

## MATAWHARA BLUFF FIELD TRIP

**John F.F. Hobbs**

The Matawhaura Bluff is a prominent landmark extending from Lake Rotoiti in the west to Lake Rotoehu to the east. It rises to a high point of 578 metres at roughly halfway between the two lakes, but its 250 metre rise above the western boundary of the Hinehopu Scenic Reserve, overlooking Lake Rotoiti, is its most impressive feature.

The Rotorua Botanical Society last visited this area in February 1998 as a substitute field trip (Fitzgerald 1998). On this trip the group of four joined a party from the Tauranga Tramping Club and tackled the direct approach and found a marked track up the steep way. Although our original intention was to find this route for our trip I decided that the easiest way would be to traverse the whole ridge east to west. After meeting at the Wishing Tree on SH 30 we moved to the eastern end of Hongi's Track then walked along a vehicle track for approximately one kilometre before entering the bush. Of note, while passing beside the shore of Lake Rotoehu, were two specimens of *Sophora fulvida* which appear to have been planted by persons unknown, but they sparked some discussion on who would want to plant these shrubs where they would be appreciated by so few. When I first found these plants I thought they or their parents may have been planted by the Maori but later I found more *Sophora* (recently planted) on a nearby old pa site and another area close by within the Scenic Reserve.

Carrying on up the well used farm track we had knocked off some altitude (80 m, 200 to go) before entering the bush. The first species that attracted my attention was Hooker's spleenwort (*Asplenium hookerianum*), which I had missed on a foray a year earlier. Further on up a reasonably well used track we came across a clearing created by some tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) and mangeao (*Litsea calicaris*) having been blown over by wind several

years previously. Of note here were two species of *Hydrocotyle* (*H. dissecta* and *H. microphylla*), *Lastreopsis glabella*, and shaking brake (*Pteris tremula*) and a solitary specimen of poroporo (*Solanum aviculare*). Once up on the main ridge we observed some large specimens of rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*), hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*) and blown over across the track a specimen of white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*). There was some discussion here as to its identity with initial ID as *N. cunninghamii* until Gael pointed out the dark petioles. The forest on the bluff is mainly tawa/mangeao with scattered kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), rimu, rewarewa, hinau and occasional patches of nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*).



View looking just south of west from the Matawhaura trig (Ngongotaha slightly left of centre)

Shortly after midday we arrived at the trig site where we were presented with a magnificent vista under a clear blue sky sweeping from Maungawhakarua (728m) in to the south-east, clockwise around to Mt Maunganui (231m) to the north-west, including Tarawera (1111m), Makatiti Dome (934m), Whakapoungakau (758m), Ngongotaha (757m), Otanewainuku (645m) and Te Aroha (952m) and a view along Lake Rotoiti with Lake Rotorua in the distance. What better place to have lunch. The vegetation around the trig befitted the exposed site – stunted kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*), soft mingimingi (*Leucopogon fasciculatus*), totara (*Podocarpus totara*), lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*), scrambling clubmoss (*Lycopodium volubile*), snowberry (*Gaultheria antipoda*),

tawari (*Ixerba brexioides*), *Morelotia affinis*, manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium* agg.), pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferrugineus*), tawheowheo (*Quintinia serrata*), *Drymoanthus adversus* and lawyer (*Rubus cissoides*). On the way back we found a few species missed on the way towards the trig and of significance to Paul was his spotting a solitary northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*).

To round off the day we had a look at an old pa site above Lake Rotoehu that was very impressive as a defensible site due to its very steep surroundings. Of note here were *Grammitis ciliata* on a fine pumice bank and kamahi supporting a reasonably large population of *Drymoanthus adversus*.

## REFERENCE

Fitzgerald Joan 1998 Hinehupu Bluffs Sunday 22 February 1998 Rotorua Botanical Society News March.

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## VASCULAR PLANTS NOTED ON MATAWHAURA BLUFF

John Hobbs

### Ferns & Fern Allies

<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	hen and chickens 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 novae-zelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	gully tree fern
<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>	matata, water fern
<i>Huperzia varia</i>	hanging clubmoss
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	irirangi
<i>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</i>	broad filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum rarum</i>	filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum revolutum</i>	filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	piripiri
<i>Hypolepis rufobarbata</i>	
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>	
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	
<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i> subsp. <i>pentangularis</i>	
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	heruheru
<i>Loxogramme dictyopteris</i>	lance fern
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i>	waewaekoukou
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	hounds tongue fern
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	mokimoki
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	matata
<i>Polystichum silvaticum</i>	
<i>Polystichum wawranum</i>	common shield fern
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	sweet fern
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	shaking brake
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>	fork fern
<i>Tmesipteris tannensis</i>	fork fern
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	

### Gymnosperms

<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu
<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>	Hall's totara
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai

### Dicots

<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>	piripiri
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i> subsp. <i>excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	karapapa
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	makomako, wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora
* <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	
* <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	California thistle
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle

<i>Clematis cunninghamii</i>	ngakau-kiore
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	puawananga
* <i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	fleabane
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coriaria arborea</i> var. <i>arborea</i>	tutu
* <i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i>	cotoneaster
* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
* <i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	American fireweed
* <i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish heath
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange
* <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb Robert
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Haloragis erecta</i> subsp. <i>erecta</i>	toatoa
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri
<i>Hydrocotyle dissecta</i>	hydrocotyle
<i>Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae</i> var. <i>novae-zeelandiae</i>	hydrocotyle
<i>Ixerba brexioides</i>	tawari
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Kunzea</i> aff. <i>ericoides</i> (c)	kanuka
<i>Laurelia novae-zeelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> agg.	manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangeao
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus
<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 excelsa</i>	pohutukawa
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	rata
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	aka
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	puka
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	pohuehue
* <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	garden forget-me-not
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Nestegis cunninghamii</i>	black maire
<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara
<i>Oxalis exilis</i>	creeping oxalis
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	akakaikiore

* <i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	water pepper
<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i>	tawhirikao
* <i>Potentilla indica</i>	Indian strawberry
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five-finger
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood
<i>Quintinia serrata</i>	tawheowheo
<i>Rubus cissoides</i> agg.	tataramoa
* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	blackberry
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
* <i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed
<i>Solanum aviculare</i> var. <i>aviculare</i>	poroporo
<i>Stellaria parviflora</i> agg.	native chickweed
* <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse
<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i>	NZ harebell
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi

### Monocots

* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara
<i>Carex forsteri</i>	
<i>Carex testacea</i>	
<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	kahakaha
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	forest cabbage tree
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	turutu
<i>Drymoanthus adversus</i>	green fleshy orchid
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	peka-a-waka
<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
<i>Gabnia pauciflora</i>	takahikahi
<i>Ichthyostomum pygmaeum</i>	bulb-leaf orchid
* <i>Juncus tenuis</i> var. <i>tenuis</i>	track rush
<i>Libertia grandiflora</i>	mikoikoi
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack
<i>Uncinia banksii</i>	Banks's hook-sedge
<i>Uncinia distans</i>	hook-sedge
<i>Uncinia scabra</i>	hook-sedge
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	common bastard grass
<i>Winika cunninghamii</i>	winika

\* = naturalised species