

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 (*Melicytus 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

northern (south facing aspect) side of the lake where we notice a change in the forest composition. The herbaceous parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*) is common in the moist zones on this part of the walk and we encounter some large trees of hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentata*), together with some misshapen pukatea on the lakeside of the track. Young ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*) are more common here together with marbleleaf (*Carpodetus serratus*), lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*) and a few *Pennantia corymbosa* on the uphill side of the track and on the more open lake edge side Barry identifies a local native, *Pratia angulata*. We also noticed here some *Coprosma areolata* growing in rather wet conditions on the lake edge.

Time for a lunch stop as many jam onto a small bench seat strategically located to look over the lake, back to the car park. Out come the thermo flasks and sandwiches in varying stages of intactment. As we arise from the break Barry and another local point out the *Cyathea cunninghamii* which has some similarities with *C. smithii* (also found in the reserve) next to an old log skid / road. We carried on along the northern side of the lake encountering more parataniwha, ramarama and the scrambling fern *Arthropteris tenella*. We found a really big old pukatea with stunning plank buttresses descending on all sides of the trunk, reaching out to the surrounding *terra firma*, and noticeably along most of the lake walk was the abundance of pukatea seedlings.

Acknowledgements

Enid Asquith for reviewing this article, Jane Hart and Barry Hartly who gave good input to all the Taranaki write ups. Jan Butcher and Fran Hintz also contributed considerably.

Species List (compiled by Tony Keen & Enid Asquith)

* = exotic species

= additional species seen by Barry Hartley on previous occasions.

Fungi

Agrocybe parasitica
Auricularia polytricha
Anthoceros sp.
Calocera sp.
Chiloschyphus multispinus
Cookeina colensoi
Coprinus sp.
Crinipellis procera
Favolaschia calocera
Geastrum velutinum
Mycena parsonii
Pseudohydnum gelatinosum
Ramariopsis antillarum
Trametes versicolor
Trichoglossum hirsutum?
Weraroa erythrocephala

Chiloschyphus compactus
Diplasiolejeunea lyratifolia
Frullania allanii
Frullania deplanata
Frullania spinifera
Frullania squarrosula
Hymenophyllum flabellatum
Lejeunea flava
Lepidolaena taylorii
Lophocolea bidentata
Lophocolea bispinosa
Lophocolea lenta
Lophocolea muricata
Lophocolea pallida
Lophocolea semiteres
Marchantia foliacea
Mastigophora flagelifera
Metzgeria decipiens
Metzgeria hamata
Pallavicinia xiphoides

Peltigera dolichorhiza
Plagiochila gigantea
Plagiochila obscura
Plagiochila stephensoniana
Porella elegantula
Radula buccinifera
Schistochila appendiculata
Schistochila balfouriana
Symphyogyna hymenophyllum
Symphyogyna subsimplex
Telaranea tetradactyla
Treubia lacunosa
Trichocolea mollissima
Usnea sp.
Zoopsis argentea

Lichens

Achrophyllum quadrifarium
Acrocladium chlamydothyllum

Liverworts

Chiloschyphus coalitus

Another significant tract of kahikatea dominated swamp forest was encountered, where a boardwalk had been built. These kahikatea were probably some of the biggest in the reserve. An abundance of liverworts again had Enid Asquith and Barbara Hammond busy looking for additional species. The kidney fern *Trichomanes reniforme* was most noticeable along this part of the walk as well as several patches of *Pterostylis banksii* orchids.

A small bridge led us over a stream near the end of the walk and we stopped when we noticed the movement in the water. We had discovered a small school of banded kokopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*), which gave their position away easily when a *Carex* culm was dangled in the water to attract them – a good lure! Further along Jan Butcher and I came across a small midden of pipi shell by the lake edge, a sure sign of an earlier visit to the lake, as the nearest seashore was a good distance away. The track ended up on the road next to a young miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*). Walking back to the car park we identified some young maire tawake trees, and a lot of the deciduous tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*). This 270 ha reserve (20ha lake area) is certainly a significant asset to the Taranaki region and work is underway to increase mammal predator control, and to possibly create a mainland island with the construction of a predator proof fence. The lake reserve is rich in bird life, and provides a stopover for many migrating birds.

