

## ABS Field Trip to Moire Park, Massey East

Anne Grace

On 19 August 2000, sunny weather prevailed for a leisurely exploration of Moire Park and the West Harbour Esplanade Reserve. 21 people, including Pat Enwright, who was visiting from Wellington Botanical Society, turned out to compile a species list for the flora of the 30 hectares of regenerating native vegetation on both sides of Manutewhau Stream/ Lawsons Creek. Brian Cumber had to be the keenest participant, having walked to Massey from Glenfield.

The vegetation in the reserves has been broadly described in an ecological survey undertaken by Boffa Miskell Ltd for Waitakere City Council. From the end of Allington Road, we visited each of the 7 vegetation types identified in the survey: mangrove/estuary associations; weedfields; gumland, shrubland with kumarahou in bud; pine/kanuka/mapou/weeds; swamp/wetlands; tree-ferns/broadleaf forest; and kowhai/tawhero forest.

After viewing the mangroves from the bridge across Lawson's Creek (the name for the estuarine end of Manutewhau Stream), we made slow progress through a mown area bounded by residential properties and the associated weedfields. Our lists of adventives grew longer and longer and it was particularly heavy going for Mike Wilcox, who was recording the monocots and Alistair MacArthur who not only had the job of recording the dicot weeds, but also was expected to respond to calls from members to dig out various nasties with his "environmental spade".

For once, Sandra Jones, who had chosen to list the native ferns was out in front of the group because there were hardly any to record. By the time we had entered the pine/kanuka/mapou/weeds association she had made all sorts of discoveries. From a distance, we could hear her cries of "*Astelia grandis*!" and our pace quickened in anticipation of seeing these magnificent plants. It was a locality that I had not visited before — with a wonderful grouping of seven plants in a damp hollow. Sandra's joy soon turned to dismay as we began to encounter unnecessary and inappropriate native plantings within the bush and on the sides of tracks including flax and cabbage trees as well as so-called "canopy" trees.

We were concerned about the adverse impacts on natural biodiversity these plantings are having because they effectively introduce species that do not occur naturally in the area and there was plenty of evidence that plants had not been sourced from the immediate locality. These specimens will

interbreed with the natural indigenous vegetation, permanently and irreversibly altering the genetic makeup of the natural populations of the area. Why do people not want to acknowledge that horticultural planting interferes with natural ecological processes, and threatens significant indigenous vegetation? If the rapid development of vegetative cover was considered important to suppress weeds, then it would have been better to plant non-invasive exotic plants that could be readily identified and removed when natural regeneration of native plants had taken over. Cryptic weeds (introduced native plants) were everywhere along the track sides, and Maureen Young's attempts to compile a species list of native dicots that accurately reflected the true indigenous species composition were seriously challenged when she had to sort out what was occurring naturally and what wasn't. Nancy Pickens took a photograph of one of several karo seedlings which had obviously been introduced by birds from residential gardens or amenity plantings, there being no natural adult plants in the area.

After lunch we made our way to the Moire Road end of the bush to marvel at the potential for adverse impacts on the natural indigenous vegetation generated by the 1995 Trees for Babies planting. We pitied the children who had these environmentally damaging trees planted for them, particularly the one that had the Australian ngaio planted for it. Perhaps its parents were Australian? Fortunately for us, a New Zealand ngaio was planted alongside, so we were able to see the differences between the two species (brown leaf buds and conspicuous oil glands on the leaves of the New Zealand ngaio and green leaf buds on its Aussie cousin).

The banks of the Manutewhau Stream provided the best variety of species in a relatively picturesque setting. The more adventurous members crossed the stream into the West Harbour Esplanade Reserve to make substantial additions to our species lists for the tree fern/broadleaf/kowhai/tawhero forest. What could have been a pleasant bush foray was marred by rubbish, including broken glass, and exciting weeds like palm grass (*Setaria palmifolia*) and the fern *Pteris cretica* which seemed to cascade down the slopes from the adjoining residential properties. Alistair's environmental spade was put to good use, but there were just too many weeds for it to have any lasting effect.

