

Field trip: Atiu Creek Regional Park, Okahukura Peninsula. 16/09/06

Maureen Young

Due to the generosity of Pierre and Jackie Chatelanat, Aucklanders have acquired a new regional park on the shores of the Oruawharo River on the Kaipara Harbour (Map Ref. Q09/330410). The park takes its name from the creek that drains part of the 845 hectare property, and although it will not be open to the public until September 2007, Bot Soc was privileged to have a sneak preview of a couple of areas still under indigenous vegetation. The park is partly farmed, with areas of forestry and many amenity plantings, and there are great views out over the harbour and the Puketotara Peninsula.

Farm Manager, Chris Darcy, welcomed our party and told us the history of the property, and his expectations for the future of the farm. We then set off over a paddock, admiring the signs of spring – gambolling lambs and the gold of the kowhai trees around the harbour's edge. Across the Atiu Creek estuary swathes of flowering *Clematis paniculata* could be seen amongst the kowhai trees.

First to be explored was a small swamp leading into the saltmarsh bordering the mangroves. It was pleasing to see a good patch of *Olearia solandri* here, as it is rare to see more than the odd shrub growing at very widely spaced intervals. Also there are the stout *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*, *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, *Plagianthus divaricata*, *Juncus kraussii*, and the horrid *Juncus acutus*. No doubt the ARC will tackle this pest when a weed programme is in place.

The headland slopes down steeply to the coastline, and these steep slopes have been left in native forest. Three large trees of *Olearia albida* were admired as we began to explore this area. As could be seen from the splashes of gold, kowhai (*Sophora chathamica*) is a common component of the bush, as are karaka, titoki, kohekohe and puriri. Present in the understorey are plants that flourish on well-drained banks – *Rhabdothermus solandri*, *Asplenium gracillimum*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Polystichum neozelandicum*, *Pteris saxatilis*, *Libertia grandiflora* and the lovely velvet fern, *Lastreopsis velutina*. Further around the headland are large pohutukawa trees with both *Hebe stricta* and *H. macrocarpa* growing beneath. Also growing here is a bush of *Helichrysum lanceolatum*, a plant that is seldom seen in this district. Some kauri trees growing on the higher areas give the name of Kauri Point to the headland. An area inside the fence that has been modified has a good population of poroporo, both the usual form with purple flowers and dark stems, *Solanum aviculare* var. *aviculare*, and the form with green stems and white flowers, *S. aviculare*

var. *albiflorum*. Although not seen on the day, *Dodonaea viscosa* grows well on a high point of the headland, and the little branching form of *Alseuosmia*, *A. banksii* var. *linariifolia*?, has a presence as an under-storey shrub in one area.

When this area had been well botanised, the party trailed back up to the cars parked at the woolshed (to those of us used to the usual farm woolshed, this must qualify as the Taj Mahal of all woolsheds!). A short drive up a farm road led to a 35 ha patch of bush next to the airstrip. Most of this bush is in regenerating kanuka scrub that is very scratchy to move through, but a couple of ridges and the gully between them are under more mature forest. As we entered the bush we encountered quite a bit of *Clematis cunninghamii*, unfortunately not yet bearing its dainty yellow flowers. A handsome plant of *Asplenium gracillimum* was admired. At our July meeting Leon Perrie explained that genetic studies show this entity to have had a hybrid origin involving *A. bulbiferum* and *A. hookerianum*. A very large karaka tree was present, and also good specimens of kahikatea and pukatea. On the ridges are a few quite robust kauri trees, and under these trees grow the orchids that one would expect to see there at this time of the year – *Pterostylis agathicola*, *Cyrtostylis oblonga*, *Acianthus sinclairii* and *Nematoceras trilobum*. Great excitement was generated by a fern that was at first thought to be a hybrid between *Asplenium oblongifolium* and --- what? Closer inspection revealed that some of the fronds were like those seen on regular *A. oblongifolium*, and others had deeply divided pinnae. We hoped that Leon would be able to cast some light on this "mystery plant". A red ascomycete fungus, *Paurocotylis pila*, was also seen.

By this time people had begun to drift away, though a few stragglers remained to look at some of the exotics growing around the farm house, which Mike identified for Chris Darcy.

Field trip participants:

Chris Ashton, Enid Asquith, Paul Asquith, Ewen Cameron, Lisa Clapperton, Colleen Crampton, Brian Cumber, Bev Davidson, Geoff Davidson, Josh Davies (visitor from Canada), Frances Duff, Kristy Hall, Fran Hintz, Richard Hursthouse, Peter Hutton, John Kendrick, Alistair MacArthur, Elaine Marshall, Carol McSweeney, Garry McSweeney, Cara Nicholson, Gordon Perry, Suzi Phillips, Helen Preston Jones, Juliet Richmond, Josh Salter, Shirley Tomlinson, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox, Maureen Young (Leader), Chris Darcy (ARC Farm Manager)

Indigenous vascular species list, Atiu Creek Regional Park

Ferns and Fern Allies

Adiantum cunninghamii
Adiantum diaphanum
Adiantum fulvum
Adiantum hispidulum
Anarthropteris lanceolata
Arthropteris tenella
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium gracillimum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Deparia petersenii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Doodia australis
Doodia mollis
Hymenophyllum demissum
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida
Lastreopsis microsora
Lastreopsis velutina
Lindsaea trichomanoides
Lygodium articulatum
Microsorium pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum neozelandicum
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris macilenta
Pteris saxatilis
Pteris tremula
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia
Rumohra adiantiformis

