

## MALEME BUSH SCENIC RESERVE FIELD TRIP

Paul Cashmore and John Hobbs

On a rather cold, showery day on 7 April 2002 6 members set off to explore one of the least visited scenic reserves in the Rotorua-Taupo area – Maleme Bush Scenic Reserve (NZMS 260 U16 833 106). This is a 17ha forest reserve surrounded by farmland on the eastern side of Maleme Rd with the forest area separated from the road by farmland.

Upon entering the reserve we were immediately struck by the sheer number of healthy mangaeo seedlings carpeting the understorey. Wherever we walked in the reserve there were copious amounts of mangaeo seedlings. Many people commented that they have never seen such a dense cover of mangaeo. Also present were occasional “albino” mangaeo – seedlings apparently lacking any chlorophyll. However few saplings or seedlings taller than about 10cm were noted suggesting that these seedlings do not survive long term.

In the canopy mangaeo was abundant with most trees in a healthy state, unlike many other stands of this species elsewhere in the Bay of Plenty which are experiencing significant dieback. This reserve along with the nearby Puaiti Bush Scenic Reserve has the southernmost protected mangaeo in the central North Island (Spring-Rice *in press*).

Heading north through an area of fire-induced kamahi forest we crossed a gully and came across several large emergent specimens of matai and rimu. These were obviously large trees that had escaped milling. In the understorey ferns were abundant, particularly *Lastreopsis glabella* and *Leptopteris hymenophylloides*. It wasn't long before we reached the western boundary with the farm which we then followed.

After stopping for lunch we crossed a small ridge which contained some impressively large mangleo specimens. We headed into the main gully which was dry where we walked up the gully until the farm boundary was again reached. In the bottom of this gully a rather large basin revealed four large matai trees in close proximity, again obviously remnants of the original forest. The rimu and matai are a notable feature of this reserve and it is one of the few remaining in the district with large podocarps still present (King 1984). McKelvey (1963) cited in Beadel (1995) suggests that the presence of these podocarps along with abundant mangleo suggests pre-European clearance of the forest and subsequent regeneration. One matai tree was completely hollow around the base and contained a very active wasp nest high in its limbs. It was notable that apart from two kahikatea seedlings close to the entry point no other kahikatea, or miro were seen in the reserve.

We wandered down the dry gully walking parallel with the reserve boundary before returning to the entry point on an old bulldozer track. Near here we came across a mapou tree the largest that many of us had seen. It was a canopy tree with a measured circumference of 94 cm. Other species of note included abundant large trees of tree fuchsia, occasional raukawa and a very large rewarewa tree. An unusual bright blue-green fungus was noted, later identified by Ian Hood (Forest Research) as *Chlorosplenium aeruginosum*. Being in the middle of dactylanthus flowering season a keen eye was kept for any sign of plants but none were noted. It is likely that the reserve has been grazed in the past.

Overall the reserve was in reasonably good condition with healthy canopy trees and abundant regeneration of a range of plant species in the understorey. Ungulate numbers were low with probably an occasional deer residing in the reserve from time to time. Possum control had been undertaken in the past by

the neighbour (P. Alley *pers. comm*). It was pleasing to visit a reserve and compile a species list that was dominated by indigenous species with no serious ecological weed species noted, probably as a result of the reserves isolation from human dwellings and limited public access. All the exotic species noted were seen around the boundaries of the reserve.

## REFERENCES

King, D.R. 1984. Botanical survey of Maleme Scenic Reserve. Unpublished Report, D.S.I.R., Rotorua.

McKelvey, P.J. 1963. The Synecology of the West Taupo Indigenous Forest. *N.Z Forest Service Bulletin 14*, cited in Beadel, S.M 1995. Vegetation and flora of lands administered by Bay of Plenty Conservancy, Department of Conservation, Rotorua. *Wildland Consultants Ltd Contract report No. 130*.

Spring-Rice, B.N. *in press*. Atiamuri Ecological District. Survey Report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. Department of Conservation, Rotorua.

**CHECKLIST OF VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES IN  
MALEME BUSH SCENIC RESERVE**

John Hobbs

**Fern Allies**

|                             |           |      |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------|
| <i>Tmesipteris elongata</i> | fork fern | rare |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------|

**Ferns**

|                                  |            |        |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| <i>Anarthropteris lanceolata</i> | lance fern | common |
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|                             |                     |        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| <i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> | hen & chickens fern | common |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------|

|  |  |      |
|--|--|------|
| <i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i><br>x <i>A. flaccidum</i> |  | rare |
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|                            |                    |        |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| <i>Asplenium flaccidum</i> | hanging spleenwort | common |
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| <i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i> | shining spleenwort | common |
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|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| <i>Asplenium polyodon</i> | sickle spleenwort | common |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|

|                            |      |        |
|----------------------------|------|--------|
| <i>Blechnum chambersii</i> | nini | common |
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|                           |             |        |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------|
| <i>Blechnum filiforme</i> | thread fern | common |
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|                                 |        |        |
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| <i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i> | kiokio | common |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|

|                         |             |        |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------|
| <i>Cyathea dealbata</i> | silver fern | common |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------|

