

## Monocots

*Aira caryophylllea* s.str.\*  
*Ammophila arenaria* \* c SD  
*Apodasmia similis* a DS  
*Aristea ecklonii*\* o SD  
*Baumea juncea* lc DS  
*Carex pumila* la margin of DS & SD  
*C.* "rarotest" l SD (AK 289597-98)  
*Cortaderia selloana*\* c DS (as small plants); c SD (as adults) (AK 289587)  
*Cortaderia splendens* o DS (as small plants); lc SD (as adults)  
*Cyperus congestus*\* o DS  
*Cyperus polystachyos*\*<sup>a</sup> a DS (AK 289581-82)  
*Desmoschoenus spiralis* c SD (many plants were dead)  
*Eleocharis acuta* l DS (damper hollows)  
*Ficinia nodosa* o DS & SD  
*Isolepis cernua* ? var. *setiformis*<sup>a</sup> o DS (open damp herbfields between the oioi) (AK 289587)  
*Juncus acutus*\*<sup>a</sup> l WWI  
*J. articulatus*\* lc (damper hollows)  
*J. kraussii* lc WWI  
*Lachnagrostis* ? *billardierei*<sup>a</sup> o SD (loose heads were present among the oioi)  
*Lagurus ovatus*\*<sup>a</sup> o SD  
*Paspalum vaginatum*\* lc DS (sward-forming) (AK 289586)  
*P. urvillei*\*<sup>a</sup> s DS (AK 289592)  
*Phormium tenax* o WWI  
*Polypogon monspeliensis*\*<sup>a</sup> o DS (AK 289589)  
*Potamogeton cheesemani*<sup>a</sup> s (margin of small pool by raupo)  
*P. ochreatus*<sup>a</sup> l DS (submerged in small pool by raupo) (AK 289603)  
*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* lc DS (damper hollows)  
*Spinifex sericeus* c SD  
*Sporobolus africanus*\* l DS (dryer areas with low oioi)  
*Stenotaphrum secundatum*\* lc SD by WWI  
*Triglochin striata*<sup>a</sup> l DS (open damp herbfields between the oioi) (AK 289584)  
*Typha orientalis* l DS (small wet area)  
*Zoysia pauciflora* lc SD

## Field Trip: Mt Taranaki Easter Camp 26-28/03/05

Jan Butcher

Field trip members: Enid Asquith, Paul Asquith, Jan Butcher, Gwenda Cruickshank, Murray Cruickshank, Brian Cumber, Barbara Hammonds, Bernice Hintz, Fran Hintz, Tony Keen. Taranaki group: Ian Dudding, Barry Hartley, Jane Hart, Wayne Peters.

It rained and it rained and rained and rained  
The average fall was well maintained  
And when the tracks were simply bogs  
It started raining cats and dogs

After a drought of half an hour  
We had a most refreshing shower  
And then the most curious thing of all  
A gentle rain began to fall

Next day was also fairly dry  
Save for the deluge from the sky  
Which wetted the party to the skin  
And after that the rain set in

It is always great to see the *Cordyline indivisa* that greets you as you drive up to the Konini Lodge where we were staying. Unfortunately Kerry Bodmin, the original leader for the trip was unable to go due to a new job taken up at Wellington. So with some local knowledge, (the Taranaki group) we carried on. With the rain forecast for the Friday, we arrived like brown cows. In the afternoon, Tony, Brian, Paul and myself braved the track down to the Dawson Falls, which the rain had turned into fast flowing streams with water over our ankles. Tony was the first "cry" as he spotted *Leptinella squalida* with all the water rushing over the top of it. The brightly coloured leaves of *Pseudowintera colorata* and the red berries of the *Alseuosmia pusilla* cheered us on. Most of the *Ourisia macrophylla* had finished flowering, but found a late one just to show us what it can do. The volume of water coming over the falls was certainly spectacular.

Anonymous On the Monday, after everyone else had headed home in the morning, Brian and myself braved the rain

again, went around the Wilkies Pool track, finding the *Dactylanthus taylorii* which has not flowered this year. A diversion up the Konini Dell track, gave us a taste of the Goblin Forest and the beautiful *Fuchsia excorticata* trunks and plenty of *Astelia* out in berry. On the Tuesday morning, while Brian was waiting for me to

pick him up, he went up as far as time permitted and was amongst the *Chionochloa rubra* for a short time.

