

Field Trip: Centennial Park, Campbells Bay, North Shore City. 17/06/06

Richard Hursthouse

Twenty-three hardy souls braved early morning thunderstorms and a very adverse forecast to explore Centennial Park in Campbells Bay, North Shore City.

Our group first explored a 5 ha bush remnant known as Park Rise Bush, which abuts the top of Park Rise, and forms the upper part of the northern branch of the Campbells Bay stream. Among the native species noted in this remnant were *Gahnia setifolia*, *G. lacera* and *G. xanthocarpa*, *Tmesipteris elongata*, *Schoenus tendo*, *Coprosma grandifolia*, *Carex virgata* and *C. lambertiana*, *Microlaena stipoides* and *Oplismenus hirtellus*. Ferns *Asplenium flaccidum*, *Adiantum hispidulum*, and a single plant of the exotic *Adiantum raddianum*. Habitats varied from relatively uninvaded streamside vegetation to a dry pine, wattle and hakea (*Hakea sericea*) dominated ridge, with a *gahnia*, *Pomaderris kumeraho*, and *Dracophyllum sinclairii* understory. It was felt that these *Dracophyllum* would tolerate pine thinning here. This remnant has had no care or attention for many years and is heavily invaded with weeds, including *Acacia longifolia*, *Syzygium smithii* (*Acmena smithii*), *Cestrum nocturnum*, *Euonymus japonicus*, and *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*.

Opinions varied over which should be tackled first. It was agreed that the pines should be reduced, but that the most serious weeds to be tackled were *Asparagus scandens* and *Tradescantia fluminensis*. This was considered a Herculean task.

The party then migrated through a deserted golf course (closed because of the wet weather) to the 14th tee for lunch on and around a seat installed as a memorial to the late Prof Geoff Baylis, enjoying fine views down the valley.

We then entered the bush of the southern valley, nurtured for 30 years by the Centennial Park Bush Society, under the leadership of Pat Morton. We progressed down the Putaputaweta Track. It was confirmed somewhat disappointingly that what was thought to be an epiphytic northern rata on the nature trail was in fact a common pohutukawa *Metrosideros excelsa*. Up the Kohekohe Track

Clive Shirley found the following fungi:

Austroboletus niveus
Armillaria novae-zelandiae
Amanita muscaria
Amanita nehuta
Aseroe rubra
Beauvaria bassiana
Chlorociboria sp.
Calvatia cyathiformis
Crucibulum laeve
Collopus subviscosus

Maureen Young pointed out a large bank of *Tetraria capillaris*. All four species of *Tmesipteris* – *T. elongata*, *T. tannensis*, *T. lanceolata* and *T. sigmatifolia* were located, epiphytic on *Cyathea dealbata* trunks. Others to add to the list published in Dec 2005 Bot Soc journal (Hursthouse 2005) were *Centella uniflora*, *Baumea rubiginosa*, *Eleocharis acuta*. New ferns noted were *Lastreopsis microsora* and *Deparia petersenii*. A planted *Plagianthus* on the Aberdeen Track was thought to be a *Plagianthus divaricatus* x *P. regius* hybrid. Note was made of numerous mature *Pittosporum tenuifolium* trees in the main gully forest. *Senecio esleri* a naturalised herb was found on the Baylis Track, and confirmed by Alan Esler with a story about its first recognition in New Zealand.

Hymenophyllum bivalve, at its northernmost geographical known limit was an exciting sight for many back on the Kohekohe Track.

The group learned of a battle for consent to remove wattles, acmena and wilding pines, a battle that appears to be won. The wattle species was confirmed as *Acacia longifolia*. We also inspected the wetland area, where the Bush Society has recently carried out weed control and planted 1500 plants. There was extensive spread of *Aristea ecklonii* along the track margins. Ewen found a *Cryptomeria japonica* seedling near the Pine tree carpark, numerous adults in this area. This is the first known naturalising occurrence here.

In all we were probably rained on twice only and the sky was blue when we got back to the carpark at 3pm, dry but somewhat weary for the great experience.

