

WHAKAMARAMA WETLANDS

Kerry Jones (all photos by author)

The Rotorua Botanical Society was invited to join the Waikato Botanical Society on a visit to the Whakamarama Wetlands, in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. A boardwalk has been installed on an old tramway. Sphagnum moss and *Astelia* have dominated the swamp, but now podocarps are emerging and other forest vegetation is regenerating.

I was surprised when I turned up on 20th February 2016 at the Whakamarama Hall in the Lower Kaimai Ranges to see so many cars. I guess there were about 20 people all up. We did a round of introductions and Anne Mackersey, our host for the day from the Whakamarama Landcare Group, told us a bit about the area and the work that the group had been doing. The road into the car park had been improved since I was last in the area about five years ago.

Near the edge of the bush we noted *Carex solandri*. Just inside the bush on the track heading north from the car park were *Dicksonia squarrosa* and mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*). It didn't take long to get into tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) forest mixed with silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*), *Alseuosmia macrophylla* and hen and chicken fern (*Asplenium bulbiferum*). Supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) occurred just off the track and selaginella (*Selaginella kraussiana*) was pointed out to Anne and her team as a weed that could do with some control.

The tawa forest petered out and we came out into a clearing where we encountered ring fern (*Paesia scaberula*), water fern (*Histiopteris incisa*), bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*), *Hypolepis distans*, kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*) and some short mahoe wao (*Melicytus lanceolatus*).

A bit further along there was a gully full of flax (*Phormium tenax*) and toetoe (*Cortaderia fulvida*) with lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*) protruding over the tops. Anne pointed out some kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydiodes*) planted by Rob McGowan of Nga Whenua Rahui, about the year 2000.

We crossed the stream at the bottom of the gully and headed south into a short cutting from an old tramline. In the cutting was the moss *Dawsonia superba*, *Hymenophyllum flabellatum*, bush cabbage tree (*Cordyline banksia*) and tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*) with occasional juvenile rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) and mapau (*Myrsine australis*).

Out of the cutting the bush opened up and we discussed three *Juncus* species that were present: *Juncus prismatocarpus*, *Juncus effusus* and *Juncus planifolius*. Into another cutting (*below left*) we found the ferns *Hymenophyllum frankliniae*, *Hymenophyllum dilatatum*, *Blechnum chambersii*, creek fern (*Blechnum fluviatile*), crown fern (*Blechnum discolor*) and kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*) all growing on banks. Kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) and *Alseuosmia macrophylla* were also seen in the cutting.



The second cutting

Out of the second cutting, to the left was the stream that would eventually flow into the wetland that was further ahead. We could see off to the side of the track a remnant of an old rail from the tramline. It was here that we stopped to look at a large tawari (*Ixerba brexioides*), a small *Raukawa anomalus* and a juvenile hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*).

We came out into a clearing that led to a wetland where we found the sundew *Drosera binata* and the orchid *Microtis unifolia*. The local Landcare group had built a boardwalk across part of the wetland here, where we decided to stop for lunch.



The Wetland

After lunch we looked around in the wetland. The main species were tangle fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa*), *Gabnia xanthocarpa*, toetoe (*Cortaderia fulvida*), turutu or ink berry (*Dianella nigra*), with occasional *Eleocharis acuta*. On a raised section we found horopito (*Pseudowintera axillaris*), and wheki ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*) with a long *Tmesipteris elongata* growing on it.

Emerging above the wetland we could see tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) and lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*).



Discussion on the mosses growing on a log

We left the wetland and continued to head south along the track. Growing not far from the track was a large mountain maire (*Nestegis montana*). At the track junction we headed back towards the car park on a track where there were a number of rimu with kanano (*Coprosma grandifolia*) and toro (*Myrsine salicina*). Further up the hill we were back into tawa forest and we saw the shield fern (*Lastreopteris hispida*). Not far from the stream crossing we saw umbrella fern (*Sticherus cunninghamii*) and puka (*Griselinia lucida*). As we got close to the car park we encountered hange hange (*Geniostoma rupestre*) and we started seeing selaginella

again. The two most interesting plants of the day were mahoe wao and mountain maire, which I would have not expected to see at an elevation of 360 metres.

It was a great day out and a good chance to catch up with the locals and see the good work they had done to improve the site. Thanks to Anne for hosting us for the day.

