

Grasses

Lachnagrosis billardierei

L. littoralis subsp. *littoralis*

**Paspalum vaginatum*

Spinifex sericeus

**Stenotaphrum secundatum*

Zoysia minima

AK 229794

Z. pauciflora

Rush-like Monocotyledonous Herbs

Leptocarpus similis

Sedges

Isolepis cernua

I. nodosa

Dicotyledonous Composite Herbs

**Hypochoeris radicata*

Senecio lautus var. *lautus*

AK 229793

S. "Cuvier"

(unc)

AK 225317

Sonchus kirkii

(1 plant seen in October 1990)

**S. oleraceus*

Dicotyledonous Herbs (other than Composites)

Calystegia soldanella

Crassula decumbens

(unc)

AK 229792

C. sieberiana

(unc)

Dichondra aff. *brevifolia*

AK 226114

Disphyma australe var. *australe*

AK 226107

Einadia trigonos subsp. *trigonos*

(unc)

AK 229795

**Lotus pedunculatus*

**L. suaveolens*

Ranunculus acaulis

Sarcocornia quinqueflora subsp. *quinqueflora*

Selliera radicans

Total Taxa: 29

Total Adventive Taxa: 6

Total Indigenous Taxa: 23

There is Always Something New Around the Corner

Alistair MacArthur

The field trip on Saturday, 20th July 1996 led by Sandra Jones, made a circuit around many corners and steep ups and downs in the Cascade Kauri Park. This is in the northern part of the Waitakere Ranges. About 22 people braved the muddy conditions underfoot and set off up the track which leads high above the waterfall roaring in a hidden, rocky cleft. Soon we were high above the stream and track which is well known to thousands of summer visitors.

Part way up the first hill, someone about the middle of the column spoke up about "garlic fungus". A tiny sample of pungent-smelling fungus tissue was passed back hand-to-hand, till it ended in the hand that pens these words. It seemed that hardly anyone had experienced this strong smell by a forest track before. Calling the leaders of the party on the "walkie talkie" radio shed no light on the fungus. They seemed to find it difficult to comprehend that the tail of the party was surrounded by an aroma rather like a French bakeshop. Understanding came to them at the morning tea stop when the tail-enders caught up! Perhaps someone will tell us more about this fungus at an evening meeting or in

the next Bot. Soc. Journal. It was new to a number of people who must have walked thousands of kilometres in native forests.

The leaders laid down a trail of name tags at the edge of the track. This way of naming everything like tiny orchids or filmy ferns, or the tall trees, is very helpful. It was especially appreciated by several members who were new to the district. A wood pigeon paused from a meal of houhere foliage and watched, no doubt with amazement, as the file passed a few metres below, all muttering in Latin. The last one, with the smell of garlic, picked up the name tags. The pigeon shook its head and went back to its meal.

As far as I know, no one saw a cockatoo on this trip. This may seem a strange remark to anyone who doesn't know the area, but some magnificent birds live wild about the district. I well remember coming round a track corner before the kauri trees on the final ridge, startling a pair of birds. They let out a blood-curdling screech just below I saw them high in one of the trees, and they continued to reprimand myself and two companions as they flew away across the gully. No gentle "hulloes" from those magnificent free-flying specimens with their wide white wings flashing in the sunlight. Their tone seemed to imply something more like "Get to hello out of our territory!" It is interesting to speculate on what role, e.g., seed destruction / dispersal, these Australian bush rangers might play in their new home.

After lunch we moved up to Long Road, which leads out of the forest onto the open paddocks. This is the Pae O Te Rangi land, recently acquired to add to the park. Botanising is interesting around the forest edges, looking down towards Lake Wainamu. The open hill tops give clear views towards the Bethells (Te Henga) swamp nearby, and far to the north up to the Kaipara Harbour where so many other memorable trips have gone.

Returning home around the lower slopes of these north-facing hills, we passed substantial areas of fast growing young manuka. It is dispersing naturally onto the recently retired farm paddocks at the base of the steep hills. The nearby native forest should soon provide plenty of other seed, and regeneration will probably be rapid.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the outing, in spite of the mud. Thanks to Greg Wittmer, the Park Ranger, who came with us and gave valuable advice on the route to take home, as the plans were changed somewhat. He told us of his recent actions to deal with goats on the Pae O Te Rangi land and gave us a positive feeling for the future of the forest there. The trip gave insight into old forest with giant fallen trees, regeneration a few decades old, and the promise of new areas of regeneration. Thanks to all concerned.

Cascade-Kauri Park, Waitakere Ranges

Sandra Jones

Species recorded from the Upper Kauri Track from Cascade Carpark to junction with Lower Kauri Track; Lower Kauri Track; Pae o te Rangi on 20 th July 1996.

Ferns & Fern Allies

Adiantum cunninghamii
Adiantum hispidulum
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Blechnum "black spot"
Blechnum discolor
Blechnum fraseri
Ctenopteris heterophylla
Cyathea medullaris
Dicksonia squarrosa
Hymenophyllum demissum

Adiantum fulvum
Anarthropteris lanceolata
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum membranaceum
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea smithii (juvenile)
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum dilatatum