

WHAKAUMU (MILITARY) TRACK

G. Donaghy & G. Jane

During the disturbances of the 1860s several tracks were established to provide access through the Urewera and adjacent forests, particularly around Opotiki. The tracks were well-benched and of easy grade, snaking across the landscape. The Wakaumu Track was one of these, leading from Opotiki towards Toatoa. Currently the lower part is progressively being developed as a mountain bike track.

On 5 March 2016 we drove up Block Road, a forest road that provides access to a start point at a saddle at the head of the Mangakirikiri Stream. This is the top end of the current mountain bike track.

From there we followed the track downstream towards its lower end on Tirohanga Road. The grade was very easy often with high banks and cuttings from the original construction over 150 years ago. The forest had been heavily modified by logging, perhaps 50 years ago, providing a very varied vegetation.

We started at the edge of a plantation but were soon away from its influences. The gullies contained tall old rimu and pukatea standing out over tawa, nikau, kohekohe and tree ferns with tangles of supplejack and kiekie, while the ridges supported kamahi, rewarewa, tanekaha, hinau, kanuka and hard beech. The early part of the track was newly cleared and gravelled. Here weeds such foxglove, lotus, wall lettuce, *Gamochaeta coarctata*, gorse and inkweed were new along the track but rare apart from at the start, near the plantation. As we progressed further from the road and pine plantation, the track became less developed in stages (work in progress) until just the old track was lightly cleared of vegetation.

Common plants near the early part of the track were "recent" regeneration, mostly tall tree ferns (especially wheki), tutu, rewarewa, mahoe and pate. The tree ferns meant that the understorey was rich in ferns, especially filmy ferns and the tiny *Tmesipteris*; both *T. elongata* and *T. lanceolata*. Climbing ratas (three species) were quite common with

Metrosideros fulgens in flower. In the damper track corners with small streams, pate and mahoe were common with *Blechnum fluviatile*, *Pneumatopteris pennigera*, *Lastreopsis hispida* and *L. glabella* common on the ground. Tall oat grass and hook grass were yet to establish along the new track edges, although they were more common later where it was less disturbed.

As we ventured further, plants of mature forest such as *Quintinia serrata*, *Astelia trinervis* and *Dracophyllum latifolium* appeared along with *Sticherus cunninghamii*. In one area of hard beech forest *Coprosma spathulata* was quite abundant. The odd rimu was heavily laden with epiphytes including *Phlegmariurus varius* nearly two metres long and masses of *Astelia hastata*.

On the warmer corners plants such as kanuka, hinau and tanekaha provided a more open forest with orchids such as *Pterostylis trullifolia* locally abundant. Here we also found the odd *Dianella nigra* and *Libertia ixioides*. Also, epiphytes such as *Earina autumnalis*, *E. mucronata*, *Dendrobium cunninghamii* and *Astelia solandri* were more evident. As the track again became less developed *Trichomanes elongatum* appeared as expected on an undisturbed, shaded track bank. It was just beginning to get interesting with many plants of mature forest present and little disturbance from track clearance. But too soon we had to turn around and retreat to the vehicles, scarcely a km away, showing what a leisurely trip it had been.

WHAKAUMU (MILITARY) TRACK, SPECIES LIST

G Jane, 5 February 2016

Map: BE411 985150 5780040

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

Lycopodium volubile waewae-koukou; climbing clubmoss
Phlegmariurus varius (*Huperzia*, *Lycopodium*) hanging clubmoss; iwituna

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii maiden hair fern
Asplenium bulbiferum hen and chickens fern; moku
Asplenium flaccidum ss hanging spleenwort; makawe
Asplenium oblongifolium shining spleenwort
Blechnum chambersii nini; lance fern
Blechnum discolor crown fern; piupiu; petipeti
Blechnum filiforme climbing hard fern; thread fern
Blechnum fluviatile kiwakiwa; kiwikiwi
Blechnum novae-zelandiae (B "black spot lowland") kiokio
Cyathea dealbata ponga; silver fern
Cyathea medullaris mamaku; korau; black tree fern
Dicksonia squarrosa wheki; harsh tree fern
Hymenophyllum demissum (*Mecodium*) piripiri; irirangi
Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum (*Trichomanes reniforme*) kidney fern; raurenga
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum blood-scented filmy fern
Lastreopsis glabella felted fern
Lastreopsis hispida hairy fern, hairy legs
Leptopteris hymenophylloides single crepe fern; heruheru
Loxogramme dictyopteris (*Anarthropteris lanceolata*)
Microsorium pustulatum subsp. *pustulatum* hounds tongue; kowaowao
Paesia scaberula scented fern; matata; ring fern
Pneumatopteris pennigera gully fern; pakau; pakauharoha
Polystichum wawranum (*P. richardii* pp.) common shield fern; pikopiko
Sticherus cunninghamii umbrella fern; kotuku; tapuwae
Tmesipteris elongata
Trichomanes elongatum (*Selenodesmium*) bristle fern
Trichomanes venosum veined bristle fern

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Dacrydium cupressinum rimu, red pine
Phyllocladus trichomanoides tanekaha; celery pine
* *Pinus radiata* Monterey pine; radiata
Podocarpus laetus (*P. hallii*, *P. cunninghamii*) Hall's totara; thin bark totara

