

Matuku Reserve, Te Henga, West Auckland

Leslie Haines

On the 17 March 2007 we were lucky to be guided by John Staniland (honorary ranger) to Matuku Reserve, Forest & Bird, Jonkers Road, Waitakere. We began near the carpark looking at the damage from the recent storms and the number of kanuka trees affected on the ridge. There was plentiful *Sigesbeckia orientalis* of the road and track margins. We took the Taranga Track down to the waterfall. At this magical place we found, on the cliff ledge (our lunch spot behind the waterfall – see Fig. 1), the herbs *Parietaria debilis*, *Apium prostratum*, and *Peperomia urvilleana* along with algae, lichens, mosses and parataniwha in the splash zones. We made our way down the steeper tramping track to the wetland. Here we found new species for the site: *Baumea tenax*, *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*, *Carex secta* and *Isolepis reticularis*.



Fig. 1. Lunch behind the waterfall (Alistair MacArthur, 17 Mar 2007)

The Matuku Reserve Management Plan (Bellingham & White 2005) has identified 22 vegetation types which tend to be associated with ridges, gullies or flats e.g. tawa-puriri-kohekohe-mamaku gully forest; kanuka-kauri-rewarewa forest on ridges and hill slopes; flaxfield on alluvial flats. The dominant vegetation type is typical coastal broadleaf forest (karakā-rewarewa-kowhai-puriri-tawa-pohutukawa-northern rata-tree fern-kanuka-nikau on ridges, hillslopes and gullies). The presence of kanuka is indicative of secondary growth forest. A significant vegetation type (*Baumea-Isachne-Typha*) is the wetland at the southern margin of the reserve with associated alluvial flats where there is a 'regionally significant' patch of cabbage trees near the boardwalk that takes us through the marginal vegetation to open water (Fig. 2).

We saw good numbers of *Phyllocladus toatoa*, a few plants of *Pimelea longifolia* and *Doodia mollis*, and plentiful *Toronia toru* and *Corokia buddleioides*. In flower were *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *angustior*, and in

the wetland *Epilobium pallidiflorum* and *Isachne globosa*.

There is very good invertebrate habitat and in the forest we saw several giraffe weevils (*Lasiurunchus barbicornis*) on a large, dead karaka tree. Tui, kereru and fantails are abundant and tomtits are increasing in the area and the extensive wetland has a number of native bird species such as the bittern, fernbird (nationally threatened), white heron (very rarely present) and spotless crane (locally rare) (Bellingham & White 2005).



Fig. 2. Cabbage tree flat and Matuku Reserve (Chris Ashton, 17 Mar 2007)

The level of pest control and weed management since establishment in 1979 in this 120 ha private reserve, plus the nearness to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park and Ark in the Park for connectivity for birds and seed dispersal, makes it a healthy forest regenerating since the logging in the 1920s. There are more than 250 species of native plants (see attached Appendix to the Management Plan). New plant records from this trip are *Adiantum viridescens*, *Apium prostratum*, *Baumea tenax*, *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*, *Carex secta*, *Isolepis reticularis*.

We had a good turnout with 31 members and friends: John Staniland (leader), Chris Ashton, Enid Asquith, Paul Asquith, Colleen Brewer, Warren Brewer, Pam Carmont, Lisa Clapperton, Brian Cumber, Neil Davies, Frances Duff, Margaret Duncan (Forest & Bird), Melinda Habgood, Leslie Haines, Fran Hintz, Richard Hursthouse, Peter Hutton, Annette Lindsay, Alistair MacArthur, Barrie McLeay, Gretta McLeay, Elaine Marshall, John Millett, Cara Nicholson, Suman Pancha, Erin Patterson, Josh Salter, Malcolm Simpson, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox, Maureen Young.

Acknowledgement:

Mike Wilcox for help with comments, new plant records and list of attendees, and the Auckland Museum for additional records and checking.

References

Bellingham, Mark; White, Petra 2005: *Matuku Reserve Management Plan*, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Waitakere Branch.
Staniland, John 2007: Matuku Reserve. *Auckland Botanical Society News-sheet* February/March.

Appendix 1. Native Flora of Matuku Reserve

Main vascular list compiled by Mark Bellingham and John Staniland; gymnosperms recorded by John Staniland; additions May 2002 by Petra White; June 2004 mosses and liverworts by J E Braggins and M A M Renner; *Olearia albida* in January 2005 by Jeff McCauley, and recent additions from the ABS trip (Mar 2007, marked *).