Then it was more *Astelia grandis*, a sampling of the estuarine associations, views of the first kowhai

blooms in the Esplanade Reserve, and back into the gumland shrubland for weeding of *Aristea ecklonii*. Throughout the day, Helen Cogle had been busy working on the mosses and lichens, but now her

“official” responsibility (compiling the list of orchids with Marjorie Newhook) came into play with the discovery of 2 species. It’s a pity there were no chocolate fish on the trip. Such patience deserved a reward!

### Moire Park Indigenous Flora (excluding Monocots)

#### Mosses

*Bryum* sp. (or *Polytrichum* sp.)  
*Campylopus introflexus*  
*Dicranoloma billardieri*  
*Hypnum chrysogaster*  
*Leucobryum candidum*  
*Macromitrium* sp.  
*Ptychomnion aciculare*  
*Thuidium furfuraceum*  
*Wijkia* sp.

*Hymenophyllum demissum*  
*Hymenophyllum flabellatum*  
*Lastreopsis glabella*  
*Lindsaea linearis*  
*Lycopodium deuterodensum*  
*Lycopodium volubile*  
*Lygodium articulatum*  
*Paesia scaberula*  
*Phymatosorus pustulatus*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pteris tremula*  
*Tmesipteris elongata*  
*Tmesipteris lanceolata*  
*Trichomanes reniforme*

*Coprosma lucida*  
*Coprosma rhamnoides*  
*Coprosma robusta*  
*Coprosma rotundifolia*  
*Coriaria arborea*  
*Corynocarpus laevigatus*  
*Cyathodes juniperina*  
*Dodonaea viscosa*  
*Dysoxylum spectabile*  
*Fuchsia excorticata*  
*Geniostoma rupestre*  
*Hebe stricta*  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Knightia excelsa*  
*Kunzea ericoides*  
*Leptospermum scoparium*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
*Macropiper excelsum*  
*Meliclytus ramiflorus*  
*Myrsine australis*  
*Nestegis lanceolata*  
*Olearia furfuracea*  
*Olearia rani*  
*Pittosporum tenuifolium*  
*Plagianthus divaricatus*  
*Pomaderris kumeraho*

*Pomaderris phyllicifolia*  
*Pseudopanax arboreus*  
*Pseudopanax crassifolius*  
*Pseudopanax lessonii*  
*Rhabdothamnus solandri*  
*Schefflera digitata*  
*Sophora microphylla*  
*Vitex lucens*  
*Weinmannia silvicola*

#### Ferns and Fern Allies

*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Asplenium flaccidum*  
*Asplenium oblongifolium*  
*Asplenium polyodon*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*Blechnum filiforme*  
*Blechnum membranaceum*  
*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*  
*Cyathea dealbata*  
*Cyathea medullaris*  
*Deparia petersenii*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
*Doodia australis*  
*Gleichenia dicarpa*

#### Gymnosperms

*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*  
 (seedlings)

#### Dicot Trees and Shrubs

*Aristotelia serrata*  
*Avicennia marina*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Coprosma arborea*  
*Coprosma grandifolia*

#### Dicot Lianes

*Muehlenbeckia australis*  
*Metrosideros perforata*  
*Parsonsia* sp.  
*Rubus cissoides*

#### Herbs

*Centella uniflora*  
*Drosera auriculata*  
*Gonocarpus incanus*  
*Haloragis erecta*  
*Hydrocotyle* sp.  
*Lobelia anceps*  
*Nertera dichondrifolia*  
*Pratia angulata*

### A Preliminary List of Adventives, excluding Monocots (including unnatural native introductions - native plantings \* and self-introduced natives from plantings +)

#### Mosses

*Pseudoscleropodium purum*

*Casuarina* sp.

