

## Buffalo Girl Track – TECT Park

Graeme Jane

The TECT All Terrain Park is at Te Matai, off the road between Tauranga and Rotorua, in the Kaimai-Mamaku area. We started out on a cold overcast August morning along the ice-encrusted former track of the Ngawaro Road. We began our cross-section of the typical secondary forest of Mamaku with prominent trees such as kamahi, tawari, tanekaha, toatoa, lancewood and five-finger and swathes of *Blechnum novae-zelandiae* hanging from the bank. Along the track edge were various grasses, especially browntop and *Miscanthus nepalensis* and the odd foxglove or ragwort. We soon spotted *Lycopodium scariosum* and the similar *L. volubile* and began our sharing of knowledge of ferns and fern allies.

Our eyes were suddenly taken by a straight line of white lichen with gaps and piles of lichen coincident with wobbles under a loose old fence. Much discussion followed. Apparently, water containing zinc from running down the wires had dripped to create the striking line. Several other less complete examples followed.

The first culvert revealed a typical deeply incised small Mamaku stream. It provided our first vista of unlogged forest in the deep gorge of the Upokotio Stream, nestled within the recently replanted pine forest of the TECT All Terrain Park. Here there were tall rimu over a broken tawa forest clothed in epiphytes such as kiekie and cascades of supplejack on the mahoe, pigeonwood and tawari sub-canopy.

Further on, the track edge dropped away steeply providing views into the canopy of the the toru, rewarewa and rimu where *Astelia solandri* or flowering *Metrosideros fulgens* were evident. The track margin contained swathes of *Lycopodium deuterodensum* and the odd *Lindsaea linearis*. The upper bank, though, provided a treasure trove including *Genoplesium nudum*, ably spotted by John Hobbs, on a roadside cliff, apparently in flower but actually

in fruit; the arching *Lycopodiella cernua*; stunted *Metrosideros fulgens* and *Quintinia serrata*. Further on we entered a tunnel of tawari and kamahi. Interesting plants here included abundant *Alseuosmia macrophylla* in bud, *Leptolepia novae-zelandiae* and *Hymenophyllum frankliniae*. The path itself was often a mass of the weedy *Carex demissa*.

After lunch near the pine forest edge we headed off, at a fast clip to warm up, along the gorge top between young plantation and native forest. A few new species here included *Melicytus lanceolatus*, seedling *Nestegis lanceolata* and lots of Himalayan honeysuckle. Twenty minutes later we re-emerged to descend across the gorge. The descent into the gorge brought us close to the mature rimu and to recent windfalls which provided a good opportunity to examine the epiphytes. We discussed distinguishing *Hymenophyllum multifidum* with its erect "chimney pot" sori from *H. demissum*; noted masses of *Dendrobium cunninghamii* and *Earina mucronata*; the tiny *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum* and *Drymoanthus adversus*. Looking out into the canopy, *Pittosporum cornifolium* was also spotted. Regaining the top of the gorge, our backup car and threatening rain provided an incentive for half the party to depart. From there, the route again traversed the boundary between young plantation and native forest in a flat walk back to the other vehicle. Noteworthy new plants included *Brachyglottis kirkii*, *Myrsine salicina*, hinau and *Gleichenia dicarpa*. The drizzle began as we reached the vehicle, marking a timely conclusion to the trip.

## Plant species observed – TECT Park walk August 2017

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Based on list compiled 18 November 2016

\* = naturalised species

<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>	<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>
* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>
<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	<i>Astelia microsperma</i>
* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	<i>Astelia nervosa</i>
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	<i>Astelia solandri</i>
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	<i>Astelia trinervia</i>
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	<i>Austroderia fulvida</i>