From Bellingham & White (2005: appendix 1)

LYCOPSIDA (Clubmosses) (3 spp.)

Huperzia varia (iwituna, hanging clubmoss), 1986
Lycopodium deuterodensum (puakarimu), 1986
L. volubile (waewaekoukou, climbing clubmoss), 1986

PSILOPSIDA (Fork ferns) (4)

Tmesipteris elongata, 1986
T. lanceolata, 1986
T. sigmatifolia, 1993
T. tannensis (chain fern), 1986

PTERIDOPHYTA (Ferns) (63)

Adiantum cunninghamii (puhinui, common maidenhair), 1986
A. diaphanum (small maidenhair), 1993
A. fulvum, 1993
A. hispidulum (rosy maidenhair), 1986
Adiantum viridescens, 2007
Anarthropteris lanceolata (whare-ngarara, lance fern), 1986
Arthropteris tenella (jointed fern), 2004
Asplenium bulbiferum (mouku, manamana, hen and chickens fern), 1986
A. flaccidum (hanging spleenwort, makawe o raukatauri), 1986
A. gracillimum (mouku, manamana, hen and chickens fern), 1989
A. lamprophyllum, 1989?
A. oblongifolium (huruhuruwhenua, shining spleenwort), 1986
A. polyodon (petako, sickle spleenwort), 1986
Blechnum chambersii (nini, lance fern), 1993
B. discolor (piupiu, crown fern), 1986
B. filiforme (panako, thread fern), 1986
B. fraseri (maukurangi, miniature tree fern), 1986
B. membranaceum., 1986
B. novae-zelandiae (kiokio), 1986
B. procerum (small kiokio), 1986
Cardiomanes reniforme (raurenga, kidney fern), 1986
Ctenopteris heterophylla (taupeka, gypsy fern), 1986
Cyathea cunninghamii (punui, gully tree fern), 2001
C. dealbata (ponga, silver fern), 1983
C. medullaris (mamaku, black tree fern), 1983
Dicksonia squarrosa (wheki, rough tree fern), 1986
Doodia australis (pukupuku, rasp fern), 1986
D. mollis (mokimoki), 1986
Gleichenia microphylla (waewaekaka, carrier tangle),

1986

Grammitis ciliata (paretao, strap fern), 1986
Histiopteris incisa (mata, water Fern), 1986
Hymenophyllum demissum (irirangi, drooping filmy fern), 1986
H. flabellatum (fan-like filmy fern), 1986
H. flexuosum, 1993
Lastreopsis glabella (smooth shield fern), 1989?
L. hispida (tuakura, hairy fern), 1986
L. microsora, 1989?
L. velutina (velvet fern), 1986
Lindsaea linearis, 1986
L. trichomanoides, 1986
Lygodium articulatum (mangemange, bushman's mattress), 1986
Microsorium pustulatum (kowaowao, hound's tongue), 1986
M. scandens (mokimoki, fragrant fern), 1986
Paesia scaberula (matata, hard fern, scented fern), 1986
Pellaea rotundifolia (tarawera, button fern), 1986
Pneumatopteris pennigera (pakauroharoha, gully fern), 1986
Polystichum neozelandicum (pikopiko, common shield fern), 1986
P. wawranum, 2004
Pteridium esculentum (rahurahu, bracken), 1986
Pteris comans. x *P. saxatilis*, 1999
P. macilenta (titipo, sweet fern), 1986
P. saxatilis, 1986
P. tremula (turawera, shaking brake), 1986
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia (ngarara wehi, leather-leaf fern), 1986
Schizaea bifida (forked comb fern), 1989
S. dichotoma (fan fern), 1984
Sticherus cunninghamii (tapuwae kotuku, umbrella fern), 1999
S. flabellatus, 1986
Thelypteris confluens (swamp fern), 1997
Trichomanes endlicherianum, 1993
T. venosum (veined bristle fern), 1986

GYMNOSPERMS (9)

Agathis australis (kauri), 1983
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides (kahikatea, white pine), 1986
Dacrydium cupressinum. (rimu, red pine), 1983

Libocedrus plumosa (kawaka), 1983
Phyllocladus toatoa (toatoa), 1983
P. trichomanoides (tanekaha, celery pine), 1983
Podocarpus totara (totara), 1983
Prumnopitys ferruginea (miro), 1983
P. taxifolia (matai), 1983

