

Back at camp a little whittled rooster was waiting on the doorstep. "Greetings from Denmark" was the legend it bore. Steve climbed on the roof and cleaned out the spouting and the rest of us carried out a botanical survey of the contents.

The results were:

Dicotyledons

Coprosma robusta
Hypochoeris radicans
Leptospermum scoparium
Nertera depressa

Monocotyledons

Holcus lanata
Juncus gregiflorus
Juncus planifolius
Typha orientalis

Tuesday 25 April

After a clean up people went their various ways, some calling in at Forest Road to have a look at the camping ground at the far end of the forest.

Participants: Enid & Paul Asquith, Lisa Clapperton, Steve Cook, Carol & Garry McSweeney, Helen Preston-Jones, Alison Wesley, Maureen Young, and Ian Wilson, in part.



Flora of "Okahu Islet", Puhoi River

Enid Asquith, Graeme Hambly & Maureen Young

On the mangrove flats of the Puhoi River on the north side of Johnson's Hill, (the hill between the Waiwera River and the Puhoi River), is a small islet which is only surrounded by water at spring tides. We have taken the liberty of bestowing the name "Okahu" on this unnamed feature of the riverscape. The Okahu Creek lies to the north-west, the Okahu Creek Scenic Reserve bounds the main highway to the north of the creek, and the Okahu Block is the title of the land immediately to the south of the islet. The islet (map reference: NZMS 260 R10 606178) would be c. 50 m by 15 m (long axis NNW-SSE) by 6 m high at the highest point. It is c. 80 m from the nearest point of land, and can be reached at most tides in gumboots. The base is an outcrop of Waitemata sandstone that borders the Puhoi River at the NNW end of the islet, and it is topped by crumbly red clay.

The most prominent feature, especially when viewed from State Highway 1, is the crown of pine trees (*Pinus radiata*). Some shrubby pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) are evident about the base, but there is nothing to prepare the visitor for the variety of native plants to be found. The vascular flora numbers 56 species, 48 of which are indigenous. There are 12 sizable pine trees and some seedlings. The largest pines are at the NNW end, and apart from the normally epiphytic ferns, *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* and *Microsorium pustulatum*, which are here growing terrestrially, little grows under them. Away from the large pines, the commonest plant is, surprisingly, *Leionema nudum* (= *Phebalium nudum*). This is also common in the nearby Okahu Creek Scenic Reserve, though uncommon elsewhere in the district.

Conclusion

The large pine trees should be killed but not felled, as this would cause too much damage. The small pines, the one small macrocarpa, and a couple of large prickly hakea should be removed. Arthur Dunn from Puhoi is checking on the status of the islet, and will carry out this work if it is not privately owned.

Appendix: "Okahu Islet" flora, Puhoi River

Ferns (8)

Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Huperzia varia
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Hymenophyllum rarum
Microsorium pustulatum
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia

Gymnosperms (5)

Agathis australis
**Cupressus macrocarpa*
**Pinus radiata*
Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Podocarpus totara

Dicotyledons (26)

Apium prostratum

**Atriplex prostrata*
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma robusta
Corokia buddleioides
Cyathodes juniperina
Gaultheria antipoda
**Hakea sericea*
Hebe stricta
Kunzea ericoides

Leionema nudum
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Metrosideros excelsa
Metrosideros perforata
Metrosideros robusta
Myrsine australis
Olearia furfuracea
Plagianthus divaricatus
Pomaderris kumeraho
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudopanax crassifolius x *P. lessonii*

Samolus repens
Selliera radicans
Sophora microphylla
**Ulex europaeus*

Monocotyledons (17)

Acianthus sinclairii
Apodasmia similis
Astelia banksii
Austrostipa stipoides
Carex flagellifera
CollospERMUM hastatum

Dianella nigra
Earina mucronata
Isolepis nodosa
**Schedonorus phoenix*
 (= *Festuca arundinacea*)
**Gladiolus undulatus*
Juncus kraussii var. *australiensis*
Phormium tenax
Poa anceps
Pterostylis trullifolia
**Rytidosperma racemosum*
Thelymitra sp.



Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve
28 - 31 January 2000

Carol McSweeney (compiler)

Group members:

Enid Asquith,
 Paul Asquith,
 Steve Benham,
 Daphne Blackshaw,
 Quentin Blackshaw,
 Elizabeth Bowie,
 Jan Butcher,

Sandy Campbell,
 Pam Carmont,
 Lisa Clapperton,
 Helen Cogle,
 Brian Cumber,
 Peter de Lange,
 Leslie Haines,
 Kay Haslett,

Fran Hintz,
 Wynn Johns,
 Sandra Jones,
 Carol McSweeney,
 Garry McSweeney,
 Kay Parry (Hamilton
 Jun. Naturalist Club),
 Wendy Patterson,

Margaret Peart,
 Juliet Richmond,
 Stella Rowe,
 John Rowe,
 Alison Wesley,
 Barbara White,
 Bob White,
 Maureen Young.

The Anniversary weekend camp was held at Te Kauri Lodge near Kawhia. This comfortable lodge belongs to the Hamilton Junior Naturalist Club and is well set up with an impressive library, a museum and a herbarium. It lies within the Te Kauri Scenic Reserve, a richly diverse forest growing on calcareous sandstone bluffs, ridges and steep-sided valleys. The majority of the 30 participants arrived on Friday afternoon. After dinner a short walk around the Tourist Track gave us an insight into the local ecology.

Saturday 29 January:

Maureen Young, Lisa Clapperton, Fran Hintz

The day's expedition was on the "Medium Gorge Track", which took us along a ridge, down onto the stream, then back up the ridge on the other side and back to camp. The highlights of the morning included earth star fungus and coral stink horn fungus, *Cyathea cunninghamii* (no doubt this time), groves of *Leionema nudum*, (mairehau) and *Libocedrus plumosa* (kawaka). First lunch was eaten with us perched on a steep kawaka covered ridge. Heading for the descent we spied *Pittosporum cornifolium*, *P. huttonianum*, *Metrosideros colensoi* and a carpet of *Dawsonia superba*. At the stream were several fine specimens of *Marattia salicina*.

On the next ridge we found an unusual association with a canopy largely of tanekaha and an extensive ground cover of *Lycopodium deuterodensum*. Thousands of tanekaha seedlings were starting to overtop the lycopodium. Perching orchids were very common, mainly on mingimingi and rewarewa. *The Winika cunninghamii* was flowering, but *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*, *Earina autumnalis*, *E.*

mucronata and *Drymoanthus adversus* were also plentiful.

After our second lunch the swamp plants attracted our attention. Swamp maire and pukatea grew side by side, and a surprise find in such a wet depression was a *Dicksonia fibrosa*. A short climb up the Tourist Track took us back to the lodge for a welcome cuppa.

After dinner, as darkness descended, those with any energy left followed Peter de Lange down the Manuka Track to view the phosphorescent fresh water limpets (*Latia neritoides*) which live in the Waikuku Stream. When torches were extinguished, the darkness was lit by the blue lights of the glow worms on the river bank and the green spots from *Latia* in the river. These lit up in the wake of Peter's gumboots as he sloshed over the stones and disturbed the limpets. Occasional green flashes shot down stream as the limpets released some phosphorescent mucus.