*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*

*Hakea sericea*

*Hoheria populnea* \*

*Picris echinoides*

*Pinus pinaster*

*Senecio bipinnatisectus*

*Senecio mikanoides*

#### Ferns and Fern Allies

*Pteris cretica*  
*Selaginella kraussiana*

*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*

*Hydrocotyle tripartita*  
*Hypericum androsaemum*

*Pinus radiata*  
*Pittosporum crassifolius* +  
*Pittosporum eugenioides* \*

*Solanum mauritianum*  
*Solanum nigrum*

#### Dicots

*Acacia longifolia*  
*Acmena smithii*  
*Agathis australis* \*  
*Ageratina riparia*  
*Alectryon excelsus* \*  
*Aster subulatus*  
*Beilschmiedia tarairi* \*  
*Calystegia silvatica*  
*Cardamine* sp.  
*Carpodetus serratus* \*

*Cirsium vulgare*  
*Conium maculatum*  
*Dacrydium cupressinum* \*  
*Dacrydium dacrydioides* \*  
*Daucus carota*  
*Duchesnea indica*  
*Eriobotrya japonica*  
*Eucalyptus* sp.  
*Euonymus japonicus*  
*Euphorbia peplus*  
*Fatsia japonica*  
*Foeniculum vulgare*  
*Geranium* sp.  
*Hakea salicifolia*

*Impatiens walleriana*  
*Jasminum polyanthum*  
*Lamium purpureum*  
*Ligustrum lucidum*  
*Ligustrum sinense*  
*Linum trigynum*  
*Lonicera japonica*  
*Metrosideros excelsa* \*  
*Myoporum aviculare*  
*Myoporum laetum* \*  
*Myosotis sylvatica*  
*Paraserianthes lophantha*  
*Passiflora mixta*  
*Phytolacca octandra*

*Plantago lanceolata*  
*Plantago major*  
*Polygonum* sp.  
*Pomaderris kumeraho* \*  
*Prunella vulgaris*  
*Prunus persica*  
*Racosperma longifolia*  
*Racosperma mearnsii*  
*Racosperma verticillatum*  
*Ranunculus repens*  
*Rosa rubiginosa*  
*Rubus fruticosus*  
*Salix* sp.

*Solanum pseudocapsicum*  
*Sonchus asper*  
*Sonchus oleraceus*  
*Sophora tetraptera* \*  
*Stachys sylvatica*  
*Ulex europaeus*  
*Ulmus* sp.  
*Verbena bonariensis*  
*Vicia* sp.  
*Vinca major*  
*Virgilia capensis*

### Monocots of Moire Park, Massey East

This list was compiled from two visits – 19 August and 18 October 2000. Introduced species are marked \*.

**Mike Wilcox**

#### Alliaceae

\**Allium triquetrum*

\**Monstera deliciosa*

\**Zantedeschia aethiopica*

\**Myrsiphyllum scandens* (syn. *Asparagus scandens*)

*Baumea juncea*

*Baumea rubiginosa*

*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis* and/or *B. medianus*)

#### Amaryllidaceae

\**Agapanthus praecox* (syn. *A. orientalis*)

#### Areaceae (Palmae)

\**Trachycarpus fortunei*

#### Asteliaceae

*Astelia grandis*

#### Anthericaceae

\**Chlorophytum comosum*

#### Asparagaceae

\**Myrsiphyllum asparagoides* (syn. *Asparagus asparagoides*)