DICOTYLEDONS (123)

Acaena anserinifolia (piripiri, bidibid), 1986
Alectryon excelsus (titoki), 1983
Alseuosmia macrophylla 1986
Apium prostratum, 2007
Aristolelia serrata (makomako, wineberry), 1986
Beilschmiedia tarairi (taraire), 1986
B. tawa (tawa), 1983
Brachyglottis kirkii (Kirk's daisy), 1986
B. repanda (rangiora), 1983
Calystegia sepium subsp. *roseata* (pohue, swamp bindweed), 1986
C. tuguriorum, 1986
Cardamine debilis, 1986
Carmichaelia australis (maukoro, North Island broom), 1983
Carpodetus serratus (putaputaweta, marble leaf), 1983
Centella uniflora, 1986
Clematis paniculata (puawhananga), 1983
Coprosma arborea (mamangi, tree coprosma), 1983
C. areolata (thin-leaved coprosma), 1983
C. crassifolia, 1986
C. grandifolia (kanono), 1983
C. lucida (karamu, shiny karamu), 1983
C. macrocarpa, 1986
C. rhamnoides (twiggy coprosma), 1986
C. robusta (karamu), 1986
C. spathulata, 1986
Coriaria arborea (tutu), 1986
Corokia buddleioides (korokio-taranga), 1983
Corynocarpus laevigatus (karako), 1983
Dichondra repens (Mercury Bay weed), 1986
Dodonaea viscosa, 1986
Dracophyllum latifolium (neinei, spiderwood), 1986
D. sinclairii, 1983
Drosera auriculata (wahu, sundew), 1986
Dysoxylum spectabile (kohekohe), 1983
Elaeocarpus dentatus (hinau), 1983
Elatostema rugosum (parataniwha), 1986
Epilobium pallidiflorum, 1986
E. rotundifolium (round-leaved willowherb), 1986
Euchiton collinus, 1986
Fuchsia excorticata (kotukutuku), 1986
Galium propinquum (mawe), 1986
Geniostoma ligustrifolium (hangehange), 1983
Gonocarpus incanus (piripiri), 1986
Griselinia lucida (puka), 1983
Haloragis erecta (toatoa), 1986
Hebe macrocarpa (koromiko), 1983
H. stricta var. *stricta* (koromiko), 1986
Hedycarya arborea (porokaiwhiri, pigeonwood), 1983
Helichrysum lanceolatum, 1986
Hoheria populnea (houhere, lacebark), 1983
Hydrocotyle dissecta, 1986
H. moschata (hairy pennywort), 1986
H. novae-zeelandiae (swamp pennywort), 1986
Knightia excelsa (rewarewa, NZ honeysuckle), 1983
Kunzea ericoides (kanuka), 1983
Laurelia novae-zeelandiae (pukatea), 1986
Leptecophylla juniperina (prickly mingimingi), 1983
Leptospermum scoparium (manuka, tea tree), 1983
Leucopogon fasciculatus (mingimingi), 1983
Litsea calicaris (mangeao), 1983
Lobelia anceps, 1986
Lophomyrtus bullata (ramarama), 1986
Macropiper excelsum ssp. *excelsum* (kawakawa), 1983
Melicope simplex (poataniwha), 1986
M. ternata (wharangī), 1983
Melicytus macrophyllus (large-leaved mahoe), 1986
M. ramiflorus (mahoe, whitey-wood), 1983
Metrosideros carminea (carmine rata vine), 1986
Metrosideros diffusa (pink rata vine), 1986
M. excelsa (pohutukawa), 1983
M. fulgens (akatawhiwhi, red rata vine), 1983
M. perforata (aka, white rata vine), 1983
M. robusta (northern rata), 1983
Mida salicifolia (maire-taiki, willow-leaved maire), 1986
Muehlenbeckia australis (pohuehue, large-leaved muehlenbeckia), 1986
M. complexa (pohuehue), 1986
Myriophyllum propinquum (water milfoil), 1995
Myrsine australis (mapou), 1983
M. salicina. (toro), 1983
Nertera depressa, 1986
N. dichondrifolia 1986
Nestegis cunninghamii (black maire), 1986
N. lanceolata (white maire), 1983
N. montana (oro-oro, narrow-leaved maire), 1986
Olearia albida (tanguru)
O. furfuracea (akepiro), 2005
O. rani (heketara), 1983
Oxalis exilis (yellow oxalis), 1986
Parietaria debilis 1986
Parsonsia heterophylla (kaihua, NZ jasmine), 1986
Passiflora tetrandra (kohia, NZ passionfruit), 1986
Pennantia corymbosa (kaikomako), 1986
Peperomia urvilleana, 1986
Persicaria decipiens (tutanawai, swamp willow weed), 1995
Pimelea longifolia. (taranga), 1986
Pittosporum cornifolium (tawhirikaro, perching pittosporum), 1986
P. crassifolium (karo), 1983
P. eugenioides (tarata, lemonwood), 1983
P. tenuifolium (kohuhu), 1986
Pomaderris amoena (Tauhinu), 1986
P. kumeraho (kumerahou, golden tainui), 1986
Pratia angulata, 1986
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum, 1986
Pseudopanax arboreus (puahou, five finger), 1986
P. crassifolius (horoeka, lancewood), 1986
P. crassifolius x *P. lessonii*, 1986

