*, *Corybas acuminatus*, *C. trilobus*, *Hebe corriganii*, *Pterostylis alobula*, and *P. trullifolia*.

As an interesting aside, assiduous timing by the trip leader on both 'recce' and actual trips allowed the pertinent observation that compiling species lists such as the one appended below at least triples the time taken to traverse the landscape.

**SPECIES LIST RECORDED FROM WHARAWHARA RIVER TRACK,  
KAIMAI-MAMAKU FOREST PARK**

\* indicates adventive species

Gymnosperm trees & shrubs

<i>Agathis australis</i>	kauri
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu
<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	tanekaha
* <i>Pinus radiata</i>	radiata pine
<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>	Hall's totara
<i>P. totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro
<i>P. taxifolia</i>	matai

Ferns & fern allies

<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	maiden hair fern
<i>A. fulvum</i>	maiden hair fern
<i>Anarthropteris lanceolata</i>	lance fern
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	hen and chickens fern
<i>A. flaccidum</i>	hanging spleenwort
<i>A. lamprophyllum</i>	
<i>A. oblongifolium</i>	shining spleenwort
<i>A. polyodon</i>	sickle spleenwort
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	nini
<i>B. colensoi</i>	
<i>B. discolor</i>	crown fern
<i>B. filiforme</i>	thread fern
<i>B. fluviatile</i>	kiwakiwa
<i>B. fraseri</i>	

<i>B. novae-zealandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	silver fern
<i>C. medullaris</i>	mamaku
<i>Deparia petersenii</i>	
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Doodia media</i>	rasp fern
<i>Grammitis ciliata</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	filmy fern
<i>H. dilatatum</i>	filmy fern
<i>H. ferrugineum</i>	filmy fern
<i>H. flabellatum</i>	filmy fern
<i>H. rarum</i>	filmy fern
<i>H. revolutum</i>	filmy fern
<i>H. sanguinolentum</i>	filmy fern
<i>H. scabrum</i>	filmy fern
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>	
<i>L. hispida</i>	hairy fern
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	single crepe fern
<i>Lycopodium varium</i>	hanging clubmoss
<i>L. volubile</i>	
<i>Lygodium articulatum</i>	mangmange
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	hard fern
<i>Phymatosorus pustulatus</i>	hound's tongue
<i>P. scandens</i>	fragrant fern
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	sweet fern
<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	

\* *Selaginella kraussiana*

*Sticherus cunninghamii* umbrella fern

*Tmesipteris elongata*

*T. lanceolata*

*T. tannensis*

*Trichomanes elongatum*

*T. reniforme* kidney fern

*T. venosum* filmy fern

### Orchids

*Acianthus sinclairii* heart-leaf orchid

*Corybas acuminatus* spider orchid

*C. trilobus* spider orchid

*Earina autumnalis* Easter orchid

*Earina mucronata* spring orchid

*Microtis unifolia* onion orchid

*Pterostylis alobula* greenhood orchid

*P. banksii* tutukiwi

*P. trullifolia* trowel-leaved orchid

*Thelymitra* sp. sun orchid

*Winika cunninghamii* bamboo orchid

### Flowering plants - dicots

*Acaena anserinifolia* bidibid

*Alectryon excelsus* titoki

*Alseuosmia macrophylla* toropapa

*Anaphalioides trinervis*

*Aristotelia serrata* wineberry

<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
* <i>Berberis glaucocarpa</i>	barberry
<i>Brachyglottis kirkii</i> var. <i>angustior</i>	Kirk's daisy
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora
<i>Cardamine</i> sp.	
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta
* <i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	mouse-eared chickweed
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Clematis forsteri</i>	green clematis
<i>C. paniculata</i>	clematis
<i>C.</i> sp.	
* <i>Conyza albida</i>	broad-leaved fleabane
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	mamangi
<i>C. grandifolia</i>	raurekau
<i>C. lucida</i>	
<i>C. robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coriaria arborea</i>	tutu
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka
* <i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawkesbeard
* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Dracophyllum strictum</i>	grass tree
<i>D. traversii</i>	
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	sundew
* <i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Indian strawberry
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Epilobium nerterioides</i>	
<i>E. rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved willowherb
* <i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish heath
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	tree fuchsia

<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i>	hangehange
<i>Gnaphalium</i> sp.	cudweed
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Haloragis erecta</i>	
<i>Hebe corriganii</i>	
<i>H. stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood
<i>Hydrocotyle dissecta</i>	
<i>Ixerba brexiodes</i>	tawari
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Lagenifera pumila</i>	taniwhaniwha
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
* <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	oxeye daisy
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi
* <i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Himalayan honeysuckle
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	ramarama
<i>L. obcordata</i>	
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus major
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicope simplex</i>	poataniwha
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	white climbing rata
<i>M. fulgens</i>	climbing rata
<i>M. perforata</i>	aka
<i>Mida salicifolia</i>	willow-leaved maire
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	pohuehue
* <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	common nertera
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire

<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara
* <i>Oxalis</i> sp.	
<i>Peperomia urvilleana</i>	wharanui
* <i>Phytolacca octandra</i>	inkweed
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemonwood
* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	narrow-leaved plantain
<i>Pratia angulata</i>	panakenake
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five finger
<i>P. crassifolius</i>	lancewood
<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>	pepperwood
<i>Ranunculus reflexus</i>	hairy buttercup
* <i>R. repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Raukana anomalus</i>	
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer
* <i>R. fruticosus</i> agg.	blackberry
* <i>Rumex crispus</i>	curled dock
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
* <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	ragwort
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	poroporo
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	puha
<i>Toronia toru</i>	toru
* <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse
<i>Viola filicaulis</i>	forest violet
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	puriri
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi

#### Flowering plants - monocots

* <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	creeping bent
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara

<i>Baumea tenax</i>	
<i>Carex</i> sp.	
<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	kahakaha
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	
<i>C. pumilio</i>	dwarf cabbage tree
<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>	toetoe
* <i>C. selloana</i>	pampas
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	blueberry, turutu
* <i>Festuca rubra</i>	Chewings fescue
<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
<i>Gabnia setifolia</i>	
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
* <i>Juncus effusus</i>	soft rush
* <i>J. tenuis</i>	
<i>Libertia grandiflora</i>	
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass
<i>M. stipoides</i>	meadow rice grass
* <i>Miscanthus nepalensis</i>	Himalayan fairy grass
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	
<i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>	bamboo grass
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack
<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.	
<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>	
<i>Uncinia ferruginea</i>	
<i>U. uncinata</i>	hook grass
* <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	arum lily