

OHIWA HARBOUR AND WAIOTAHU SPIT FIELD TRIP

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A good-sized band of keen botanists met at the Tauwhare Pa Historic Reserve on the margins of Ohiwa Harbour in the Eastern Bay of Plenty on 4 March 2001. We then proceeded in convoy around the back of Ohiwa Harbour, stopping to look at several interesting natural areas. The first stop was Nukuhou Conservation Area. This site was originally saltmarsh, but was drained and cleared for farming in the early 1900s, and it was rough pasture until about 20-30 years ago. It was then retired from farming (in the 1970s) and today the vegetation comprises dense oioi (*Apodasmia similis*) and searush (*Juncus kraussii* subsp. *australiensis*), with only the occasional straight lines in the vegetation along old drains. This area is of particular ecological significance due to the contiguous freshwater wetlands on the western and eastern margins of the saltmarsh. Karetu (*Hierochloa redolens*) occurs on the western side in one of these wetlands, and species present on the eastern side in the freshwater wetlands include burr reed (*Sparganium subglobosum*), *Astelia grandis*, *Tetraria capillaris*, and *Leptinella squalida* subsp. *squalida*. Three of these species are only known from this location in the Taneatua Ecological District, whilst burr reed is only known from one other site in the ecological district. These freshwater wetlands were identified as a Recommended Area for Protection (RAP) in the recent Protected Natural Area Programme survey of Taneatua Ecological District (Beadel *et al.* 1999).

Continuing on to Ruatuna Road, we stopped at the intersection of Ruatuna Road and SH2 to look at the small stand of pole kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*) near the harbour margin, and the stand of black beech (*Nothofagus solandri* var. *solandri*) on the ridge above SH2 on the eastern side of Ruatuna Road (both these areas are within RAPs). We then drove past the picturesque Pataua Island Scientific Reserve - protected for its mangrove communities, which reach their southern limit on the east coast of New Zealand in Ohiwa Harbour.

Near the corner of Ruatuna Road and Ohiwa Loop Road we stopped to look at the southern-most population of *Stipa stipoides* on the east coast of the North Island; this site was also identified as a RAP in the Taneatua PNAP survey.

Our next stop was the margins of Ohiwa Harbour along Ohiwa Harbour Road (near the motor camp) to search for an infestation of *Spartina* which had been recently reported. Unfortunately it was close to high tide and we could not locate it. However, a later visit to the harbour in April by the author and W.B. Shaw did locate the *Spartina*, which comprises five relatively small infestations. Environment BOP is planning to undertake control of these infestations shortly.

We then proceeded to the Waiotahi Spit. We walked along the sand dunes to the end of the spit, keeping a watchful eye out for *Austrofestuca littoralis* - but none was found. There was nevertheless a substantial population of pingao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*). This was of particular interest as pingao was not present when the reserve was surveyed in 1983 as part of the biological survey of reserves in the West Gisborne Land District (Regnier & Clarkson 1989). Spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*) was the dominant cover on the foredune, with *Calyptegia soldanella*, *Oxalis rubens*, *Lachnagrostis billardierei*, and sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*) also present. One tussock of marram (*Ammophila arenaria*) was observed and removal of this species should be of high priority.

After lunch in the shade of a large pohutukawa, looking out to sea near the eastern end of the spit, we crossed the spit and walked back along the harbour margin. Species observed near the end of the spit included kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum* var. *excelsum*), akeake (*Dodonaea viscosa*), *Senecio lautus*, and *Adiantum cunninghamii*. A few Sydney golden wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) shrubs were found, which should also be controlled.

As we neared Ohiwa Road we encountered salt marsh with contiguous freshwater wetlands. Several small populations of *Austrostipa stipoides* were discovered, which is a

new eastern limit for this species in the North Island. A total of 31 plants were found, several of which had been browsed by rabbits. These wetlands were enthusiastically explored until one of the party was stung by a wasp and we all retreated to the road. Several other new records for the reserve were found in this area, including *Baumea rubiginosa*, mangrove (*Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*), *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*, swamp millet (*Isachne globosa*), *Lobelia anceps*, and mangeao (*Litsea calicaris*).

Fernbird were heard in the wetland.

The species list from Clarkson and Regnier (1989) is reproduced below, with additions from this field trip. In total 28 new records were found (18 indigenous species and 10 adventive species).

REFERENCES

Beadel S.M.; Shaw W.B. and Gosling D.S. 1999: Taneatua Ecological District. Survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. Department of Conservation, Rotorua. 268 pp.

Clarkson B.R. and Regnier C.E. 1989: West Gisborne. *Biological Survey of Reserves Series Report No. 16*. 176 pp.

CHECKLIST OF VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES WAIOTAHU SPIT SCENIC AND HISTORIC RESERVE (from Clarkson and Regnier 1989, with additions made in March 2001)

Key

+ 2001 additions

Indigenous Species

Monocot. trees and shrubs

<i>Cordyline australis</i>	ti kouka
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	harakeke, flax

Dicot. trees and shrubs

<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i> s.s.	rangiora
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	taupata
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coriaria arborea</i> var. <i>arborea</i>	tutu
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> +	akeake
<i>Geniostoma rupestre</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>macroura</i>	koromiko
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi
<i>Litsea calicaris</i> +	mangeao
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i> var. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	pohutukawa
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Olearia solandri</i>	
<i>Ozothamnus leptophylla</i>	tauhinu
<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i> +	karo
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> subsp. <i>tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	marsh ribbonwood, makaka
<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i>	houpara

Weinmannia racemosa kamahi

Dicot. lianes

Calystegia sepium pohue
Calystegia soldanella panahi
Muehlenbeckia australis puka
Muehlenbeckia complexa pohuehue