It was not cold, and we did see the top of the mountain, so we look forward to another visit in an earlier part of the year, so we can see the alpines out in flower.

## Field Trip: Lake Rotokare – a Taranaki sanctuary. 26/03/05

Tony Keen

A winding road through the rolling Taranaki countryside ten minutes east of Eltham takes you to Lake Rotokare. A small group of Auckland Easter Botanical Society members arrived in the car park at the end of Sangster Road, ready to walk the Lake Rotokare loop track. Joining us to lead the walk was local natural history expert Barry Hartley. After marvelling at the ancient, gnarly mahoe (*Melicactus ramiflorus*) and an exposed thick leaved tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) we began walking the south track (west to east) around the lake. The beginning of the track was dominated by mahoe and some well aged karamu (*Coprosma robusta*), which provided ideal growing perches for a form of *Clematis forsteri*, *Passiflora tetrandra* and *Rubus australis*. Young karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) trees were noticeable on the uphill side of the track as we moved through open areas dominated by common introduced herbs *Solanum* sp., cape gooseberry (*Physalis peruviana*), *Ranunculus repens*, *Rumex* sp. and *Lotus pedunculatus*, Mexican daisy. Several weed trees including *Salix cinerea* and barberry were also present on this initial part of the walk. Himalayan honeysuckle (*Leycesteria formosa*) was also found along this initial part of the walk.

The track passed through fingers of forest, which extended from the larger tracts of forest uphill from here. Titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*) and tawa linked the open areas where a healthy understory of kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*), hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*), pigeonwood (*Hedycarya arborea*), *Hebe macrocarpa* and the occasional *Hoheria sexstylosa* was present. At the edges of these forest patches the tree ferns *Dicksonia squarrosa* and *Cyathea medullaris* were present, overtopping the sedges *Carex geminata* and *C. secta*. The fern flora was particularly noticeable along this part of the walk within the forest patches and included *Blechnum chambersii*, *B. nigrum*, *Adiantum cunninghamii*, *Microsorium scandens*, *Pteris macilenta*, *P. tremula*, *Pneumatopteris pennigera* *Polystichum wawranum* all commonly found along the way. *Microlaena avenacea* was a common grass through this reserve and along the first part of the walk. Epiphytes included some obvious sprays of *Asplenium flaccidum*, the climbing rata *Metrosideros colensoi* and the tree orchid *Earina mucronata*.

As we passed through one pocket of forest on the edge of the lake we came across the rupestral/epiphytic creeping fern, *Arthropteris tenella*, which was thereafter, encountered frequently. The track opened out for a stretch and we came closer to the lake edge; Barry Hartley and friends were gathered around a large tawa tree on a rise which was baring its trunk to the sun, on which, with closer inspection we were surprised to find a small flourishing population of the epiphytic orchid *Drymoanthus adversus*. Walking down to the lake edge through a belt of introduced pastoral plants a zonation of native wetland plant communities became obvious. Grading from *Carex secta*, *C. virgata*, *Cyperus ustulatus*, *Baumea articulata* and the common *Coprosma tenuicaulis*, which provided height, together with solitary manuka shrubs interwoven with patches of the native swamp millet *Isachne globosa*. Look out for the blackberry!

Out towards the lake conditions changed from marginal to emergent and the community changed to one of *Typha orientalis*, more *Baumea articulata* and beneath, the sharp spike sedge *Eleocharis acuta* which form a sharp edge due to a quick increase in depth of the lake. Looking due east up into a small baylet of the lake this same zonation is found, along a broader gradient. This particular baylet we were looking at shows a broad transition from the *Typha* dominated communities to a large expanse of stunted manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), thickets of *C. tenuicaulis*, flax (*Phormium tenax*) and emerging young maire tawake (*Syzygium maire*) and similarly aged pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*). Tall kahikatea (*Dacrydium dacrydioides*) forest finishes this sequence from lake edge to swamp forest, which is typically characteristic of Rotokare.

Entering this swamp forest we also find an understory rich in ferns again, this time discovering the difference between *Polystichum silvaticum* and *P. wawranum*, before Barry Hartley pointed out the *Diplazium australe* commenting on the groove on the upper surface of the rachis, being confluent with the grooves of the pinnae midribs. The search for bryophytes increases through this humid, shaded zone. *Streblus heterophyllus* was common in the wet lowland forest zone, walking through a flourishing resurgence of pate (*Schefflera digitata*) saplings taking us over to the