Participants: Enid Asquith, Daphne Blackshaw, Quentin Blackshaw, Ewen Cameron, Brian Cumber, Paul Duffy, Alan Esler, Jo Fillery, Sharen Graham, Joe Greig (Centennial Park Bush Society Committee), Graeme Hambly, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Fran Hintz, Richard Hursthouse (Leader), Elaine Marshall, Juliet Richmond, Doug Shaw, Clive Shirley, Phil Smith, Shirley Tomlinson, Barbara White, Mike Wilcox, Maureen Young.

Entoloma decolorans
Entoloma peralbidum
Entoloma perzonatum
Favolaschia calocera
Ganoderma aff. *applanatum*
Gliophorus luteoglutinosus
Hygrocybe firma
Laccaria ohiensis
Lycoperdon perlatum
Mycena viscidocruenta

Mycena ura
Pleurotus sp.
Podoscypha petalodes
Pycnoporus coccineus
Schizophyllum commune

Suillus granulatus
Trametes versicolor
Tricholoma stans
Tylopilus formosus

Additions to the Plant list for Centennial Park Bush (see Hursthouse 2005)

* = exotic species

Ferns & Fern allies

Adiantum hispidulum
Lastreopsis microsora
Deperia petersenii
Tmestiperis elongata
Tmestiperis tannensis
Tmestiperis lanceolata
Tmestiperis sigmatifolia

Conifers

*Cryptomeria japonica**

Dicots

Centella uniflora
Eleocharis acuta
Plagianthus divaricatus x *P. regius* (planted)
Pseudopanax crassifolius x *P. lessonii*
*Senecio esleri**

Monocots

Baumea rubiginosa
Baumea tenax
*Juncus acuminatus**

Lepidosperma laterale
Oplismenus hirtellus
Tetraria capillaries

Reference

Hursthouse, R. 2005: Centennial Park, Campbells Bay, North Shore City. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 60 (2): 114-121

Field Trip: La Trobe & Taraire Tracks. 19/08/06

Fran Hintz

La Trobe Track runs from Lone Kauri Road in the Waitakere Ranges at about 300 m a.s.l. down to Karekare. It is the boundary between ARC reserve to the north and private land to the south, and follows the ridge between the Company Stream and the Karekare Stream. The area through which it runs was at one time kauri dominant forest but the large trees were milled, the remainder burnt and a rough farm established. Some 55 years ago the farm was abandoned and since then the bush has been regenerating. The floors of the valleys on either side of the track are quite damp (the yearly rainfall is half as much again as that of greater Auckland) but the ridges are dry with stony outcrops so there is a range of plant types corresponding with the different environments. Surprisingly, the vegetation consisted almost exclusively of indigenous genera, the only exotics of note being *Hakea sericea* and gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) both in flower, alas. Local Karekare residents have done an excellent job controlling sweet pea shrub (*Polygala myrtifolia*) at the bottom end of the track.

The party of 33 set off at about 10.30, after allowing for car shuffles. David Bryant, whose land adjoins the track joined us. He explained how he and his neighbour are creating a 'mainland island' by setting and maintaining bait traps to rid the area of pests which prey on the bird life. There are now tomtits and

whiteheads nesting as well as the more common riroriro (grey warbler), piwakawaka (fantail), tui and kereru. There is also better regeneration of nikau as the seeds are not eaten by rats.

Sandra Jones, our leader, had done her homework well, and used her ancient computer cards to full advantage to indicate treasures to look for. There were not many flowers but we saw many tiny orchids in flower: *Acianthus sinclairii*, *Cyrtostylis oblonga*, *Diplodium alobulum*, *Diplodium brumale*, *Diplodium trullifolium*, *Pterostylis agathicola*, *Pterostylis graminea*. Weren't most of them *Pterostylis* once? They are so alike that some of us needed a lesson into the way to differentiate them. *Hebe macrocarpa* was flowering, as was *Alseuosmia macrophylla*, and *Clematis paniculata* just beginning.

We detoured off the track to the lookout on David's place where we had lunch and discussed the suitability of the position for a pa site. We detoured off the detour to see a group of healthy young toatoa (*Phyllocladus toatoa*). Others to note: at least ten specimens of *Pittosporum ellipticum*; *Leionema nudum*, *Celmisia major* (very healthy even though it was on bluffs and gumland) and *Microlaena polynoda*.

Further down, we turned on to the Taraire Track where huge canopy trees of kohekohe (*Dysoxylum*