

FIELD TRIP TO THE ROTOMA HILLS

John F.F. Hobbs

The majority of the bush to the north of State Highway (SH) 30 and east of Matahi Road makes up a large part of the Lake Rotoma Scenic Reserve. Other parts include the northern catchment, and various parcels of bush on the eastern side of the lake together with a large area south of SH 30.

On Sunday 6th November 2011 six members of the Rotorua Botanical Society gathered at the summit of State Highway 30 over the Rotoma Hill. A car was then taken to the proposed exit point on Matahi Road. When the driver returned (in another car) we entered the forest and headed generally in a north-easterly direction with the initial aim of reaching the highest point of the Lake Rotoma Scenic Reserve (520m). The first comments made on entering the bush questioned the mentality of those who drive to the top of the hill to dump their rubbish.

Further into the bush after the initial barrier of supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) botanising started in earnest. Of real interest in the first gully was the amount of peretao (*Blechnum colensoi*) and turepo (*Streblus heterophyllus*) along with some nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) and various species of tree fern. Up on the ridge we found large specimens of matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*), hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*) and titoki (*Alectryon excelsus* subsp. *excelsus*). In the lower stories were karapapa (*Alseuosmia macrophylla*) not yet in flower and on the ground crown fern (*Blechnum discolor*). Following the ridge to the north-east we had a short break during which one of us lightly scraped some leaf litter and discovered some specimens of pixie cap orchids (*Acianthus sinclairii*).

Moving off to the north-east again we found a wind-blown tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) in a broad gully where several plants of Scotch thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), a young kotukutuku (*Fuchsia excorticata*), water fern (*Histiopteris incisa*) and round-leaved willow herb (*Epilobium rotundifolium*) had taken advantage of the increased light levels. Nearby, eagle-eyed Paul

spotted a mida (*Mida salicifolia*), and a puka (*Griselinia lucida*) growing in a large pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*).

Near the crest of the ridge were some large specimens of lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*) one of which was draped with a flowering *Clematis paniculata*. On the crest of the ridge that swung around, to the south-west towards the high point which we dubbed 'Hill 520', some epiphytic bulb-leaved orchid (*Ichthyostomum pygmaeum*) were noted along with some large specimens of heketara (*Olearia rani* var. *colorata*). Also at the top were several plants of clematis each with a variety of leaf shapes but consensus suggested that they were *Clematis cunninghamii*. We did not get good views of Lake Rotoma despite the steep drop-off to the west of the summit due to the fairly low dense -blown canopy.

After lunch we headed north-eastwards and came across a large wind-blown rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) in the crown of which we found a bamboo orchid (*Winika cunninghamii*), a specimen of *Collospermum microspermum*, not normally found at this low altitude in the Rotorua area, and clumps of *Hymenophyllum rarum*. On the disturbed ground around the root plate we found native chickweed (*Stellaria parviflora*) and stinging nettle (*Urtica incisa*).

Near the summit of Hill 491 amongst a patch of tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), we found solitary specimens of *Coprosma spathulata* and *Carmichaelia australis*, two species rare in the Rotorua district. A view of Kawerau inline with Putauaki to the east was visible through the trees. We then made our way westwards out of the reserve to Matahi Road, sampling on the way some gullies infested with supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) as a change from the easy-going ridge-top travelling. As fortune would have it shortly after we started heading homewards the weather took a turn for the worse with heavy drizzle starting to fall.

LAKE ROTOMA SCENIC RESERVE
(That part east of Matahi Rd & north of SH 30)

John F.F. Hobbs

* = adventive species

FERNS & FERN ALLIES

<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	hen and chickens fern
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	petako-paraharaha
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	huruhuruwhenua
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	petako
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	rereti
<i>Blechnum colensoi</i>	peretao
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	crown fern
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	panako
<i>Blechnum membranaceum</i>	
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	gully tree fern
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	silver fern
<i>Cyathea smithii</i>	soft tree fern
<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>	wheki-ponga
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Diplazium australe</i>	
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	matata, water fern
<i>Huperzia varia</i>	hanging clubmoss
<i>Hymenophyllum multifidum</i>	filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum rarum</i>	thin filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	piripiri
<i>Hymenophyllum scabrum</i>	rough filmy fern
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>	
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	heruheru
<i>Loxogramme dictyopteris</i>	lance fern
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	hounds tongue fern
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	mokimoki
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gully fern
<i>Polystichum wawranum</i>	common shield fern
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	sweet fern
<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	leather-leaf shield fern
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>	fork fern
<i>Tmesipteris tannensis</i>	fork fern
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	

GYMNOSPERMS

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

DICOTS

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i> subsp. <i>excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	karapapa
<i>Aristolelia serrata</i>	makomako, wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	makaka, maukoro
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Clematis cunninghamii</i>	ngakau-kiore
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	puawananga
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma spathulata</i> subsp. <i>spathulata</i>	
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Epilobium nummulariifolium</i>	
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	kotukutuku
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange
* <i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved geranium
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Haloragis erecta</i> subsp. <i>erecta</i>	toatoa
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri
* <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	catsear
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Laurelia novae-zealandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangeao
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i> subsp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	rata
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	rata
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	aka
<i>Mida salicifolia</i>	mida
* <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou

<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire
<i>Olearia rani</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	heketara
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	akakaikiore
<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i>	tawhirikao
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five finger
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood
<i>Rubus cissoides</i> agg.	tataramoa
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
* <i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed
<i>Stellaria parviflora</i>	kohukohu
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i>	turepo
<i>Urtica incisa</i>	
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamaha, tawhero

MONOCOTS

<i>Acianthus sinclairii</i>	
* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara
<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	kahakaha
<i>Collospermum microspermum</i>	
<i>Corybas trilobus</i> agg.	spider orchid
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	peka-a-waka
<i>Gabnia pauciflora</i>	takahikahi
<i>Ichthyostomum pygmaeum</i>	bulb-leaf orchid
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	common greenhood
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	kareao, supplejack
* <i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	tradescantia
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	kamu, matau a Maui
<i>Winika cunninghamii</i>	winika