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## Field Trip: Mahurangi West Regional Park. 19/02/05

Maureen Young

The field trip to Mahurangi West Regional Park explored two bush clad headlands within the park. Due to the Te Muri River having to be crossed at low tide, the more southerly of these was explored first. This is the northern headland of the Puhoi River. The main canopy trees here are large specimens of tawaroa (*Beilschmiedia tawaroa*), and the dappled shade of the bush was a welcome relief from the blazing February sun. As usual, the presence of this species generated a great deal of discussion as to whether or not it is a good species. The consensus was that not all species have hard and fast boundaries. The later finding of a true tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) made comparison possible. Other northern coastal species present were pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), *Coprosma macrocarpa* subsp. *minor*, whau (*Entelea arborescens*), *Hebe macrocarpa* and *Olearia albida*. This latter species is only occasionally encountered, and of the two trees seen, one was very old and gnarled. Due to the heat, the intended picnic on Te Muri Beach was passed up in favour of lunch being eaten in the shade.

After lunch a considerably deeper river crossing was necessary. On the riverside dunes was a succulent adventive plant that caused much comment. This was

saltwort (*Salsola kali*), a species that was very familiar to our Canadian visitor, Randy Olson. It was disappointing to observe here the plantings of Tasmanian ngaio (*Myoporum insulare*). On a shady bank near the river was a good population of the fern, *Arthropteris tenella*, and also a few plants of the velvet fern (*Lastreopsis velutina*).

The second headland, named Cudlip Point, had robust plants of *Pteris comans* growing along the track to the viewpoint on the cliff top. Good populations of *P. macilenta*, *P. saxatilis* and *P. tremula* completed the quartet. The presence of a large titoki tree satisfied those who were wondering why none had been seen, and along the cliff top can be found a thicket of *Melicope ternata*. On the walk back to the cars John earned a chocolate fish by finding a flowering bush of *Solanum aviculare*. Some ended the day with a swim at Sullivans Bay.

Those present were:

Colleen Crampton, Gwenda Cruickshank, Brian Cumber, Frances Duff, Robyn Gardner-Gee, Leslie Haines, Naomi Lorimer, Alistair McArthur, John Millett, Randy Olsen (from Saskatchewan, Canada), Margaret Peart, Josh Salter, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox, Maureen Young (leader).

#### Species List

This list of vascular indigenous plants was compiled by Graeme Hambly and Maureen Young on 22 January 2005, with additions by ABS on 19 February 2005.

#### Ferns & Fern Allies

*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Adiantum fulvum*  
*Adiantum hispidulum*  
*Anarthropteris lanceolata*  
*Arthropteris tenella*  
*Asplenium flaccidum*

*Asplenium gracillimum*  
*Asplenium oblongifolium*  
*Asplenium polyodon*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*Blechnum filiforme*  
*Blechnum membranaceum*  
*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*

*Cyathea dealbata*  
*Cyathea medullaris*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
*Doodia australis*  
*Huperzia varia*  
*Hypolepis ambigua*  
*Lastreopsis microsora*

*Lastreopsis velutina*  
*Lygodium articulatum*  
*Microsorium pustulatum*  
*Microsorium scandens*  
*Paesia scaberula*  
*Pellaea rotundifolia*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Polystichum neozelandicum*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pteris comans*  
*Pteris macilenta*  
*Pteris saxatilis*  
*Pteris tremula*  
*Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*  
*Tmesipteris elongata*

#### Gymnosperms

*Agathis australis*  
*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*  
*Dacrydium cupressinum*  
*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*  
*Podocarpus totara*  
*Prumnopitys ferruginea*  
*Prumnopitys taxifolia*

#### Dicotyledons

*Alectryon excelsus*  
*Avicennia marina*  
*Beilschmiedia tarairi*  
*Beilschmiedia tawa*  
*Beilschmiedia tawaroa*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Calystegia sepium*  
*Calystegia soldanella*  
*Carmichaelia australis*  
*Centella uniflora*  
*Clematis paniculata*  
*Coprosma arborea*  
*Coprosma areolata*  
*Coprosma macrocarpa* subsp.  
*minor*  
*Coprosma rhamnoides*

*Coprosma robusta*  
*Corynocarpus laevigatus*  
*Dichondra repens*  
*Dodonaea viscosa*  
*Dysoxylum spectabile*  
*Entelea arborescens*  
*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*  
*Geranium homeanum*  
*Haloragis erecta*  
*Hebe macrocarpa*  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Hoheria populnea*  
*Knightia excelsa*  
*Kunzea ericoides*  
*Leptospermum scoparium*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
*Lobelia anceps*  
*Macropiper excelsa*  
*Melicope ternata*  
*Melicytus ramiflorus*  
*Metrosideros excelsa*  
*Metrosideros perforata*  
*Muehlenbeckia australis*  
*Muehlenbeckia complexa*  
*Myoporum laetum*  
*Myrsine australis*  
*Nestegis lanceolata*  
*Olearia albida*  
*Olearia furfuracea*  
*Parsonsia heterophylla*  
*Peperomia urvilleana*  
*Pittosporum crassifolium*  
*Plagianthus divaricatus*  
*Pseudopanax arboreus*  
*Pseudopanax crassifolius*  
*Pseudopanax lessonii*  
*Pseudopanax crassifolius x lessonii*  
*Rhabdothamnus solandri*  
*Rubus cissoides*  
*Solanum aviculare*  
*Sophora microphylla*  
*Streblus heterophyllus*

*Vitex lucens*

#### Monocotyledons

*Apodasmia similis*  
*Astelia banksii*  
*Austrostipa stipoides*  
*Bolboschoenus medianus*  
*Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*  
*Carex flagellifera*  
*Carex lambertiana*  
*Carex ochrosaccus*  
*Carex testacea*  
*Carex virgata*  
*Collospermum hastatum*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Cordyline pumilio*  
*Cyperus ustulatus*  
*Desmoschoenus spiralis*  
*Dianella nigra*  
*Drymoanthus adversus*  
*Earina autumnalis*  
*Earina mucronata*  
*Eleocharis acuta*  
*Ficinia nodosa*  
*Freycinetia banksii*  
*Gahnia lacera*  
*Gahnia xanthocarpa*  
*Isolepis reticularis*  
*Juncus australis*  
*Microlaena stipoides*  
*Oplismenus hirtellus* subsp.  
*imbecillis*  
*Phormium tenax*  
*Poa anceps*  
*Rhopalostylis sapida*  
*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Spinifex sericeus*  
*Uncinia uncinata*  
*Winika cunninghamii*

## Field Trip: Bombing Range, Waionui Inlet, Kaipara South Head. 19/03/05

Ewen K. Cameron

The primary purpose of this monthly Auckland Bot Soc (ABS) field trip (19 March 2005) was to survey the oioi (*Apodasmia similis*) dominated dune slacks, west of the Waionui Inlet at Kaipara South Head (Fig. 1), for the environmental weed, royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). Department of Conservation (DOC) staff joined the trip to help search and to spray any royal fern found. Royal fern was first found in the area in the summer of 2002-03, and since then c.80 plants have been located. The area is Crown Land within the Papakanui Conservation Area, now called the Papakanui

Conservation Area, managed by DOC and it is used as a weapons training area by the NZ Defence Department.

Present on the trip were: Enid & Paul Asquith, Jonathan Boow (leader), Ewen Cameron, Geoff Davidson, Frances Duff, Peter Hutton, Elaine Marshall, Josh Salter, Fran Hintz; and from DOC: Phil Brown, David Wilson, George Wilson and volunteer Duncan Innes.