

ABS fieldtrip to Karioitahi, 18 March 2000

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On the west coast, at the base of the Awhitu Peninsula which is an ancient sandbar enclosing the Manukau Harbour, is Karioitahi surf beach. We were met by local Councillor, Judith Hull who described the changes around the surf club. The low sand dunes have been impacted heavily by traffic of varying kinds. The community (the area lies on the boundary between Environment Waikato and Auckland Regional Council) has been stabilising these dunes since 1998 by fencing and locally planting pingao. As the area stabilises pohutukawa will also be planted.

Of the few pohutukawa around, we saw only two that were probably naturally growing in the area. Generally the sand cliffs/hills are covered in *Phormium tenax*, *Cortaderia splendens*, *Isolepis nodosa*, *Muehlenbeckia complexa* and small shrubs of *Pseudopanax lessonii*, *Coprosma acerosa*, and in more sheltered places *Macropiper excelsa* and *Geniostoma rupestre*. There were also occasional *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* and *Dodonaea viscosa*.

The cliffs are indented and it was here that we were rewarded with some herbaceous delights. *Apium prostratum* and *Lobelia anceps* were common in these areas, but also there was *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*, *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, and *Tetragonia trigyna*. In damp seepages were *Selliera*

radicans, *Samolus repens*, *Leptinella dioica*, *L. dispersa* subsp. *rupestris*, *Liliaeopsis novae-zelandiae*, *Juncus caespiticius*, *Zoysia pauciflora* (thank you Ewen, not *Z. minima* that we thought on the day) and *Adiantum cunninghamii*. There were *Carex pumila* and *Triglochin striata* on the sand flats.

Weeds were present as usual including bone-seed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), *Alnus glutinosa* (x1 plant), lupin, velvety nightshade (*Solanum chenopodioides*), *Cortaderia seloana*, *Rumex sagittatus*, *Carpobrotus edulis*, *Briza maxima*, alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), and in two places the exotic holly fern, *Cyrtomium falcatum*.

It was a good turn out and we had great leadership from Bec Stanley and Steve Benham. We added quite a few species to the tentative species list, even some trees such as karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) amongst other reasonable size trees up a short valley. We were on the look out for *Euphorbia glauca* and *Austrofestuca littoralis*, which have previously been recorded here previously by Carse some 100 years ago, with no luck.

The Karioitahi species list will be included in the next ABS Journal – Editor.



Corrigendum

Esler, Alan 1999: Kathleen Wood: Botanist and Artist. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 54 (2): 2-3.

On page 3, replace the first three sentences of the third paragraph with:

The quest for correct names took her to Robert Cooper, the botanist at Auckland Museum. It was not long before she volunteered to help him with the preparation of herbarium specimens, enlisting the enthusiasm of Phyllis Hynes at the same time. They were designated associate botanists - Katie from 1950 to 1955, and Phyllis for a longer period.

