

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:

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 Paul Asquith,
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 Lisa Clapperton,
 Helen Cogle,
 Brian Cumber,
 Peter de Lange,
 Leslie Haines,
 Kay Haslett,

Fran Hintz,
 Wynn Johns,
 Sandra Jones,
 Carol McSweeney,
 Garry McSweeney,
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 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.

Sunday 30 January morning: Carol McSweeney

The weather was not great. Some members of the party decided to spend the morning visiting the sites and cafes of Kawhia; some headed down to the coast to record what birds were around (so that this information could be reported back to a bird census that was taking place throughout the country); and a small group headed down into the Waikuku Valley to botanise. We took the Manuka track and towards the bottom came across some small specimens of *Blechnum colensoi*. However once we were following along the Waikuku stream there was an abundance of *B. colensoi* hanging from the stream bank with fronds up to 1 m long. It was interesting to note *Astelia fragrans* and *Collospermum microspermum* in this area as well.

The route along the stream is particularly beautiful. There was an abundance of *Hypolepis distans* growing beside the track and in semi-open areas. The highlight of this part of the valley would have been *Ophioglossum petiolatum*, the stalked adder's

tongue, which is now a rare plant. This patch of *Ophioglossum* was looking very healthy, benefiting from the protective fence around it. Some of the plants were now right up against the protective fence and we felt it would be appropriate for DoC to extend the fence so that the plant can naturally expand. It is good to see a rare plant protected in this way, especially as there are goats around and it is an area that has relatively high use. There was a large patch of terrestrial *Tmesipteris tannensis* growing in the leaf litter close to the *Ophioglossum* and *Chiloglottis cornuta* was flowering here as well.

We crossed the Waikuku Stream and headed along Devlin's route. This track skirted across the valley and took us through some well-established tawa forest and kamahi forest. Rocky outcrops are a significant landscape feature and have an effect on the ecology. Massive specimens of parataniwha were growing around these outcrops.

Sunday 30 January - An afternoon at Rakaunui Swamp: Sandra Jones

Our first stop on the way to the swamp was a roadside bend which is close to the southern known limit for kumerahou (*Pomaderris kumeraho*). (Odd plants grow further south, scattered along the southern Kawhia Harbour.) The plants were meagre and few, due to the depredations of the County's roadside tidying. Ironically, it is this regular cutting back of the vegetation that maintains a suitable habitat for the kumerahou. Peter pointed out to us a small pine plantation on a hill in the near distance that was, until the early 1980s, the southern-most stand of kauri (*Agathis australis*). And in the far distance, a glimpse of a hill top which is the site of a single tree which now represents the southern limit of naturally-occurring kauri.

Our next stop was in view of a rock bastion called Hautapu ("sacred wind") with its dramatic sandstone/ limestone bluffs, to hear about the exploits of the notorious Austrian naturalist and collector Andreas Reischek who stole two Maori bodies from a cave on this hill that Michael King described as a "massif ... that protrudes beetle-browed over a concave slope" (King 1981:97)¹ to ship back to Vienna for his museum collection. We also reflected, with some amusement, upon Hochstetter's description of the "picturesque rock-sceneries in the shape of towers, walls & ruins" along the Rakaunui River "from which circumstances the settlers have given to this portion of the Kawhia Harbour the name of New Zealand Helvetica (Switzerland)". He himself "reckon(s) this country among the most charming and fertile districts that I have seen upon New Zealand" (Hochstetter 1867:328)². The swamp

we visited at Rakaunui is surrounded on one side by a forest Reserve and on the other, farmland; at the western end is the sea. It is particularly interesting botanically because it has salt/fresh water interface. Fern birds were heard and seen and a bittern was (accidentally) put to flight. Of special interest was *Leptinella tenella*, which is very scarce in Auckland.

Ranunculus acaulis, and *Schoenoplectus pungens*, also excited the interest of the Aucklanders. The visual impact of the swamp vegetation was very striking. As we stood on the slope above the swamp, we marvelled at the mosaic formed by patches of single species of different colours, shapes and heights. There were the tall bright green swathes of *Bolboschoenus* sp., the orangey-green of oioi (*Apodasmia* (= *Leptocarpus*) *similis*), low bright green clumps of *Isolepis cernua*, the bluey green of *Baumea juncea* and of the sea rush *Juncus kraussii*, distinguished by its dark flower heads. The dark twiggy bushes of *Coprosma propinqua* and *Plagianthus divaricatus* (saltmarsh ribbonwood), looking leafless from a distance but covered as usual in patches of pale grey lichen, formed a distinct line along one bank of the meandering water channel through the swamp. A small rock on the edge of the swamp adorned with bright orange patches of lichen posed for several photographs. One group returned to the cars dry-soled across the farmland; a smaller party trustingly followed our channel-hopping leader across the swamp and back again, looking in vain for *Carex litorosa* which he reported seeing in abundance several years ago. The sacrifice made by

our leader – he sank below the top of his gum-boots – in order to get his charges safe and (relatively) dry across the channels was registered with appreciation and some hilarity. It should be recorded here that two of the group forewent the reverse crossing of the swamp and headed back to the road via the head of the fresh-water marsh. They arrived sooner than the main party but their way was marked by thin mud that turned yellow socks a rusty brown. They were greeted by Bob with the immortal words, "a more nauseating bunch of women he'd never seen".

