

It is not often that one catches Mr Cheeseman out, but a specimen of his from Nelson (AK 5120), collected in 1878 and named as *kaikomako*, provides an instance. Like the Great Barrier specimens, it too consists entirely of juvenile foliage, but the shoots are straight to curved, the older bark is smooth and reddish, and the lobes of the leaf blades are terminated by denticles. The stellate hairs on the blades confirm a redetermination as *Hoheria angustifolia*. It seems from the other material of the latter in AK that this might have been the first time Cheeseman encountered, or at least collected, this deceptive species.

Reference

Bartlett, J. K. & Gardner, R. O. 1983: Flora of Great Barrier Island. Auckland Botanical Society Bulletin no. 14.

Visit to the RNZ. Naval Armament Depot, Whangaparaoa. 9 October 1998

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One of the few expected duties of being an ABS committee member is to lead one of the monthly field trips. At the annual Committee meeting on the 7th April I suggested that we should have an August visit to the military land on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula as this was a restricted entry area where few botanists have ever visited. After numerous phone calls to Peter Leishman of the Whangaparaoa Army Base, Graeme Hambly and myself were granted permission for a reconnoitre in July.

The Army land proved to be less species diverse and in a younger stage of growth than we expected whereas the land nearer the tip of the Peninsula that was surrounded with a high security fence appeared to be more botanically exciting with some large kauri, pohutukawa and puriri. We did in fact come across clay banks covered in fruiting *Gaultheria antipoda*. Having botanised the Army land we came to the conclusion that we should try and organise the field trip to include this high security area which is administered by the RNZ Navy. Unfortunately, but not unexpected my request to bring a group of ABS members on a field visit was refused for security reasons. However, permission was granted to bring 3-4 persons onto this naval armament storage depot land to botanise and compile a species list.

Finally on the afternoon of the 9th October four of us were met and escorted through the security gates. There was an air of excitement especially when Maureen started telling us about how Lucy Cranwell had reported back in the 1940's of having seen *Pterostylis nutans* near a gun emplacement on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

There were many highlights that afternoon. Upon entering we were delighted to see clay banks covered in flowering *Pimelea longifolia* and the numerous other taxa usually associated with gumlands. Mats of *Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia* caught our attention with the undivided lamina measuring 20 - 25cm in length.

On the bush perimeter kowhai (*Sophora ? microphylla*) were in full flower. They appeared quite distinct with smaller flowers, zigzag immature growth and larger leaflets than typical *Sophora microphylla*.

Once down in the sheltered valley we were amazed at the good condition of the bush with little or no evidence of alien fauna or flora. We walked through a grove of ti kouka (*Cordyline australis*) with a dense undercover of *Pteris tremula* and then onto a drier area with large pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) and puriri (*Vitex lucens*). The discovery of a dozen or more flowering *Pterostylis banksii* 30-40 cm high brought us literally to our knees !

The importance of this area and the army land cannot be under estimated as it has the last remaining natural stand of kauri on the peninsula and also has the nearest naturally occurring vegetation to Tiritiri Matangi and adjoins the Shakespear Regional Park.

Unfortunately, Lucy's *Pterostylis nutans* eluded us on this visit but we are planning to return!

The RNZ Navy are to be congratulated on caring for this biologically important area and every effort must be made to see that its protection is guaranteed.