**NGAMARAMA LOOP TRACK (AND COMBINED PARTS),
WHAKAMARAMA – SPECIES LIST**

G Donaghy; G Jane, 24 February 2012

Map: BD36 1860570 5816145

Note: Species list prepared on a previous visit

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides

Podocarpus laetus

Dacrydium cupressinum

Prumnopitys ferruginea

Phyllocladus trichomanoides

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis

Cordyline pumilio

Cordyline banksii

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Alseuosmia macrophylla

Leptocophylla juniperina subsp. *juniperina*

Aristolotelia serrata

Leptospermum scoparium scoparium

Beilschmiedia tawa

Leucopogon fasciculatus

* *Berberis glaucocarpa*

* *Leycesteria formosa*

Brachyglottis repanda

Melicytus lanceolatus var. *lanceolatus*

Coprosma x *cunninghamii*

Melicytus ramiflorus

Coprosma grandifolia

Myrsine australis

Coprosma lucida

Myrsine salicina

Coprosma robusta

Nestegis cunninghamii

* *Cotoneaster franchetii*

Nestegis lanceolata

Elaeocarpus dentatus

Nestegis montana

* *Erica lusitanica*

Olearia rani var. *colorata*

Fuchsia excorticata

Pseudopanax arboreus

Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. *ligustrifolium*

Pseudopanax colensoi var. *colensoi*

Griselinia littoralis

Pseudopanax crassifolius

Griselinia lucida

Pseudowintera axillaris

Hebe stricta var. *stricta*

Quintinia serrata

Hedycarya arborea

Raukawa anomalus

Ixerba brexioides

* *Salix cinerea*

Knightia excelsa

Schefflera digitata

Kunzea ericoides var. *ericoides*

* *Ulex europaeus*

Laurelia novae-zelandiae

Weinmannia racemosa

Monocotyledonous lianes

Freycinetia banksii

Ripogonum scandens

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Clematis paniculata

Metrosideros diffusa

Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros perforata
Muehlenbeckia australis
Parsonsia heterophylla

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

Lycopodium deuterodensum
Lycopodium scariosum
Lycopodium volubile

Ferns & fern allies

Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum discolor
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum fluviatile
Blechnum fraseri
Blechnum nigrum
Blechnum novae-zealandiae
Blechnum vulcanicum
Cyathea cunninghamii
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Cyathea smithii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Diplazium australe
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum dilatatum
Hymenophyllum flabellatum
Hymenophyllum flexuosum

Orchids

Caladenia bartlettii
Chiloglottis cornuta
Corybas acuminatus
Corybas oblongus
Corybas trilobus
Dendrobium cunninghamii

Rubus australis
Rubus cissoides
* *Rubus fruticosus*

Phlegmariurus varius
* *Selaginella kraussiana*

Hymenophyllum frankliniae
Hymenophyllum multifidum
Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum
Hymenophyllum rarum
Hymenophyllum revolutum
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Hymenophyllum scabrum
Hypolepis rufobarbata
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Loxogramme dictyopteris
Lygodium articulatum
Microsorium pustulatum subsp. *pustulatum*
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia
Rumobra adiantiformis
Sticherus cunninghamii
Tmesipteris elongata
Trichomanes elongatum
Trichomanes venosum

Drymoanthus adversus
Earina autumnalis
Earina mucronata
Genoplesium nudum
Microtis unifolia
Pterostylis aff. *montana*

Pterostylis banksii
Pterostylis cardiostigma

Grasses

* *Agrostis capillaris*
* *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Austroderia fulvida
* *Dactylis glomerata*
* *Eragrostis brownii*
* *Holcus lanatus*

Sedges

Carex dissita
Carex solandri
Carex uncinata
Eleocharis gracilis
Gahnia pauciflora
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa

Rushes and allied plants

* *Juncus articulatus*
* *Juncus bulbosus*
Juncus edgariae
* *Juncus effusus* var. *effusus*

Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

* *Aristea ecklonii*
Astelia fragrans
Astelia grandis
Astelia hastata
Astelia solandri
Astelia trinervia

Daisy-like herbs

* *Achillea millefolium*
* *Cirsium palustre*
* *Conyza sumatrensis*
* *Crepis capillaris*
Euchiton japonicus
Euchiton limosus

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies

Acaena anserinifolia
* *Acaena novae-zelandiae*

Thelymitra longifolia
Thelymitra pauciflora

Microlaena avenacea
Microlaena stipoides
* *Miscanthus nepalensis*
* *Paspalum dilatatum*
Rytidosperma gracile

Isolepis reticularis
* *Isolepis sepulcralis*
Machaerina rubiginosa
Machaerina tenax
* *Rhynchospora capitillata*
Schoenus maschalinus

* *Juncus microcephalus*
Juncus planifolius
Juncus prismatocarpus
* *Juncus tenuis* subsp. *tenuis*

* *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*
Dianella nigra
Libertia micrantha
Phormium tenax
Typha orientalis

* *Gamochaeta coarctata*
* *Hypochaeris radicata*
* *Jacobaea vulgaris*
* *Leontodon saxatilis*
* *Leucanthemum vulgare*
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum

* *Cardamine hirsuta* var. *hirsuta*
* *Centaurium erythraea*

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies

Centella uniflora

* *Digitalis purpurea*

Drosera binata

Epilobium rotundifolium

Gonocarpus micranthus

Gonocarpus montanus

Haloragis erecta subsp. *erecta*

Hydrocotyle dissecta

Hydrocotyle microphylla

Hydrocotyle moschata var. *moschata*

Lobelia anceps

Lobelia angulata

* *Lotus pedunculatus*

Nertera depressa

Nertera dichondrifolia

* *Phytolacca octandra*

* *Plantago lanceolata*

* *Prunella vulgaris*

* *Ranunculus flammula*

Ranunculus reflexus

* *Ranunculus repens*

* *Trifolium repens*

Viola filicaulis

* Adventive species