Prumnopitys ferruginea

miro; brown pine

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Aristotelia serrata

wineberry; makomako

Beilschmiedia tawa

tawa

Brachyglottis repanda

rangiora; bushman's friend

Carpodetus serratus

putaputaweta; marbleleaf

Coprosma grandifolia

raurekau; kanono; mamono

Coprosma lucida

karamu; shining karamu

Coprosma robusta

karamu

Coprosma spathulata subsp. *spathulata*

Coriaria arborea var. *arborea*

tree tutu

Dracophyllum latifolium agg. (*D. mathewsii*)

needle-leaved neinei

Dysoxylum spectabile

kohekohe

Elaeocarpus dentatus

hinau

Fuchsia excorticata

fuchsia; kotukutuku

Fuscospora truncata (*Nothofagus*)

hard beech; tawhairaunui

Gaultheria antipoda

snowberry; tawiniwini

Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. *ligustrifolium*

hangehange; privet

Griselinia lucida

puka

Hebe stricta var. *stricta* ss.

koromiko

Hedycarya arborea

pigeonwood; porokaiwhiri

* *Hypericum androsaemum*

tutsan

Knightia excelsa

rewarewa; NZ honeysuckle

Kunzea robusta

kanuka

Laurelia novae-zelandiae

pukatea

Leucopogon fasciculatus

mingimingi; kaikaitau

Melicytus ramiflorus

mahoe

Myrsine australis

red matipo; mapou

Nestegis lanceolata

white maire

Olearia rani var. *colorata*

heketara

Piper excelsum subsp. *excelsum* (*Macropiper*)

kawakawa; pepper tree

Pittosporum tenuifolium

black matipo; kohuhu

Pseudopanax arboreus

five-finger; puhou; whaupaku

Pseudopanax crassifolius

lancewood; horoeka

Quintinia serrata agg. (*Q. acutifolia*; *Q. elliptica*)

Westland quintinia; tawheowheo

Schefflera digitata

pate; patae; kotete

Solanum laciniatum

poroporo

* *Ulex europaeus*

gorse

Vitex lucens

pururi; kauere

Weinmannia racemosa

kamahi; towai; tawhero

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

<i>Clematis cunninghamii</i> (<i>C. parviflora</i>)	scented clematis; pokopoko
<i>Clematis paniculate</i>	clematis; puawhananga
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	white climbing rata; akatea
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	scarlet rata; winter rata
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	aka; small white rata; torotoro
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	poheuheu
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	Maori jasmine; kaihu; kaiwhiria

Daisy-like herbs

* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (<i>C. lanceolatum</i>)	Scotch thistle
* <i>Conyza sumatrensis</i> (<i>C. albida</i> , <i>Erigeron</i>)	fleabane
* <i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
* <i>Erechtites hieraciifolia</i>	American fireweed
* <i>Gamochaeta coarctata</i> (<i>G. spicata</i>)	
* <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> (<i>Hypochoeris</i>)	catsear
* <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
* <i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed
* <i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	perennial sow thistle

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies

* <i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	wavy bitter cress
* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Geranium solanderi</i> agg. (<i>G. pilosum</i>)	
<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i> var. <i>moschata</i> (<i>H. sibthorpioides</i>)	
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> (<i>L. major</i> ; <i>L. uliginosus</i>)	lotus major
<i>Nertera depressa</i> agg. (<i>N. cunninghamii</i> ; <i>Coprosma</i>)	common nertera
<i>Oxalis exilis</i> ss. (<i>Xanthoxalis</i>)	yellow oxalis; creeping oxalis
* <i>Phytolacca octandra</i>	inkweed
<i>Solanum nodiflorum</i>	small-flowered nightshade
* <i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	hedge woundwort
<i>Stellaria parviflora</i>	
<i>Urtica incisa</i> (see also <i>U. sykesii</i>)	stinging nettle
<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i> (<i>W. trichogyna</i> ; <i>W. gracilis</i>)	blue harebell; rimu-roa

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau
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Monocotyledonous lianes

<i>Freycinetia banksii</i> (<i>F. baueriana</i> var.)	kiekie
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack; kareao

Sedges

Carex megalepis (*Uncinia ferruginea*)

Carex uncinata (*Uncinia*)

Gahnia pauciflora

Gahnia setifolia

Isolepis reticularis (*Scirpus*)

Morelotia affinis

Schoenus maschalinus

watu

Rushes and allied plants

* *Juncus effusus* var. *effusus*

* *Juncus tenuis* subsp. *tenuis*

Luzula congesta

soft rush

track rush

Grasses

* *Agrostis capillaris* (*A. tenuis*)

* *Cortaderia selloana*

* *Holcus lanatus*

Microlaena avenacea

Microlaena stipoides

Oplismenus hirtellus subsp. *Imbecil*

* *Rytidosperma racemosum*

browntop

pampas

Yorkshire fog

bush rice grass; oat grass

forest rice grass

oat grass

Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

Astelia hastata (*Collospermum*)

Astelia solandri

Astelia trinervia

Dianella nigra

Libertia ixioides

kahakaha

kowharawhara

blueberry; turutu

mikoikoi; native iris

Orchids

Corybas trilobus (*Nematoceras*)

Dendrobium cunninghamii (*Winika*)

Earina mucronata

Pterostylis trullifolia (*Diplodium trullifolium*)

bamboo orchid

spring orchid; peka-a-waka

trowel-leaved orchid