

ARAHIWI RAILWAY SCENIC RESERVE, MAMAKU

Paul Cashmore

Sunday 8 August 2016 dawned a very cold but clear day at Mamaku. Eleven individuals met up at the local store and headed around the corner to the Mamaku Cemetery to visit Arahiwi Railway Scenic Reserve. This is a large block of rimu/tawa forest in five sections running parallel with Arahiwi Road to the west of Mamaku township which to my knowledge has not been visited before by Rotorua Botanical Society.

After some car shuffling we crossed through the paddock behind the cemetery and into the forest proper. Not long after entering the forest we came across a large *Pittosporum kirkii* which was still attached epiphytically to its host tree, which had toppled over in the strong winds in previous days. This was an uncommon opportunity to see such a rarely seen shrub at close range.

The group then fanned out through the forest noting the abundance of pikopiko (*Asplenium bulbiferum*) in the understorey along with an abundance of kanono (*Coprosma grandifolia*). We wandered through the flat terrain noting a tomo in one place as we headed west toward the wetland area.

The forest is an unlogged remnant of the once extensive rimu/tawa forest on the Mamaku Plateau. The fact that the block is unlogged is quite amazing given its close proximity and easy access to Mamaku – you can almost see the current Mamaku mill from the reserve! This recognises the long period of time the reserve has been set aside as part of the scenic railway corridor – the reserve was gazetted in 1932.

The reserve had many fine examples of large straight rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) emergent over a dense tawa (*Beilschmedia tawa*) canopy. The canopy was comprised of almost pure tall dense tawa forest. The subcanopy was relatively open with occasional mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*), wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*), and katote

(*Cyathea smithii*) present. As well as dense kanono and hen & chickens fern, toropapa (*Alseuosmia macrophylla*) was relatively common along with *Blechnum discolor*, *Blechnum chambersii* and pate (*Schefflera digitata*). *Raukawa anomalus* was noted sparsely scattered through the reserve. Raukawa (*Raukawa edgerleyi*) was also relatively common both as an epiphyte on wheki and growing terrestrially on the ground as a sapling. We noted the different leaf shapes of the juvenile forms of this species.

We reached the wetland edge managing to get a glimpse of several *Carex* spp. amongst a lot of standing water. The wetland edge was characterised by toetoe (*Austroderia fulvida*) with scattered blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and many fallen trees, mainly tawa making access difficult especially with high water levels. This wetland has expanded in size in the past decade or so (pers. obs.) partly as a result of increased formation of channels caused by runoff from nearby Arahiwi Road, resulting in the death of some of rimu/tawa forest. However, on the flipside, some nice wetland habitat has been created in its place.

The group worked its way around the edge of the wetland keeping in the dry tawa forest. Another windfall brought with it a fine example of *Pittosporum cornifolium* seen on the ground with some large unripe fruit present. At the western end of the first section beside Achilles Rd we ascended a tor. On top of the tor small tawari trees (*Ixerba brexiodes*) were abundant although few were seen elsewhere in the reserve. *Gaultheria antipoda* and broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*) were also present.

We left the reserve at this point noting horopito (*Pseudowintera colorata*) locally common in the understorey and returned back to the cemetery parking area for some lunch. Two of our party departed here and another arrived.

After lunch we head back into the reserve this time following the northern forest edge back to the wetland. We noted a few weed species on the forest edge here, namely ivy (*Hedera helix*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and a large tree of cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). We admired the

wetland from the dry edge noting abundant *Carex* spp., amongst which *Carex virgata* was confirmed. *Muehlenbeckia australis* was common scrambling amongst the dry clumps of vegetation in the wetland and forest edge. Here was the only place in the reserve that we noted kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) trees and saplings present in relative abundance. After a quick discussion about wetland vegetation we headed back to the vehicles.

It was good to see a relatively pristine example of indigenous forest on the Mamaku plateau with a dense understorey. As confirmed by Mamaku local Willie Ducree, who joined us for the trip, the reserve has no deer and low possum numbers. It was a very pleasant area to visit on a windy cold winter's day with easy access from Mamaku. The remaining group decided a visit to King Hill Scenic Reserve in Mamaku township would finish off a leisurely winter's day, leaving the remaining sections of Arahiwi Railway Scenic Reserve to be explored another time.





Photos of Arahiwi Railway Scenic Reserve, by Bryce McQuillan.

ARAHIWI RAILWAY SCENIC RESERVE (EASTERN BLOCK)

G Jane & G Donaghy

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

Phlegmariurus varius (*Huperzia*, *Lycopodium*) hanging clubmoss;
iwituna

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum hen and chickens fern;
moku
Asplenium flaccidum ss hanging spleenwort;
Asplenium oblongifolium (*A. lucidum*) shining spleenwort
Asplenium polyodon (*A. falcatum*) sickle spleenwort
Blechnum chambersii (*B. lanceolatum*) nini; lance fern
Blechnum discolor crown fern; piupiu;
Blechnum fluviatile kiwakiwa; kiwikiwi
Blechnum novae-zelandiae (pp *B. capense*; "black spot lowland") kiokio
Cyathea dealbata (*Alsophila tricolor*) ponga; silver fern
Cyathea smithii (*Alsophila*) soft-leaved tree fern;

