

ABS trip to Chatswood Reserve and Kauri Point Centennial
Park, August 1991

Kath Prickett

Auckland's North Shore is particularly well endowed with bush reserves. The Birkenhead-Northcote area boasts four whose names begin with "Kauri". If non-locals find this disconcerting, take comfort, it confuses the locals too. It is perhaps a measure of belated respect for the once dominant kauri forest of the area. Kauri Point Centennial Park is one of the four though ironically, it features no mature kauri and has a small ricker stand only. Chatswood on the other hand has several imposing specimens among its stands. Both reserves are contiguous and are located to the west of the Chelsea Sugar Refinery, forming that pleasant green coastal belt in the view to the left as one travels north over the Harbour Bridge.

Saturday, August 17, did not dawn auspiciously, being exceptionally cold, wet and squally. However, a small group of hardy souls turned out and gathered at the Mappin Place entrance to Chatswood Reserve where access to the "Loop Track" is easiest.

The morning was spent squelching and sliding our way around this track, admiring the particularly fine stand of kauri and podocarps at the head of the stream catchment and recording 8 species of orchids (some in bloom). The hymenophyllums and Leptopteris hymenophylloides looked superb on the dripping clay banks. The track between Mappin and Langstone Place gave an opportunity to observe the locally rare hard beech Nothofagus truncata in unusual association with kauri forest, and clumps of the scarce Loxosoma cunninghamii.

A squall at lunchtime sent us scurrying to our vehicles. Having transferred to the "Upper Entrance" to Kauri Point Centennial Park we were able to eat while viewing the southerlies sweeping in across the Waitemata, from the comfort of the car.

An exploration of the main tracks in the Park and a visit to the pa on Kauri Point were intended for the afternoon. We descended the track to Kendall Bay passing at the beginning thick tangles of Gleichenia dicarpa and G. microphylla. Pomaderris kumeraho and P. phyllicifolia var. ericifolia, Cordyline pumilio, Dracophyllum sinclairii and Drosera peltata were among the species given closer inspection before a downpour put a dampener on botanizing. The beach, which in most weathers is a tranquil and soothing spot, was bleak and unwelcoming when we reached it. After a brief search for Ranunculus acaulis, the persistent lashing rain forced us to abandon the rest of the trip.

No new species were added to the existing list (Ogden et al, 1989) as a result of this visit. On previous visits Pteris macilentata, Lycopodium varium, Tmesipteris tannensis, Alectryon excelsus, Macropiper excelsum and Rhabdothamnus solandri have been recorded by the author.

REFERENCES

- Norton, D.A. 1991. Vegetation and Flora of Chatswood Reserve, North Shore City, Auckland. Auckland Botanical Society Journal 46(1): 24-32.
- Ogden, J., Cameron, E.K., and Serra, R.G. 1989. Report on the Vegetation of Kauri Point Centennial Park, Birkenhead. Unpublished report. Department of Botany, University of Auckland.

ABS ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS to the Chatswood Reserve species list
(Norton, 1991)

Ferns

Lindsaea trichomanoides *Tmesipteris sigmatifolia* - confirmed

Dicotyledons

Alectryon excelsus *Rubus cissoides* (R. schmidelioides, mistake?)
Carmichaelia aligera *Solanum americanum*
Fuchsia excorticata *Vitex lucens*
Pseudopanax lessoni

Monocotyledons

Acianthus hericatus *Pterostylis alobula*
A. oblongus *P. graminea* s.s.
A. sinclairii *P. rubricaulis*
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum *P. trullifolia*
Cordyline australis x *C. pumilio* *Schoenus maschalinus*
C. pumilio - confirmed *Schoenus tendo*
Gahnia pauciflora *Uncinia banksii* - confirmed
G. setifolia *U. uncinata* (*U. clavata*, mistake?)
Juncus gregiflorus

Tangihua Forest, Northland - plant additions and an odd Adiantum

E.K. Cameron

Tangihua Range lies between Whangarei and Dargaville, the main rugged ridge runs for some 13 km north-west to south-east and reaches 627 m asl. The following notes were recorded during the Auckland University, Botany Department taxonomy field trip, based for the first time at the excellent Lions Lodge in the southern part of the forest. The presence of this new lodge and associated public access has markedly increased the number of visitors to the forest.

Bellingham (1985) compiled native vascular plant lists for the 17 former indigenous State Forests of Northland. This article notes additions to his Tangihua State Forest list of 249 taxa. The records are based on -

- 2½ hrs on the loop track by the Lodge, 26 Aug. 1991,
- 6 hrs up to the trig via the north-east tramping hut and returning the same way, 28 Aug. 1991,
- 2 earlier vouchered collections,

ADDITIONS TO TANGIHUA SPECIES LIST

L = loop track by Lodge, 60-210 m asl

H = near tramping hut, 140-300 m asl

T = upper ridge leading to trig, 400-627 m asl

AK = vouchered in Auckland Museum herbarium

AKU = vouchered in Auckland University Botany Department herbarium

Ferns

Adiantum cf. *cunninghamii* T, AK 200564 (*A. cunninghamii* recorded by Bellingham)

A. viridescens L & H (*A. fulvum* agg. recorded by Bellingham)