- Beilschmiedia tawa*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*Blechnum discolor*  
*Blechnum filiforme*  
*Blechnum fluviatile*  
*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*  
*Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
\* *Buddleja davidii*  
*Carex banksiana*  
\* *Carex demissa*  
*Carex dissita*  
*Carex megalepis*  
*Carex uncinata*  
\* *Cirsium arvense*  
\* *Cirsium vulgare*  
*Clematis paniculata*  
*Coprosma grandifolia*  
*Coprosma lucida*  
*Coprosma robusta*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Cordyline banksii*  
\* *Cortaderia selloana*  
*Corybas acuminatus*  
*Corybas oblongus*  
\* *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*  
\* *Crocasmia crocosmiiflora* X  
*Cyathea cunninghamii*  
*Cyathea dealbata*  
*Cyathea medullaris*  
*Cyathea smithii*  
*Dacrydium cupressinum*  
\* *Dactylis glomerata*  
*Dendrobium cunninghamii*  
*Dianella nigra*  
*Dicksonia fibrosa*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
\* *Digitalis purpurea*  
*Drosera auriculata*  
*Drymoanthus adversus*  
*Earina autumnalis*  
*Earina mucronata*  
*Elaeocarpus dentatus*  
*Epilobium pedunculare*  
*Epilobium rotundifolium*  
\* *Erica lusitanica*  
\* *Erigeron sumatrensis*  
\* *Eucalyptus saligna*  
*Euchiton japonicus*  
*Euchiton limosus*  
*Euchiton sphaericus*  
*Freycinetia banksii*  
*Gahnia pauciflora*  
*Gahnia setifolia*  
\* *Gamochaeta coarctata*  
*Gaultheria antipoda*  
*Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium*  
*Genoplesium nudum*  
*Gleichenia dicarpa*  
*Gonocarpus incanus*  
*Gonocarpus micranthus*  
*Griselinia littoralis*  
*Griselinia lucida*  
*Haloragis erecta* ssp. *erecta*  
*Hebe stricta* var. *stricta*  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Histiopteris incisa*  
\* *Holcus lanatus*  
*Hydrocotyle microphylla*  
*Hymenophyllum demissum*  
*Hymenophyllum dilatatum*  
*Hymenophyllum flabellatum*  
*Hymenophyllum frankliniae*  
*Hymenophyllum multifidum*  
*Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum*  
*Hymenophyllum rarum*  
*Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum*  
\* *Hypericum androsaemum*  
\* *Hypochaeris radicata*  
*Hypolepis distans*  
*Ixerba brexioides*  
\* *Jacobaea vulgaris*  
\* *Juncus effusus* var. *effusus*  
\* *Juncus tenuis* ssp. *tenuis*  
*Knightia excelsa*  
*Kunzea robusta*  
\* *Leontodon saxatilis*  
*Leptolepia novae-zelandiae*  
*Leptopteris hymenophylloides*  
*Leptospermum scoparium* var. *scoparium*  
\* *Leucanthemum vulgare*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
\* *Leycesteria formosa*  
*Lindsaea linearis*  
*Lobelia anceps*  
*Lobelia angulata*  
\* *Lotus pedunculatus*  
*Loxogramme dictyopteris*  
*Lycopodiella cernua*  
*Lycopodium deuterodensum*  
*Lycopodium scariosum*  
*Lycopodium volubile*  
*Lygodium articulatum*  
*Melicytus lanceolatus* var. *lanceolatus*  
*Melicytus ramiflorus*  
*Metrosideros diffusa*  
*Metrosideros fulgens*  
*Metrosideros perforata*

<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	<i>Pteris macilenta</i>
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> ssp. <i>pustulatum</i>	<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	<i>Pterostylis cardiostigma</i>
* <i>Miscanthus nepalensis</i>	<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i>
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	<i>Quintinia serrata</i>
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	<i>Ranunculus reflexus</i>
* <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	* <i>Ranunculus repens</i>
* <i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	<i>Rubus cissoides</i>
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
<i>Notogrammitis heterophylla</i>	* <i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i>
<i>Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae</i>	<i>Schefflera digitata</i>
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>
<i>Phlegmariurus varius</i>	* <i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>
<i>Phyllocladus toatoa</i>	* <i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>
<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	* <i>Sisyrinchium micranthum</i>
* <i>Pinus radiata</i>	* <i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
<i>Pittosporum colensoi</i>	* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i>	<i>Sticherus cunninghamii</i>
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	* <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	<i>Thelymitra carnea</i>
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>
* <i>Poa annua</i>	<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>
<i>Podocarpus laetus</i>	* <i>Thuja plicata</i>
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	<i>Toronia toru</i>
<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>	<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	* <i>Ulex europaeus</i>
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>