

Waiotahi Scenic Reserve, 11 June 2017

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Waiotahi Scenic Reserve is a small (261ha), hilly reserve near Opotiki which rises from the true left bank of the Waiotahi River to a high point of approximately 250 m. The reserve was first gazetted in 1925, with additions in 1957 and 1983. B.D Clarkson conducted a botanical survey of the reserve in 1984, and compiled a species list; however, the reserve has not been visited by the Rotorua Botanical Society in recent years.

Eight RotBotSoc members from Rotorua (3), Hamilton (2) and Eastern BoP (3) gathered at the Waiotahi Hall on an absolutely beautiful June morning. We drove the ten minutes or so up the valley to Waiotahi SR, leaving our cars at a lightly frosted parking area off the road, and adjacent to the centre of the reserve. We did not have time to explore the whole reserve area, so our plan was to ascend one of the unmodified ridges near the centre of the block and then, if time permitted, to visit one of the more disturbed, kahikatea dominated river terraces downstream.

We first crossed the Waiotahi River which was only knee deep, very clear, and not really as cold as might have been expected for a June morning! We then began to ascend one of the central ridges passing at first through forest dominated by tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) and tree ferns, with abundant nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), some kiekie (*Freycinetia banksii*) off the sides, and shrubs including hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium*), *Coprosma spathulata*, and *C. grandifolia*.

The ridge then climbed steeply into a drier area, where the canopy started to feature hard beech (*Fuscospora truncata*), along with rewarewa (*Knighitea excelsa*) and hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*). *Olearia rani* (heketara) and *Gabnia pauciflora* were common on the dry ridge, and we began to see *Drymoanthus adversus* quite regularly on some of the

rewarewa. Kerry also spotted some *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum* (not previously recorded), and Lynne found a *Pterostylis*, which turned out to be *P. alobula*, amongst the leaf litter. *Mida salicifolia* (willow-leaved maire) and *Hebe parviflora* were both present in places just off the main ridge, and mangaeo (*Litsea calicaris*) was seen intermittently.

After some time, our ridge started to level out and numerous very large tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) began to appear, dominating the ridgetop canopy along with the hard beech. We stopped for a pleasant lunch in a sunlit patch, and then entered the first of several stands of black beech (*Fuscospora solandri*). These trees were numerous and healthy. Clarkson (1984) described the areas of black beech in this scenic reserve as the only sizeable stands west of the main divide in the Gisborne land district, and it was great to see them looking so good. Black and hard beech alternated in dominance as we travelled along the ridge, while *Carex healyi* (formerly *Uncinia scabra*) and occasional kidney fern (*Cardiomanes reniforme*) provided interest on the forest floor. We passed some hanging clubmoss (*Phlegmariurus varius*) and continued to a large patch of *Lycopodium deuterodensum* high on the ridge. Then at about mid-afternoon, we turned and retraced our route back down to the river.

In a small side creek back at river level we located a group of *Solanum* (poroporo) plants which Elizabeth later confirmed as *S. aviculare* var. *aviculare*. Then three of us headed downstream to explore one of the river terraces, while the rest of the group began the journey back to Rotorua.

Vegetation on the river terrace was dominated by a stand of relatively even-aged kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*). The bench was quite weedy (abundant *Ligustrum lucidum*, *Juglans ailantifolia*, *Tradescantia fluminensis*, *Rubus fruticosus*), with some history of cattle crossing the river to graze (Clarkson 1984) although this is now prevented by fencing. Non-palatables such as wheki-ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*) were common.

At the back of the terrace a single enormous kahikatea tree (with a DBH well in excess of a metre) emerged from the canopy to tower above the rest of the stand, apparently a remnant of the original forest. It was worth the walk to see this massive tree alone.

After a brief period of further exploration, we re-crossed the Waiotahi River to the road and strolled back to our cars. It had been a very pleasant winter's day in a really interesting little reserve. Many thanks to those of the group who came all the way from Rotorua and Hamilton to enjoy it with us.

Waiotahi Scenic Reserve – Observed Species List, 11 June 2017

Graeme Jane

* = naturalised species

= not previously recorded

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

Lycopodium deuterodensum

Lycopodium volubile

Phlegmariurus varius

puakarimu

waewaekoku

hanging clubmoss; iwituna

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii

Asplenium bulbiferum

Asplenium flaccidum

Asplenium oblongifolium

Asplenium polyodon

Blechnum chambersii

Blechnum discolor

Blechnum filiforme

Blechnum fluviatile

Blechnum novae-zelandiae

Blechnum parrisiae (*Doodia australis*)