#### Commelinaceae

\**Tradescantia fluminensis*

#### Araceae

#### Cyperaceae

*Baumea articulata*

*Carex maorica*

*Carex testacea*

<i>Carex virgata</i>	* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	* <i>Sieglingia decumbens</i> (18/10/2000)	<i>Pterostylis graminea</i>
* <i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	* <i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>		<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i> (19/10/2000)
* <i>Cyperus tenellus</i> (18/10/2000)	* <i>Briza minor</i> (18/10/2000)	* <i>Vulpia bromoides</i> (18/10/2000)	
<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	* <i>Bromus willdenowii</i> (18/10/2000)	<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Pandanaceae</b>
<i>Gahnia lacera</i>		* <i>Aristea ecklonii</i>	<i>Freycinetia baueriana</i> subsp. <i>banksii</i>
<i>Gahnia setifolia</i>	* <i>Cortaderia seloana</i>	* <i>Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	
<i>Gahnia xanthocarpa</i>	* <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	* <i>Gladiolus undulatus</i>	<b>Phormiaceae</b>
<i>Isolepis prolifera</i>	* <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	* <i>Watsonia meriana</i> cv. Bulbillifera	<i>Dianella nigra</i> <i>Phormium tenax</i>
<i>Lepidosperma australe</i>	* <i>Ehrharta erecta</i>		
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	* <i>Eragrostis brownii</i>	<b>Juncaceae</b>	<b>Restionaceae</b>
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	* <i>Glyceria maxima</i>	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	<i>Apodasmia similis</i>
<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> (mouth of Lawsons Creek, Boffa Miskell report, 1999, but not seen)	* <i>Holcus lanatus</i> (18/10/2000)	<i>Juncus gregiflorus</i>	
<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>	<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	<i>Juncus kraussii</i> var. <i>australiensis</i>	<b>Ripogonaceae</b>
<i>Schoenus tendo</i>	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>
<i>Tetraria capillaris</i>	<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> subsp. <i>imbecillus</i>	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	
<i>Uncinia banksii</i>	* <i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	<b>Lomandraceae</b>	<b>Typhaceae</b>
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	<i>Poa anceps</i> subsp. <i>anceps</i>	<i>Cordyline australis</i> <i>Cordyline pumilio</i>	<i>Typha orientalis</i>
<b>Gramineae</b>	* <i>Poa annua</i>		<b>Zingiberidaceae</b>
* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	* <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	<b>Orchidaceae</b>	* <i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>
	* <i>Schedonorus phoenix</i>		
	* <i>Setaria palmifolia</i>		



## A Coastal Turf Community at Cannibal Creek

Cameron Kilgour & Bec Stanley

On 18 October 2000 we visited the mouth of the Cannibal Creek in the Waitakere Ranges. Bot Soc last visited Cannibal Creek in 24th May 1994, but whereas that trip led the group up the stream, turning right when the track from Anawhata met the creek, we turned left and followed the stream to the sea. The creek flows through a shrubland of predominantly flax, manuka, gorse and an impressive stand of mairehau (*Phebalium nudum*) where it widens and becomes a series of waterfalls and pools before entering the ocean from a large and impressive platform typical of the west coast.

The surrounding terrain is steep and rocky (See Fig. 1 opposite) and is covered by secondary vegetation composed of stunted scrubland of flax, manuka, tauhinu *Ozothamnus leptophyllus* p.p. and gorse. The turf community is fairly extensive and covers the landward margin of the rock platform, stream

and pool margins and surrounding rocky coast. We have listed the plant species at the turf and in the surrounding shrubland community is also described. No threatened taxa were recorded.

Coastal turfs are communities of salt tolerant low growing herbs, sedges and grasses which grow on the coast in the influence of salt water and high exposure. Turfs occur only on a small fraction of the total coastline in NZ (Rogers 1999) but there are a few other turf communities in Auckland. A narrow coastal turf consisting mainly of *Sellieria radicans* can be seen growing at the ecotone between mangrove and grass along the side of the northern motorway south of the eastern part of Smith's Bush. Coastal turf of sorts also exists near the Onewa off-ramp, but unfortunately these are both likely to be damaged by development, along with shell banks and mangroves.

Species List: \* denotes a naturalised plant

Shrubland Community  
Ferns  
*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Asplenium oblongifolium*  
*Polystichum richardii*

Grasses  
*Auustrostipa stipoides*  
*Cortaderia splendens*

Rushes & sedges  
*Leptocarpus similis*

Herbs  
*Celmisia major* var. *major*  
(streamside)  
*Linum monogynum*

Shrubs  
*Leptospermum scoparium*  
*Olearia solandri*  
*Ozothamnus leptophyllus* p.p.  
*Phormium tenax*

Turf Community  
Rushes & sedges  
*Carex* sp.  
*Isolepis cernua*  
\**Sagina procumbens*

Grasses  
\**Dactylus glomerata*  
\**Paspalum vaginatum*  
\**Holcus lanatus*

Herbs  
*Apium prostratum*  
*Crassula sieberiana*  
*Disphyma australe* subsp. *australe*  
*Lobelia anceps*  
\**Lotus suaveolens*  
\**Plantago australis*  
*Samolus repens*  
*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*  
*Sellieria radicans*  
*Senecio lautus* var. *lautus*  
\**Sonchus asper*  
\**Sonchus oleraceus*  
*Taraxacum* sp.  
*Tetragonia trigyna*  
\**Vellereophyton dealbatum*