Mosses

Acrophyllum dentatum
Braithwaitia sulcata
Bryum billardierei
Camptochaete arbuscula
Campylopus clavatus
Cladomnion ericoides
Cratoneuropsis relaxa
Cyathophrum bulbosum
Dicranum plurisetum
Distichophyllum pulchellum
Echinodium hispidum
Ephemeropsis trentepohlioides
Fissidens blechnoides
Homalia falcifolia
Hypnodendron comatum
Hypnodendron marginatum
Hypnodendron spininervium
Hypopterygium commutatum
Hypopterygium filiculaeforme
Hypopterygium rotulatum
Leptostomum inclinans
Leptostomum macrocarpum
Leucobryum candidum
Lopidium concinnum
Macromitrium longipes
Neckera pennata
Papillaria crocea
Papillaria flexicaulis
Pendulothecium punctatum
Ptychomnion aciculare
Pyrrhobryum bifarium
Racopilum convalutaceum
Rhaphidorrhynchium amoenum
Rhaphidorrhynchium sp (contigum?)
Rhizogonium distichum
Stokesiella praelonga
Thuidium furfurosum
Weymouthia cochlearifolia

Monocots

* *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Astelia fragrans
Astelia solandri
Baumea articulata
Carex geminata
Carex maorica
Carex secta
Carex solandri
Carex virgata
Cordyline australis
* *Cyperus eragrostis*
Drymoanthus adversus
Earina autumnalis #
Earina mucronata
Eleocharis acuta
Freycinetia banksii

Isachne globosa
Isolepis habra
Juncus edgariae
Juncus sarophorus #
* *Lagarosiphon major*
Lemna minor
* *Leycesteria formosa*
Microlaena avenacea
Microtis unifolia #
Phormium tenax
Potamogeton ochreatus #
Pterostylis banksii
Pterostylis aff. montana #
Typha orientalis
Uncinia ferruginea
Uncinia sp.
Uncinia uncinata

Gymnosperms

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum #
Podocarpus totara #
Prumnopitys ferruginea

Dicotyledons

Alectryon excelsus
Anaphalioides trinervis
* *Arctium minus*
Aristolotelia serrata #
Beilschmiedia tawa
* *Bellis perennis*
* *Berberis glaucocarpa*
Brachyglottis kirkii var. *kirkii* #
Brachyglottis repanda
* *Calystegia silvatica*
Calystegia tuguriorum #
Cardamine debilis ("narrow petal") #
Carmichaelia australis
Carpodetus serratus
* *Cirsium arvense*
Clematis foetida #
Clematis forsteri
Clematis paniculata
Collospermum hastatum
* *Conium maculatum*
* *Conyza bilbaoana*
Coprosma grandifolia
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma robusta
Coprosma tenuicaulis
Coprosma tenuifolia
Cordyline australis
Cordyline banksii
Cortaderia fulvida
Corybas trilobus
Corynocarpus laevigatus
* *Crepis capillaris*

* *Daucus carota*
* *Digitalis purpurea*
* *Egeria densa*
Elatostema rugosum
Elaeocarpus dentatus
Epilobium nummulariifolium #
Epilobium pallidiflorum #
Epilobium rotundifolium? #
* *Erigeron karvinskianus*
Fuchsia excorticata
* *Galega officinalis*
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
* *Gnaphalium coarctatum*
Griselinia lucida
Hebe stricta var. *stricta* #
Hedycarya arborea
Hoheria sexstylosa
Hydrocotyle heteromeria #
Hydrocotyle moschata #
Knightia excelsa
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
* *Leucanthemum vulgare*
Lophomyrtus bullata
* *Lotus pedunculatus*
Macropiper excelsum
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros colensoi
Metrosideros diffusa
Metrosideros fulgens #
Metrosideros perforata #
Metrosideros robusta #
Muehlenbeckia australis #
* *Myosotis arvensis*
Myrsine australis
Nestegis lanceolata #
Nestegis montana #
Olearia rani
Parsonsia capsularis #
Parsonsia heterophylla
Passiflora tetrandra
* *Pastinaca sativa*
Pennantia corymbosa
Pittosporum cornifolium #
Pittosporum crassifolium
* *Plantago major*
* *Polygonum hydropiper*
Pratia angulata
* *Prunella vulgaris*
Pseudopanax arboreus
Pseudopanax crassifolius #
Pseudowintera axillaris #
* *Ranunculus acris*
Ranunculus amphitrichus #
Ranunculus reflexus #
* *Ranunculus repens*
* *Raphanus raphanistrum* ssp. *raphanistrum*
Rhabdothamnus solandri #

Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Rubus australis
Rubus cissoides var. *cissoides* #
 * *Rubus fruticosus* agg.
Rubus schmidelioides #
 * *Rumex crispus*
 * *Salix cinerea*
 * *Salix fragilis*
 * *Senecio bipinnatisectus*
 * *Senecio jacobaea*
Senecio minimus
 * *Senecio vulgaris*
Schefflera digitata
 * *Sison amomum*
Solanum aviculare
 * *Solanum nigrum*
 * *Solanum tuberosum*
 * *Sonchus asper*
 * *Stachys sylvatica*
Streblus heterophylla
Syzygium maire
 * *Taraxacum officinale*
 * *Trifolium pratense*
 * *Trifolium repens*
 * *Ulex europaeus*
Urtica incisa #

Ferns & fern allies

Adiantum cunninghamii
Anarthropteris lanceolata #
Arthropteris tenella
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Azolla filiculoides #
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum colensoi #
Blechnum discolor
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum fluviatile
Blechnum minus
Blechnum nigrum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Cyathea cunninghamii
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Cyathea smithii
Deparia petersenii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Diplazium australe
Histiopteris incisa #
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum #
Hymenophyllum demissum #

Hymenophyllum dilatatum #
Hymenophyllum ferrugineum #
Hymenophyllum flabellatum #
Hymenophyllum flexuosum #
Hymenophyllum revolutum #
Hymenophyllum scabrum #
Hypolepis ambigua
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida #
Leptopteris hymenophylloides #
Leptopteris superba
Lycopodium varium #
Lycopodium volubile #
Microsorium diversifolium #
Microsorium fragrans
Microsorium scandens
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum wawranum
Polystichum silvaticum
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris macilentia
Pteris tremula #
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia
Tmesipteris elongata #
Trichomanes venosum

Mt Egmont National Park Species List (compiled by Barry Hartley – NB not all of these spp were seen on this trip).

Dicotyledons

<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	(= <i>pumila</i>)	<i>zelandiae</i>
<i>Aciphylla</i> sp.	<i>Coprosma petriei</i>	<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i>
<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	<i>Coprosma pseudocuneata</i>	<i>Gentianella grisebachii</i>
<i>Anaphalioides bellidioides</i>	<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	<i>Geranium microphyllum</i>
<i>Anaphalioides alpina</i>	<i>Coprosma</i> sp. "t"	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>
<i>Anaphalioides trinervis</i>	<i>Coprosma tenuifolia</i>	<i>Gunnera albocarpa</i>
<i>Anisotome aromatica</i>	<i>Coriaria arborea</i>	<i>Gunnera prorepens</i>
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	<i>Coriaria plumosa</i>	<i>Gunnera strigosa?</i>
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	<i>Coriaria pteridoides</i>	<i>Hebe odora</i>
* <i>Bellis perennis</i>	<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	<i>Hebe stricta</i>
<i>Brachyglottis elaeagnifolia</i>	<i>Dactylanthus taylorii</i>	<i>Hebe stricta</i> 'Egmontiana'
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>
<i>Cardamine debilis</i> "Glossy leaf"	<i>Dracophyllum filifolium</i>	<i>Kelleria dieffenbachii</i>
<i>Cardamine</i> sp.	<i>Dracophyllum strictum</i>	<i>Knightia excelsa</i>
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	<i>Drosera binata</i>	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	<i>Lagenifera pumila</i>
<i>Celmisia glandulosa</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>
<i>Celmisia major</i> var. <i>brevis</i>	<i>Epilobium nummulariifolium</i>	<i>Leptinella squalida</i>
<i>Clematis forsteri</i>	<i>Epilobium rotundifolium?</i>	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	<i>Epilobium</i> sp.	<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>
<i>Coprosma decurva</i>	<i>Euphrasia cuneata</i>	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	<i>Forstera tenella</i> var. <i>densifolia</i>	* <i>Lotus pedunculata</i>
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	<i>Melicytus lanceolatus</i>
<i>Coprosma perpusilla</i> ssp. <i>perpusilla</i>	<i>Gaultheria depressa</i>	<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>
	<i>Gaultheria depressa</i> var. <i>novae-</i>	<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>

Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros robusta
Myosotis forsteri
Myriophyllum robustum
Myrsine divaricata
Myrsine salicina
Neomyrtus pedunculata
Nertera depressa
Nertera villosa
Olearia arborescens
Olearia virgata
Ourisia macrophylla
Oxalis magellanica
Ozothamnus leptophylla
Parsonsia capsularis
Pennantia corymbosa
Pentachondra pumila
Pittosporum eugenioides
Pittosporum kirkii
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Potamogeton suboblongus
Pratia angulata
Pseudopanax arboreus
Pseudopanax colensoi
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudowintera axillaris
Pseudowintera colorata
Ranunculus nivicola
Ranunculus reflexus
Ranunculus repens
Raoulia glabra
Raoulia tenuicaulis
Raukaua edgerleyi
Raukaua simplex
Rhabdothamnus solandri
** Rubus fruticosus*
** Sagina procumbens*
Schefflera digitata
Senecio minimus
Senecio rufiglandulosus
Senecio wairauensis
Solanum aviculare or *laciniatum*
Streblus heterophyllus
** Trifolium pratense*
Urtica incisa
Viola cunninghamii
Wahlenbergia albomarginata
Weinmannia racemosa

Gymnosperms

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Libocedrus bidwillii
Podocarpus hallii
Podocarpus nivalis
Prumnopitys ferruginea

Monocot

Aporostylis bifolia
** Asparagus setaceus*
Astelia fragrans
Astelia grandis
Astelia nervosa
Astelia solandri
Baumea rubiginosa
Bulbinella hookeri
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Caladenia chlorostyla
Carex maorica
Carex solandri?
Chiloglottis cornuta
Chionochloa rubra
Collospermum hastatum
Collospermum microspermum
Cordyline australis
Cordyline banksii
Cordyline indivisa
Cortaderia fulvida
Corybas acuminatus
Corybas iridescens?
Corybas oblongus
Corybas sp.
Corybas sp. x 2
Corybas (=Nematoceros) trilobus
Dianella nigra
Earina autumnalis
Earina mucronata
Gahnia pauciflora
Gahnia procera?
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Gastrodia cunninghamii
Lepidosperma australe
Libertia micrantha (= pulchella)
Luzula sp.
Luzuriaga parviflora
Microlaena avenacea
Microtis unifolia
Phormium tenax
Prasophyllum colensoi
Pterostylis banksii
Pterostylis graminea
Pterostylis humilis
Pterostylis irsoniana
Pterostylis montana
Pterostylis patens
Pterostylis venosa
Ripogonum scandens
Thelymitra cyanea
Thelymitra hatchii
Thelymitra longifolia
Uncinia sp. fine leaved
Uncinia uncinata
Winika cunninghamii

Fern and fern allies

Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium bulbiferum ssp. gracillimum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum colensoi
Blechnum discolor
Blechnum fluviatile
Blechnum montanum
Blechnum nigrum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Blechnum pennamarina
Blechnum procerum
Blechnum vulcanicum
Ctenopteris heterophylla
Cyathea cunninghamii
Cyathea medullaris
Cyathea smithii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Gleichenia dicarpa
Grammitis billardierei
Grammitis ciliata
Grammitis magellanica
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum dilatatum
Hymenophyllum ferrugineum
Hymenophyllum flabellatum
Hymenophyllum multifidum
Hymenophyllum peltatum
Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum
Hymenophyllum rarum
Hymenophyllum revolutum
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Hymenophyllum scabrum
Hypolepis millefolium
Hypolepis rufobarbata
Lastreopsis hispida
Lastreopsis velutina
Leptolepia novae-zelandiae
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Leptopteris superba
Lindsaea trichomanoides
Lycopodium fastigiatum
Lycopodium scariosum
Lycopodium varium
Lycopodium volubile
Microsorium diversifolium
Ophioglossum coriaceum
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum cystostegia
Polystichum sylvaticum
Polystichum vestitum
Rumohra adiantiformis

Tmesipteris lanceolata
Tmesipteris tannensis
Trichomanes endlicherianum

Trichomanes reniforme
Trichomanes venosum

Field Trip: Taranaki/Egmont National Park. 27/03/05

Fran Hintz

As the mountain was nearly clear of cloud at breakfast time, we decided to proceed with Plan A which was to drive to the carpark at the end of the Stratford access road and walk to the herbfield from there. But we would take wet weather gear and be ready to formulate a Plan B if need be. As it turned out we did everything we wanted to in spite of the weather.

