

Auckland Botanical Society Field Trip to Vinings Scenic Reserve, Hunua Ranges, 17 June 1995

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It was a cold misty midwinter day for the trip to the south of the Hunua Ranges but there was a great turnout as usual. Jack Mackinder as leader proposed three route options, A, B, and C, at least one of which included the Vinings trig. We met on the Mangatangi Dam access road. The track we chose followed the fenceline for part of the way and close by some kauri trials. The forest is variable regeneration after logging. In places kanuka is still the canopy plant.

Vinings Scenic Reserve is a good example of kauri (*Agathis australis*) and hard beech (*Nothofagus truncata*) growing together. Hard beech is rare on the Auckland isthmus occurring in pockets on the North Shore, and in a couple of small groves in the Waitakere Ranges, but it grows in some quantity in the Hunua Ranges. Towai (*Weinmannia silvicola*) also has its Auckland stronghold here. Mostly the kauri are all the same size indicating regeneration after milling. Other canopy trees include: matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*), towai, tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), and rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*). As we climbed, the cooler climate plants such as *Cyathea smithii* and *Quintinia serrata* became abundant. *Coprosma spathulata* is common. Also present are *C. rhamnoides*, *C. robusta* and *Pseudopanax anomalus* (a divaricating shrub), all additions to the species list published in the ABS Newsletter 1983. The latter species is recognised by round crenate leaves, paler beneath and a dark base to the leaf blade where it joins the winged petiole. With the help of Jack Rattenbury, we distinguished the variable *Alseuosmia quercifolia* from the similar-looking *Hedycarya arborea*. *Alseuosmia* has alternate leaves and reddish brown hairs at the base of the petiole, whereas pigeonwood has opposite leaves and flattened nodes. It was interesting to see *Olearia rani* and *O. furfuracea* growing together; *O. furfuracea* can be easily distinguished by its leathery leaf with gold tinted tomentose beneath. We saw *Metrosideros perforata* (distinct dots underneath the leaves), the vines *M. fulgens* and *M. diffusa* growing together, scrambling over low vegetation and stumps. We informally split into two broad groups: the trig conquerors and the others (who I suspect, chose option D). The weather remained still and overcast all day and it proved to be a pleasant day without rain.

ABS visit on 20/8/83: *Corybas cheesemanii* (in leaf), *C. acuminatus* (in flower), *Prasophyllum nudum* (in seed), *Pterostylis* "rubricaulis", *Hypolepis distans*, *Schizaea fistulosa*, *Tmesipteris elongata*.

Additions to the list from the ABS visit 17/6/95: *Cordyline pumilio* (ripe seed), *Gahnia pauciflora* (ripe seed), *Solanum aviculare*, *Uncinia zotovii*, *Collospermum microspermum* (we think), *Pterostylis alobula* (in flower), *Pseudopanax anomalus*, *Prumnopitys taxifolia*, *Hymenophyllum multifidum*, *Coprosma rhamnoides*, *C. robusta*, *Hydrocotyle dissecta*, *Morelotia affinis*, *Hypolepis rufobarbata*, and *Gonocarpus incanus*.

Thanks to Sandra Jones for the species list additions.

Notes on the vegetation and flora of Kaikoura Island

E. K. Cameron

Introduction

On 8 July 1995 I was part of a mixed group of nearly 30 people who visited Kaikoura (Selwyn) Island (535 ha), Fitzroy Harbour on the western side of Great Barrier Island (Figure 1). The visit was organised by the Save Our Islands Trust which recently formed to try to secure for public ownership the privately owned Kaikoura Island, which is on the open market. I was asked to record the flora and Chris Green, who was also present, was asked to record the fauna.