Gymnosperms

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

Dicotyledons

Acaena anserinifolia
Alectryon excelsus
Alseuosmia ?banksii var. *linariifolia*
Apium "white denticles"
Avicennia marina
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Carmichaelia australis

Carpodetus serratus
Centella uniflora
Clematis cunninghamii
Clematis paniculata
Coprosma arborea
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma macrocarpa
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma robusta
Coprosma robusta x *C. propinqua*
Coprosma spathulata
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Dichondra repens
Dodonaea viscosa
Dracophyllum latifolium
Dysoxylum spectabile
Elaeocarpus dentatus
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Griselinia lucida
Haloragis erecta
Hebe macrocarpa
Hebe stricta
Hedycarya arborea
Helichrysum lanceolatum
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea ericoides
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Leptecophylla juniperina
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Litsea calicaris
Lobelia anceps
Macropiper excelsa
Melicope ternata
Melicytus micranthus
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros diffusa
Metrosideros excelsa
Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros perforata
Mida salicifolia
Muehlenbeckia complexa
Myrsine australis
Nertera dichondrifolia
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia albida
Olearia furfuracea
Olearia solandri
Parsonsia sp.
Passiflora tetrandra
Peperomia urvilleana
Persicaria decipiens
Pittosporum cornifolium
Pittosporum eugenioides
Plagianthus divaricatus
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Rhabdothamnus solandri
Rubus australis
Rubus cissoides

Samolus repens
Solanum americanum
Solanum aviculare var. *albiflorum*
Solanum aviculare var. *aviculare*
Sophora chathamica
Streblus heterophyllus
Streblus heterophyllus x *S. banksii*
Vitex lucens

Monocotyledons

Acianthus sinclairii
Apodasmia similis
Astelia solandri
Baumea juncea
Baumea rubiginosa
Carex flagellifera
Carex lambertiana
Carex lessoniana
Carex solandri
Carex virgata
Collospermum hastatum
Cordyline australis
Cordyline banksii
Cyrtostylis oblonga

Dianella nigra
Eleocharis acuta
Ficinia nodosa
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia pauciflora
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Isolepis cernua
Juncus krausii
Libertia grandiflora
Microlaena stipoides
Nematoceras trilobum
Oplismenus hirtellus
Phormium tenax
Poa anceps
Pterostylis agathicola
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
Triglochin striata
Typha orientalis
Uncinia banksii
Uncinia uncinata
Uncinia zotovii

Botany of Mangemangeroa Reserve, south-east Auckland. 20/05/06

Ewen K Cameron & Leslie Haines

Mangemangeroa Reserve is a 22ha narrow mostly steep coastal forest along the north-west edge of Mangemangeroa Creek and parallel to Somerville Road just south of Howick, south-east Auckland (Fig. 1). The Waitemata sediments are deeply cut down by several small streams flow down the escarpment. Manukau City Council bought the land in 1994 and the pleasant walkway along it was established in 1999. A South Auckland Forest & Bird stalwart, Betty Harris, played a key role in persuading the Mayor and Council to purchase the former private farm. The land on the south-east side of the creek is less steep, and contains less native vegetation. Middens and a fortified site indicate Maori occupation previous to European farming. Farm stock was finally excluded from the forest area in 1999 and some possum control has occurred more recently.

Attendees of the Auckland Botanical Society fieldtrip to Mangemangeroa on 20 May 2006: Sally Barclay (Royal Society Teacher Fellow researching the reserve), Ewen Cameron, Holly Cox (past ecological researcher of the catchment), Gail Donaghy, Graham Falla (Friends of Mangemangeroa Reserve), Colleen Frampton, Leslie Haines, Graeme Jane, Sandra Jones, Joan Kember, Helen Lyons, Elaine Marshall, Carol & Garry McSweeney, Cara and Ros Nicholson (trip leader), Juliet Richmond, Josh Slater and Tony Williams.

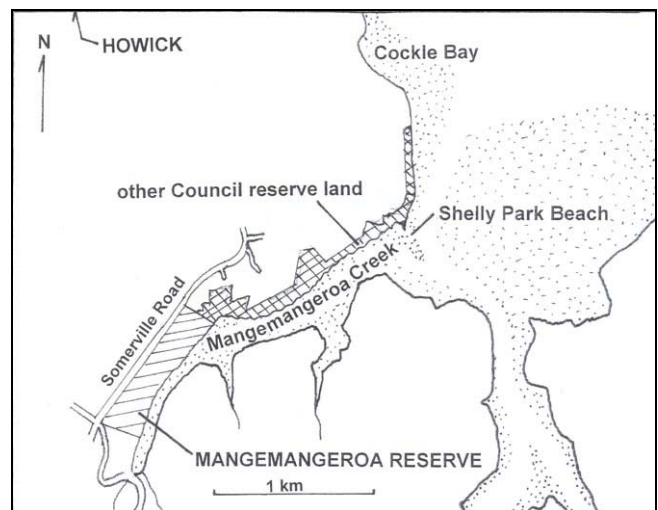


Fig. 1. Location of Mangemangeroa Reserve, near Howick.

In 2000 local Rotary clubs and Forest and Bird, working separately, became involved in bush restoration planting, and the Friends of Mangemangeroa was formed 1-2 years after that (incorporated in 2002) with the aim of fostering the wellbeing of Mangemangeroa with emphasis on protecting the natural features. The Friends come under the umbrella of Manukau Parks and work in consultation with them. In October 2006 a revised draft Management Plan for the reserve was released for public comment.