First off we met Barry and Ian at the carpark at the appointed time. The trip from the park boundary had given us a glimpse of the rimu/rata/kamahahi forest, giving way to 'goblin forest'; at the carpark this was replaced by shrubby growth dominated by leatherwood (*Brachyglottis elaeagnifolia*) interspersed with *Dracophyllum filifolium*. Inspection of the subcanopy and turf revealed many treasures. *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* was flowering (and further up, in fruit). We saw *Astelia fragrans* with berries, *Ourisia macrophylla* with dead flower heads. Many *Coprosma* plants had bright berries; (*C. pseudocuneata*, *C. sp. "t"*, *C. perpusilla*). *Pratia angulata* had flowers and berries, *Gaultheria antipoda* had berries, *Raoulia glabra* was flowering, *R. tenuicaulis* was not. *Gunnera monoica* had berries. Unfamiliarity with *Pseudopanax colensoi* and *Raukaua simplex* led to much discussion. Visitors to Egmont needed help, as also with identification of *Hebe odora* and *Hebe stricta* var. *egmontiana*.

The track to the ski field shelter climbs and bends through the avalanche prone Manganui Gorge where notices warn the traveller to proceed quickly; but the profusion of herbs proved too much for the serious botanists. Only a very wet rain shower encouraged a faster speed, so that by lunchtime we were all at the shelter for lunch.

Some of the 'goodies' were: *Celmisia major* var. *brevis* (Egmont daisy), *Euphrasia cuneata* (these both flowering), *Coriaria plumosa* thick with black berries, *Wahlenbergia* sp. in flower, *Forstera bidwillii* with dead flowers, plenty of *Chionochloa rubra* with flower heads, *Sticherus* sp., *Blechnum penna-marina*, an

Aciphylla, possibly *A. colensoi* and the moss *Polytrichadelphus magellanicus* with capsules.

Fauna, apart from botanists and day trippers: a yellow admiral butterfly, a shiny dark bronze coloured beetle, a pipit in the gorge, faecal pellets indicating the presence possibly of hares.

After lunch we descended to the Potaema Bog ('bog': a mire with relatively acidic infertile water confined by underlying peat). A track suitable for wheelchairs is being constructed through the forest enroute to the bog and once there, access is by boardwalk. On the fifteen minute walk in it is obvious that heavy rainfall and moderate altitude (670m a.s.l.) have encouraged lush growth and great variety. We found several *Coprosma*, all in berry: *C. areolata*, *C. tenuifolia*, *C. grandifolia*; just to confuse us, *Alseuosmia pusilla*, also with red berries; *Raukaua anomalus*, *Schefflera digitata*; *Libertia micrantha*; a tiny version of *Pratia angulata*. There were also ferns; the ubiquitous *Asplenium bulbiferum*, less common *Leptopteris superba*, *Blechnum colensoi*, *Cyathea smithii*. The tree orchids *Winika cunninghamii* and *Earina autumnalis* were present, the latter obvious by its highly perfumed flower.

Botanising in the bog had to be from the boardwalk but we compiled a list of the most common plants. *Lepidosperma australe*, *Gahnia xanthocarpa*, *Baumea rubiginosa*, *Dracophyllum filifolium*, *Astelia grandis*, *Phormium tenax*, *Pseudopanax crassifolius*, *Leucopogon fasciculatus*, *Sphagnum* sp., *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Coprosma rhamnoides*, *Coprosma* sp. "t", *Potamogeton suboblongus*, *Euphrasia cuneata*. We did not see the blue *Thelymitra* or the sundew *Drosera binata* which are only visible in spring and summer.

Finally we returned to our Dawson Falls base through Taranaki farmland (with one magnificent cabbage tree on the roadside) and through 8 km of goblin forest to a well deserved scrumptious Bot Soc dinner.

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