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii huruhuru tapairu
Asplenium flaccidum s.s. makawe
Asplenium oblongifolium huruhuruwhenua
Asplenium polyodon petako
Blechnum novae-zelandiae s.s. + kiokio
Cyathea dealbata ponga
Cyathea medullaris mamaku
Doodia australis + pukupuku
Microsorium pustulatum kowaowao (hounds tongue fern)
Pellaea rotundifolia tarawera (button fern)
Pteridium esculentum rarahu (bracken)
Pteris tremula turawera (shaking brake)
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia + leather-leaf fern

Orchids

Earina mucronata s.s. peka-a-waka

Grasses

Austrostipa stipoides +
Cortaderia toetoe toetoe
Deyeuxia avenoides +

<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	patiti
<i>Isachne globosa</i> +	
<i>Lachnagrostis billardierei</i> +	perehia
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> subsp. <i>imbecillis</i>	
<i>Poa anceps</i> subsp. <i>anceps</i>	
<i>Rytidosperma gracile</i>	
<i>Rytidosperma unarede</i>	
<i>Spinifex sericeus</i>	kowhangatara

Sedges

<i>Apodasmia similis</i> [<i>Leptocarpus similis</i>]	<i>oioi</i>
<i>Baumea articulata</i>	
<i>Baumea juncea</i>	
<i>Baumea rubiginosa</i> +	
<i>Baumea tenax</i>	
<i>Bolboschoenus fluviatilis</i> +	ririwaka
<i>Carex flagellifera</i>	manaia
<i>Carex pumila</i> +	
<i>Carex testacea</i> +	
<i>Carex virgata</i>	purei
<i>Carex</i> sp. (<i>C. geminata</i> agg.)	rautahi
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	toetoe upokotangata
<i>Desmoschoenus spiralis</i> +	pingao
<i>Gahnia setifolia</i>	mapere
<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>	wiwi
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	
<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i>	
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	kamu, matau a Maui

Rushes

<i>Juncus gregiflorus</i> +	wi
<i>Juncus kraussii</i> subsp. <i>australiensis</i>	wi (sea rush)

Monocot. herbs (other than orchids, grasses, sedges and rushes)

<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	kahakaha
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	turutu
<i>Typha orientalis</i>	raupo

Composite herbs

<i>Lagenifera pumila</i>	papataniwhaniwha
<i>Senecio glomeratus</i>	
<i>Senecio lautus</i>	

Dicot. herbs (other than composites)

<i>Apium prostratum</i>	New Zealand celery
<i>Centella uniflora</i>	
<i>Chenopodium glaucum</i>	
<i>Drosera peltata</i> subsp. <i>auriculata</i>	
<i>Gonocarpus</i> sp.	
<i>Haloragis erecta</i> subsp. <i>erecta</i>	toatoa
<i>Lobelia anceps</i> +	punakuru
<i>Oxalis rubens</i> +	
<i>Pelargonium inodorum</i>	kopata
<i>Samolus repens</i>	makaokao
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>	
<i>Selliera radicans</i>	remuremu
<i>Stellaria decipiens</i> (incl. <i>S. minuta</i> and <i>S. parviflora</i>)	kohukohu
<i>Tetragonia tetragonoides</i>	kokihi
<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i>	

Adventive Species

Gymnosperms

Pinus radiata radiata pine

Dicot. trees and shrubs

Acacia sophorae + Sydney golden wattle

Albizia lophantha brush wattle

Crataegus monogyna hawthorn

Cytisus scoparius broom

Hydrangea macrophylla hydrangea

Juglans sp. + (seedlings) walnut

Lupinus arboreus lupin

Lycium ferocissimum African boxthorn

Prunus sp. plum

Rosa sp. (climbing rose)

Rubus sp. (*R. fruticosus* agg.) blackberry

Salix cinerea grey willow

Ulex europaeus gorse

Dicot. lianes

Vitis vinifera grape

Grasses

Ammophila arenaria + marram

Anthoxanthum odoratum sweet vernal

Briza major

Bromus diandrus ripgut brome

Cynodon dactylis Indian doab

<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> +	crested dogstail
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
<i>Elytrigia pycnantha</i>	sea couch
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	harestail
<i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>	
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	kikuyu grass
<i>Schedonorus phoenix</i> [<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>]	tall fescue
<i>Sporobolus africanus</i> +	ratstail
<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i> +	buffalo grass

Monocot. herbs (other than orchids, grasses, sedges and rushes)

<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	three-cornered garlic
<i>Canna indica</i>	canna lily
<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>	wild ginger

Composite herbs

<i>Achillea millefolium</i> +	yarrow
<i>Aster subulatus</i> +	sea aster
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Conyza albida</i>	fleabane
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	catsear
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly lettuce
<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>	hawkbit
<i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	ragwort
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	puha

Dicot. herbs (other than composites)

<i>Atriplex</i> sp. +	
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea rocket
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	hemp
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	ice plant
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	mouse-ear chickweed
<i>Chenopodium album</i> +	fathen
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	milkweed
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel
<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	scrambling fumitory
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Geranium molle</i>	dove's foot
<i>Lotus angustissimus</i>	slender birdsfoot trefoil
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	forget-me-not
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	broomrape
<i>Oxalis</i> sp.	oxalis
<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>	inkweed
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	narrow-leaved plantain
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheep's sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	dock
<i>Silene gallica</i>	catchfly
<i>Sison amomum</i>	stone parsley
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade
<i>Stellaria media</i>	chickweed
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
<i>Vicia sativa</i> +	vetch