|                           |        |            |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|
| <i>Cyathea medullaris</i> | mamaku | occasional |
|---------------------------|--------|------------|

|                        |                |      |
|------------------------|----------------|------|
| <i>Cyathea smithii</i> | soft tree fern | rare |
|------------------------|----------------|------|

|                          |             |            |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i> | wheki-ponga | occasional |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|

|                            |       |        |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| <i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i> | wheki | common |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|

|                           |                    |            |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| <i>Diplazium australe</i> | southern lady fern | occasional |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|

|                            |            |        |
|----------------------------|------------|--------|
| <i>Histiopteris incisa</i> | water fern | common |
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|                               |            |            |
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| <i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i> | filmy fern | occasional |
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| <i>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</i> | filmy fern | occasional |
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|                                |            |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <i>Hymenophyllum flexuosum</i> | filmy fern | occasional |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|

|                                     |                      |            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| <i>Hymenophyllum rarum</i>          | filmy fern           | occasional |
| <i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i> |                      | piripiri   |
|                                     |                      | common     |
| <i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>         | smooth shield fern   | common     |
| <i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>          | rough fern           | occasional |
| <i>Leptolepia novae-zelandiae</i>   | hare's foot fern     | occasional |
| <i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i> | heruheru             | common     |
| <i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>       | maratata             | common     |
| <i>Microsorium scandens</i>         | moki                 | common     |
| <i>Paesia scaberula</i>             | lace fern            | occasional |
| <i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>     | gulley fern          | common     |
| <i>Polystichum vestitum</i>         | prickly shield fern  | common     |
| <i>Pteridium esculentum</i>         | bracken              | common     |
| <i>Pteris tremula</i>               | turawera             | occasional |
| <i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>        | leather-leaf fern    | common     |
| <i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>        | leathery shield fern | rare       |
| <i>Trichomanes venosum</i>          | veined filmy fern    | common     |

### **Gymnosperms**

|                                 |           |            |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| <i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i> | kahikatea | occasional |
| <i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>    | rimu      | occasional |
| <i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>    | matai     | occasional |

### **Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs**

|                              |           |            |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| <i>Aristotelia serrata</i>   | wineberry | common     |
| <i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>    | tawa      | occasional |
| <i>Brachyglottis repanda</i> | rangiora  | occasional |
| <i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>  |           | occasional |

|   |                 |            |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| <i>Coprosma robusta</i>                     | karamu          | occasional |
| <i>Coriaria arborea</i> var. <i>arborea</i> | tutu            | common     |
| <i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>                  | fuchsia         | common     |
| <i>Geniostoma rupestre</i>                  |                 |            |
| var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>                  | hangehange      | occasional |
| <i>Hedycarya arborea</i>                    | pigeonwood      | common     |
| <i>Knightia excelsa</i>                     | rewarewa        | common     |
| <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>               | manuka          | common     |
| <i>Litsea calicaris</i>                     | mangeao         | common     |
| <i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>                 | mahoe           | common     |
| <i>Myrsine australis</i>                    | mapou           | common     |
| <i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>              | kohuhu          | common     |
| <i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>                 | five-finger     | occasional |
| <i>Pseudopanax crassifolium</i>             | lancewood       | rare       |
| <i>Raukawa edgerleyi</i>                    | raukawa         | occasional |
| <i>Schefflera digitata</i>                  | pate            | common     |
| <i>Solanum aviculare</i>                    | poroporo        | rare       |
| <i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>                  | kamahi          | common     |
| <b>Dicotyledonous Lianes</b>                |                 |            |
| <i>Clematis paniculata</i>                  | clematis        | occasional |
| <i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>                 | white rata vine | common     |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>              | pohuehue        | occasional |
| <i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>               | scrub pohuehue  | occasional |
| <i>Rubus cissoides</i>                      | bush lawyer     | common     |
| * <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> aggr.             | blackberry      | common     |

### **Dicotyledonous Herbs**

|                                  |                        |            |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| * <i>Achillea millefolium</i>    | yarrow                 | common     |
| <i>Cardamine</i> sp.             | bitter cress           | occasional |
| * <i>Conyza albida</i>           | broad-leaved fleabane  | common     |
| * <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>      | foxglove               | common     |
| <i>Hydrocotyle elongata</i>      | long-stemmed pennywort | occasional |
| * <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>      | lotus                  | common     |
| * <i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i> | Australian fireweed    | common     |
| * <i>Senecio jacobea</i>         | ragwort                | common     |
| * <i>Solanum nigrum</i>          | black nightshade       | common     |
| <i>Stellaria parviflora</i>      |                        | rare       |

### **Monocotyledonous Trees, Shrubs & Lianes**

|                           |            |        |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|
| <i>Ripogonum scandens</i> | supplejack | common |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|

### **Orchids**

|                         |             |            |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>Earina mucronata</i> | peka-a-waka | occasional |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|

### **Grasses**

|                              |           |        |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| * <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> | browntop  | common |
| * <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>  | cocksfoot | common |

### **Sedges**

None

### **Rushes**

None

### **Other Monocotyledonous Herbs**

|                              |         |        |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <i>Astelia</i> sp.           | astelia | common |
| <i>Collospermum hastatum</i> |         | common |

\* adventives