Ranunculus amphitrichus (waoriki, buttercup), 1986
R. reflexus (maruru, hairy buttercup), 1986
Rhabdothermus solandri (taurepo, matata, NZ gloxinia), 1986
Rubus australis. (tataramoa, swamp lawyer), 1986
R. cissoides (tataramoa, bush lawyer), 1983
Schefflera digitata (pate), 1986
Senecio minimus (fireweed), 1986
Solanum aviculare (poroporo), 1986
Sophora chathamica x *S. fulvida* (kowhai) (AK 286733), 2004
S. chathamica (kowhai), 2004
S. fulvida x *S. microphylla* (kowhai), 2004
S. microphylla (kowhai), 1983
Streblus heterophyllus, 1986
Syzygium maire – presence at first inferred from occurrence of associated insects. Since seen in SE in 2004, 1983
Toronia toru (toru), 1986
Utricularia australis. (bladderwort), 1998
Vitex lucens (puriri), 1983

MONOCOTYLEDONES (68)

Acianthus sinclairii (pixie cap), 1986
Arthropodium cirratum (rengarenga, rock lily), 1986
Astelia banksii (kowharawhara, coastal astelia), 1986
Astelia solandri (kowharawhara, perching lily), 1986
A. trinervia (kauri grass), 1986
Baumea articulata (jointed twig-rush), 1986
B. rubiginosa, 1986
B. tenax, 2007
Bolboschoenus fluviatilis, 2007
Carex flagellifera (tussock grass), 1986
C. lambertiana, 1986
C. lessoniana 2002
C. maorica, 1986
C. secta, 2007
C. spirostris, 1983
C. testacea, 1986
C. virgata, 1986
Collopermum hastatum. (kahakaha, perching lily), 1986
Cordyline australis (ti kouka, cabbage Tree), 1986
C. banksii (ti-ngahere, forest cabbage tree) , 1986
C. pumilio (ti koraha, dwarf or pygmy cabbage tree), 1986
Cortaderia fulvida (toetoe), 1990
Cyperus ustulatus (toetoe upoko-tangata, giant umbrella sedge), 1986
Dianella nigra (turutu, NZ blueberry), 1986
Diplodium alobulum , 1990
D. trullifolium (elf's hood orchid), 1986
Drymoanthus adversus, 1990
Earina autumnalis (raupeka, Easter orchid), 1986
E. mucronata (peka-a-waka, bamboo orchid), 1986
Echinopogon ovatus (hedgehog grass), 1986
Eleocharis acuta (sharp spike-sedge), 1986
E. gracilis (slender spike-sedge), 1986
E. sphacelata (kuta, bamboo spike-sedge), 1986
Freyinetia banksii (kiekie), 1983
Gahnia lacera, 1986