<i>Dicksonia fibrosa</i>	wheki-ponga; kuripaka
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki; harsh tree fern
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	water fern
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i> (<i>Mecodium</i>)	piripiri; irirangi
<i>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</i> (<i>Mecodium</i>)	lop-sided filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i> (<i>Mecodium</i>)	fan fern
<i>Hymenophyllum frankliniae</i> (<i>H. ferrugineum</i>)	
<i>Hymenophyllum rarum</i> (<i>Mecodium</i>)	wire-stemmed filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum revolutum</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	blood-scented filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum scabrum</i> (<i>Mecodium</i>)	coarse-haired filmy fern
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i> (<i>Rumohra</i>)	hairy fern, hairy legs
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i> (<i>Todea</i>)	heruheru
<i>Loxogramme dictyopteris</i> (<i>Anarthropteris lanceolata</i>)	
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> ssp. <i>pustulatum</i> (<i>Phymatosorus M. diversifolium</i>)	hound's tongue; kowaowao
<i>Microsorium scandens</i> (<i>Phymatosorus</i> , <i>Phymatodes</i>)	mokimoki; fragrant fern
<i>Notogrammitis billardierei</i> (<i>Grammitis</i>)	common strap fern
<i>Notogrammitis heterophylla</i> (<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>)	
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	scented fern; matata; ring fern
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i> (<i>Thelypteris</i> ; <i>Cyclosorus</i>)	gully fern; pakau;
<i>Polystichum vestitum</i>	prickly shield fern;
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i> (<i>P. aquilinum</i> var. <i>esculentum</i>)	bracken; rauaruhe
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i> (<i>P. serpens</i>)	leather-leaf fern
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	butcher's fern
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i> (pp <i>T. tannensis</i>)	
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	veined bristle fern

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

* <i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson's cypress
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i> (<i>Podocarpus</i>)	kahikatea, white pine
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu, red pine
<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	tanekaha; celery pine
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i> (<i>Podocarpus ferrugineus</i> ,	miro; brown pine

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	toropapa; shrubby honeysuckle
<i>Alseuosmia pusilla</i>	karapapa; mountain

<i>Aristolelia serrata</i>	honeysuckle
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i> (<i>C. australis</i>)	wineberry; makomako
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i> agg. (<i>C. polymorpha</i>)	raurekau; kanono;
<i>Coprosma tayloriae</i> (<i>C. parviflora</i> (t))	thorny coprosma
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	fuchsia; kotukutuku
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry; tawiniwini
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i> (<i>G. rupestre</i>)	hangehange; privet
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	broadleaf; kapuka
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood
* <i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	tutsan
* <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	holly
<i>Ixerba brexioides</i>	tawari
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	manuka; red teatree
* <i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	himalayan honeysuckle
<i>Melicytus lanceolatus</i> var. <i>lanceolatus</i>	narrow-leaved mahoe;
	mahoe-wao
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Myrsine salicina</i>	toro
<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i>	tawhirikaro; perching
	kohukohu
* <i>Pittosporum kirkii</i>	thick-leaved kohuhu
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laurel
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i> agg. (<i>Neopanax arboreum</i> , <i>N. kermadecensis</i>)	five finger; puhou;
<i>Pseudowintera axillaris</i>	whaupaku
<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>	horopito
	pepperwood;
	mountain horopito
<i>Raukawa anomalus</i> (<i>Pseudopanax</i> ; <i>Neopanax anomalum</i>)	whauwhaupaku
<i>Raukawa edgerleyi</i> (<i>Pseudopanax</i>)	rauakawa
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate; patae; kotete
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi; towai; tawhero

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	clematis; puawhananga
* <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	white climbing rata;
	akatea
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	pohuehue
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i> var. <i>capsularis</i>	small flowered
	jasmine; akakior
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	Maori jasmine; kaihu

<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i> (<i>Tetrapathaea</i>)	passionfruit; kohia
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer; tataramoa
* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. 19 micro species; P1119 V4	blackberry
<i>Rubus schmidelioides</i> var. <i>schmidelioides</i>	bush lawyer; tataramoa

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies

* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
* <i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
* <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree; ti-kouka
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Monocotyledonous lianes

<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack; kareao
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Sedges

<i>Carex imbecilla</i> (<i>Uncinia gracilentia</i>)	
<i>Carex secta</i>	niggerhead; pukio
<i>Carex uncinata</i> (<i>Uncinia</i>)	watu
<i>Carex virgata</i>	
<i>Carex zotovii</i> (<i>Uncinia</i>)	

Rushes and allied plants

<i>Juncus australis</i> (<i>J. vaginatus</i> also as a sep. sp.)	
* <i>Juncus effusus</i> var. <i>effusus</i> (<i>J. sarophorus</i> auct.)	soft rush

Grasses

<i>Austroderia fulvida</i>	kakaho; toetoe
* <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i> (<i>Ehrharta diplax</i>)	bush rice grass
* <i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i> (<i>S. phoenix</i> , <i>Festuca</i>)	tall fescue

Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

<i>Astelia fragrans</i>	bushflax; kakaha
<i>Astelia microsperma</i>	
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara

Orchids

<i>Dendrobium cunninghamii</i> (<i>Winika</i>)	bamboo orchid
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	Easter orchid; raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	spring orchid; peka-a-waka