Surrounding the swamp were a number of kowhai (*Sophora* spp. - *S. microphylla*, *S. chathamica* and *S.*

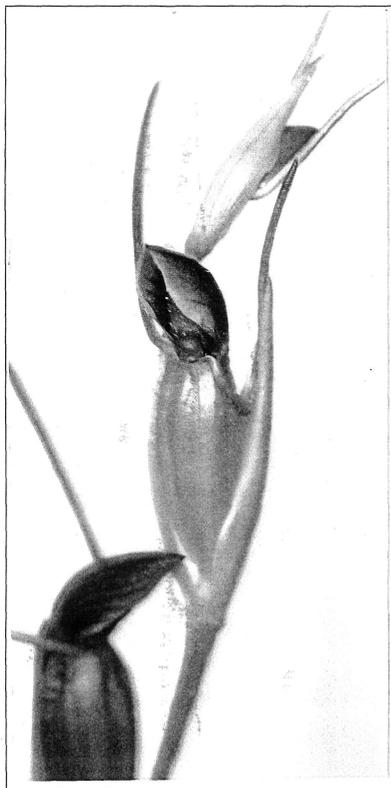
chathamica x *S. microphylla*). Our leader took the opportunity to give us a verbal preview, with live examples, of a paper due for publication in the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* in the next year or so, which will revise the genus and propose a number of new species for *Sophora* in New Zealand.

¹ King, Michael . "The Collector. Andreas Reischek – A Biography", Hodder & Stoughton, 1981.

² von Hochstetter, Ferdinand. "New Zealand. Its Physical Geography, Geology and Natural History", Stuttgart, JG Cotta, 1867 (Facsimile edition, Kiwi Publishers, 1997).

Monday 31 January, morning, the Kauri Ridge Track:

Barbara White



One group set out along the Kauri Ridge track to see some large kauri and kauri regrowth in the area. It was interesting being close to the southern limit of this species. The track rose through a small patch of bush to a fence line on the ridge. The way was irregular and sometimes steep and was bordered on one side chiefly by *Paesia scaberula* and on the other side by tall bracken and sometimes manuka. One member of the group spotted an earth star fungus and at another point we came across *Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae* (Fig.1).

We turned away from the fence down a fairly steep slope, noting *Quintinia serrata* at the side of the track, and also mature mangeo (*Litsea calicaris*) On the ridge we came to a handsome stand of tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) with numerous kauri rickers and seedlings in the surrounding bush. One aim was to find *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum*, but we found only a few patches of *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*.

To reach the large kauri it was necessary to scramble down a steep slope. Four members of the group reached around the tree touching fingers to estimate the girth. It measured about 5 m in circumference (1.65 m in diameter).

From the tanekaha stand the track led steeply to the Mutorangi Stream and we passed lush bush with numerous patches of filmy fern – mainly *Hymenophyllum dilatatum* and *H. sanguinolentum*. Beside the stream we saw *H. multifidum* and a large colony of *H. ferrugineum* on a dead tree fern trunk. We returned, via the same route, from the Mutorangi Stream.

Fig.1: *Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae*
(Photo: Margaret Peart)

Monday 30 January, afternoon, Walter Scott Forest and Bird Park:

Barbara White

The forest track was easy, well formed and leaf covered and it took us about two hours to complete the circuit.

Our aim was to find *Thismia rodwayi* under the leaf litter, but we were unsuccessful. The dominant trees were pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) and tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*). Crowds of young pukatea bordered the path. Young *Coprosma grandifolia* also lined the way and there were many patches of the beautiful moss *Hypnodendron*.

Near the start of the track we saw *Hymenophyllum rarum*, a beautiful patch of *H. flabellatum* and an extra long *Asplenium flaccidum*. Later we noticed several large kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*)

growing on tree fern trunks, some very lush nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), a patch of ear fungus and other fungi, supple jack (*Ripogonum scandens*) and a few very attractive examples of *Asplenium oblongifolium*.

The largest tree we came across was a kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) standing almost in the stream; we estimated it to be about 1.6 m in diameter. There were a few young kahikatea nearby.

On either side of the bridge and along one bank of the stream were a number of king ferns (*Marattia salicina*). Some of the group wondered if this had been planted or whether it occurs there naturally.

Birds:

Paul Asquith

The opportunity was taken to survey several 10 km squares around the Te Kauri Reserve area as part of the recently started five-year nationwide census of bird distributions. The weather was not the best for seeing and hearing birds but 44 different species were seen and/or heard over the three days.

Notably, we saw bellbird, whitehead, greenfinch, fernbird, banded dotterel, bar tailed godwit, pied stilt, black swan, caspian tern and a bittern.

A beach patrol along the length of Kawhia beach also turned up the remains of an antarctic fulmar.

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Book review: "Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V (Gramineae)"

by Henry E. Connor and Elizabeth Edgar

(with contributions by W. R. Sykes & M. I. Dawson). Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln. 2000 [1999 in cataloguing-in-publication data]; lxxxii, 650 pp., ill., HB, NZD 55.00.

Rhys Gardner

The Flora of NZ Tracheophyta series, initiated by H. H. Allan so long ago, is now completed by this its fifth volume. It is everything one would expect from the two principal authors, a mighty work of scholarship and taxonomic acuity, and if what follows here seems to be mainly fault-finding, this is simply one expression of the mysterious nature of botanical bibliophily. *Sertis karetu decorentur!*

A dedication is made not to Allan, Cheeseman or Hooker but to one of the forgotten men of 19th

century NZ science, John Buchanan (1819-1898), collector, grass-devotee, flora-writer and most skilful artist. A biographical note could have been provided and one of Buchanan's native grass lithographs as frontispiece would have been a graceful addition.

Physically we have here a compact volume that (unlike the swollen fourth) should be able to resist any amount of use. But given the size of the page and typefaces, the amount of text for each species often runs overleaf, which I found unappealing. We