Cardiomanes reniforme #

Cyathea cunninghamii

Cyathea dealbata

Cyathea medullaris

Deparia petersenii subsp. *congrua* #

Dicksonia fibrosa

Dicksonia squarrosa

Hymenophyllum demissum

Hymenophyllum dilatatum

Hymenophyllum flabellatum

Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum

Microsorium pustulatum ssp. *pustulatum*

Microsorium scandens

Paesia scaberula

Pellaea rotundifolia

maiden hair fern

hen and chickens fern

hanging spleenwort

shining spleenwort

sickle spleenwort

nini; lance fern

crown fern

climbing hard fern

kiwakiwa

kiokio

pukupuku; rasp fern

kidney fern; raurenga

slender tree fern

ponga; silver fern

mamaku; black tree fern

wheki-ponga

wheki; *harsh tree fern*

piripiri; irirangi

lop-sided filmy fern

fan fern

blood-scented filmyfern

hound's tongue; kowaowao

mokimoki; fragrant fern

scented fern; ring fern

tarawera; button fern

<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gully fern; pakau
<i>Polystichum wawranum</i>	common shield fern
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	sweet fern
<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather leaf fern
<i>Sticherus cunninghamii</i>	umbrella fern; kotuku
<i>Tmesipteris lanceolata</i>	

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea; white pine
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu; red pine
<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	tanekaha; celery pine
<i>Podocarpus totara</i> var. <i>totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro; brown pine

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Alectryon excelsus</i> ssp. <i>excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Aristolelia serrata</i> #	wineberry; makomako
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Berberis glaucocarpa</i> *	barberry
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora; bushman's friend
<i>Buddleja davidii</i> * #	buddleia
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta; marbleleaf
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	raureka; kanono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	shiny karamu
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma spathulata</i> ssp. <i>spathulata</i>	
<i>Coriaria arborea</i> var. <i>arborea</i>	tree tutu
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	fuchsia; kotukutuku
<i>Fuscospora solandri</i>	black beech
<i>Fuscospora truncata</i>	hard beech; tawhairaunui
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry; tawiniwini
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange; privet
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Hebe parviflora</i>	
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood; porokaiwhiri
<i>Juglans ailantifolia</i> *	Japanese walnut
<i>Knightsia excelsa</i>	rewarewa; NZ honeysuckle
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	manuka; teatree
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangeao
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> * #	tree privet
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	northern rata
<i>Mida salicifolia</i>	willow-leaved maire
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo; mapou
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire
<i>Olearia rani</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	heketara
<i>Piper excelsum</i> ssp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa; pepper tree
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> agg.	black matipo; kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five-finger; whaupaku
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood; horoeka
<i>Salix fragilis</i> *	crack willow

Schefflera digitata
Solanum aviculare var. *aviculare* #
Weinmannia racemosa

pate; kotete
poroporo
kamahi; towai

Dicot. lianes and trailing plants

Clematis paniculata
Metrosideros diffusa
Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros perforata
Parsonsia heterophylla
Passiflora tetrandra
Rubus cissoides
Rubus fruticosus agg.

clematis; puawhanaga
white climbing rata; akatea
scarlet rata
small white rata; torotoro
maori jasmine; kaiwhiria
passionfruit; kohia
bush lawyer, tataramoa
Blackberry

Dicot. herbs

Acaena novaezealandiae
*Callitriche stagnalis**
Haloragis erecta ssp. *erecta* agg.
*Mentha suaveolens**
*Persicaria maculosa**
*Phytolacca octandra**
*Prunella vulgaris**
Ranunculus reflexus
*Ranunculus repens**
*Trifolium dubium**

red bidibidi; piripiri
starwort
toatoa; shrubby haloragis
round-leaved mint

inkweed
selfheal
maruru; hairy buttercup
creeping buttercup
suckling clover

Monocot. trees and shrubs

Cordyline australis
Cordyline banksii
Rhopalostylis sapida

cabbage tree; ti kouka
forest cabbage tree
nikau

Monocot. lianes

Freycinetia banksia
Ripogonum scandens

kiekie
supplejack; kareao

Sedges

Carex geminata
Carex banksiana (*Uncinia banksii*)
Carex healyi (*Uncinia scabra*)
Carex secta
Carex virgata
Cyperus ustulatus
Gahnia pauciflora
Gahnia setifolia
Uncinia uncinata

niggerhead; pukio

coastal cutty grass

watu

Grasses

*Cortaderia selloana** #
*Cenchrus clandestinus** #
Microlaena avenacea

pampas
kikuyu grass
bush rice grass; oat grass

Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. *imbecillus*

oat grass

Remaining Monocot. Herbs

Astelia fragrans

kakaha

Astelia hastata

kahakaha

Astelia solandri

kowharawhara

Dianella nigra

blueberry; turutu

Phormium cookianum ssp. *cookianum*

mountain flax; wharariki

*Tradescantia fluminensis**#

tradescantia

Typha orientalis

raupo

Orchids

Bulbophyllum pygmaeum #

pigmy tree orchid

Drymoanthus adversus

Earina autumnalis

Easter orchid; raupeka

Earina mucronata

spring orchid; peka-a-waka

Pterostylis alobula #

Winika cunninghamii #