

CONSERVATION WEEK TRIP TO THE FITZGERALD GLADE (TUKOREHE SCENIC RESERVE)

John F.F. Hobbs

With the weather forecasts improving with each day as Sunday approached so did the prospects of a great day walking through Fitzgerald Glade. On the day a group of 28 people of diverse ages assembled near the Fitzgerald Glade Café. The group of 5 from Rotorua were joined by several from the Waikato Botanical Society and a large group from the Waikato Forest & Bird plus a local farming family. After a brief welcome and a full on safety warning about the fast moving traffic along this busy stretch of road we all made it safely into the forest.

Fitzgerald Glade is more or less a remnant of the forest which covered the Mamaku Plateau prior to the logging boom of the 1940s through to the late 1960s when basically the forest was logged for the most profitable species ie. podocarps (kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferrugineus*) and rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*)). Later large areas were felled for tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) then clear felled and burnt for farming and exotic forestry. The reserve is administered by the South Waikato District Council.

Stepping over the roadside swath of wandering willie (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) we entered a whole new world of wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*), tawa, kanono (*Coprosma grandifolia*), hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*) and masses of young nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) and the beautiful jointed fern (*Arthropteris tenella*) climbing up much of the shrubbery. The occurrence of the jointed fern here is somewhat unusual in that most descriptions give its distribution as coastal to lowland. Soon a very large matai was encountered and there was much discussion as to how old it was and why it had survived the logging. Estimates of age settled out at 600 years plus and that it survived because it was hollow and of low economic value. Shortly after a very large kahikatea was spotted and the same discussion occurred with much the same result. This tree was male and as no younger kahikatea of any age were seen it may well be the only one in the reserve. No other matai were seen so the same may apply to this species too.

After lunch we headed south and crossed the road to explore the narrow band of flat ground between the road and a steep drop into the south. Several young rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) were noted (none were seen on the northern side of the road). One of the delights of bush at this time of the year was koropapa (*Alseuosmia macrophylla*) just coming into flower and all within earshot were encouraged to have a sniff.

On return to the car park, near the café, a large titoki in full fruit was admired.

**SPECIES LIST FOR FITZGERALD GLADE
(TUKOREHE SCENIC RESERVE)**

Map: T15, Grid Ref: 634 517

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Ferns and Fern allies

<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	common maidenhair
<i>Anarthropteris lanceolata</i>	lance fern
<i>Arthropteris tenella</i>	jointed fern
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	hen & chicken fern
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	hanging spleenwort
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	shining spleenwort
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	sickle spleenwort
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	nini
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	crown fern
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	thread fern
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	kiwakiwa
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	silver fern
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku
<i>Cyathea smithii</i>	soft tree fern
<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>	wheki-ponga
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Diplazium australe</i>	southern lady fern
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	water fern
<i>Huperzia varia</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</i>	filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	piripiri
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>	
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	rough shield fern
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	heruheru
<i>Loxogramme dictyopteris</i>	lance fern
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> ssp. <i>pustulatum</i>	hound's tongue fern
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	fragrant fern
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gulley fern
<i>Polystichum wawranum</i>	shield fern
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	sweet fern
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	leathery shield fern
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>	fork fern
<i>Tmesipteris lanceolata</i>	
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	veined filmy fern

Gymnosperms

<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai

Dicot trees and shrubs

<i>Alectryon excelsa</i> ssp. <i>excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	karapapa
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	red-fruited coprosma
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	kotukutuku
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangaero
<i>Macropiper excelsa</i> ssp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Nestegis</i> sp.	maire
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five-finger
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i>	turepo
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi

Dicot lianes and related trailing plants

<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	clematis
* <i>Humulus lupulus</i> var. <i>lupulus</i>	hop
<i>Metrosideros colensoi</i>	rata vine
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	rata vine
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	rata vine
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	rata vine
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	pohuehue
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	NZ jasmine
<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>	passion vine
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer
* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	blackberry

Dicot herbs

* <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> var. <i>hirsuta</i>	bitter cress
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
* <i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Galium perpusillum</i>	
* <i>Gamochaeta coarctata</i>	cudweed
* <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb Robert
<i>Hydrocotyle heteromeria</i>	waxweed
* <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	catsear
* <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Solanum americanum</i>	nightshade
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	sow thistle
* <i>Stellaria media</i> ssp. <i>media</i>	chickweed
* <i>Veronica arvensis</i>	field speedwell

Monocot trees and lianes

<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack

Orchids

<i>Drymoanthus adversus</i>	green fleshy orchid
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	peka-a-waka

Grasses

* <i>Bromus willdenowii</i>	prairie grass
* <i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	meadow rice grass
* <i>Poa annua</i>	annual poa
* <i>Schedonorus arundinaceous</i>	tall fescue

Other monocot herbs

<i>Astelia solandri</i>	astelia
<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	
<i>Collospermum microspermum</i>	
* <i>Crocasmia</i> x <i>crocasmiflora</i>	montbretia
<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
* <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	wandering willie
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	kamu