G. pauciflora, 1988
G. setifolia (mapere), 1986
G. xanthocarpa (tupari maunga), 1986
Ichthyostomum pygmaeum bulb-leaf or pygmy orchid), 1986
Isachne globosa (swamp millet), 1986
Isolepis prolifera., 1986
I. reticularis, 2007
Juncus australis, 1986
J. pallidus (wiwi, giant rush), 1986
Lemna minor (karearea, duckweed), 1986
Lepidosperma laterale , 1986
Libertia grandiflora (titikauki), 1986
Microlaena avenacea (bush rice grass), 1986
M. polynoda (NZ bamboo, knotted rice grass), 1986
M. stipoides (patati, meadow rice grass), 1986
Microtis unifolia (maikaika, onion or grassland orchid), 1986
Morelotia affinis, 1986
Nematoceras rivulare (spider orchid), 1986
N. trilobum (spider orchid), 1986
Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. *imbecillis* (slender panic grass), 1986
Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae, 1990
Phormium cookianum. (mountain flax, wharariki), 1986
Phormium tenax (NZ flax, harakeke), 1986
Poa anceps, 1986
Pterostylis agathicola, 1986
Pterostylis banksii (tutukiwi), 1986
Rhopalostylis sapida (nikau), 1986
Ripogonum scandens (supplejack, kareao), 1983
Rytidosperma sp., 1986
Schoenus maschalinus (dwarf bog-rush), 1986
Schoenus tendo, 1986
Thelymitra longifolia (white sun orchid), 1986
Thelymitra pauciflora, 1986
Typha orientalis (raupo), 1986
Uncinia banksii (watau), 1986
Uncinia uncinata (kamu), 1986
Winika cunninghamii (lady's slipper orchid), 1986

MOSSES (13)

Campylopus? clavatus, 1985
Cyathophorum bulbosum, 2002
Dicranoloma billardieri, 1985
Fissidens oblongifolius var. *hyophilus*, 1999
Hypnodendron colensoi (umbrella moss), 2002
Leptostomum inclinans (pin cushion moss), 2002
Leucobryum candidum (milk moss), 2002
Macromitrium sp., 2004
Orthorrhynchium elegans, 2004
Papillaria sp., 2004
Ptychomnion aciculare, 2002
Racopilum sp., 2004
Thuidium furfurosum, 2002

LICHENS (5)

Cladia aggregata, 1985
Cladia retipora (coral or lace lichen), 2002
Cladonia confusa, 1985

Collema sp., 2004
Stereocaulon ramulosum, 2002

LIVERWORTS (25)

Archilejeunea olivacea, 2004
Bazzania hochstetteri, 2004
Bazzania tayloriana, 2004
Cheilolejeunea comitans, 2004
Cheilolejeunea sp. A, 2004
Cheilolejeunea sp. B, 2004
Cheilolejeunea sp. C, 2004
Chiloscyphus helmsianus., 2004
Frullania patula, 2004
Frullania rostellata, 2004
Frullania ?spinifera, 2004

Harpalejeunea latitans, 2004
Heteroscyphus sp., 2004
Lejeunea flava, 2004
Lopholejeunea sp., 2004
Marsupidium knightii, 2004
Metalejeunea cucullata, 2004
Metzgeria sp., 2004
Plagiochila stephensoniana, 2004
Porella elegantula, 2004
Radula allisonii, 2004
Radula marginata, 2004
Schistochila balfouriana, 2004
Symphyogyna tenuinervis, 2004
Telaranea tetrapila, 2004

Field Trip: Waharau Regional Park, Hunua Ranges, Saturday 21 April 2007

Melinda Habgood and Sophie Williams

Field trip participants:

Kerry Bodmin, Jan Butcher, Rosemary Gatland, Melinda Habgood (recorder), Leslie Haines, Kristy Hall, Marcel Horvath, Peter Hutton, Jonathan Larsen, Helen Lyons, Steve McCraith (leader), Elaine Marshall, Sharon Osman, Suman Pancha, Clive Shirley, Rachel Smith, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox, Sophie Williams (recorder), Tony Williams.

Waharau Regional Park provides easy access to eastern portion of the Hunua Ranges. We explored the park starting at the western carpark. The lower slopes of the park are largely young regenerating bush (scrubby tea tree, sedges and fern) following the farming-related bush clearances of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Historically, many kauri were removed from this area for ship building and both kauri and beech were taken for use in the Coromandel gold mining industry in the mid 19th century. Steve McCraith told us that many of the loop tracks near the lower carpark provide excellent viewing for lichens of the genera *Cladonia*, and *Cladia*. We moved through tanekaha/kanuka dominated forest with an understory containing relatively common plants such as *Olearia furfuracea* and *O. rani*, *Leptecophylla juniperina*, *Leucopogon fasciculatus*, *Pseudopanax crassifolius*, *Gleichenia dicarpa* and *Gleichenia microphylla*. Mike Wilcox stopped to explain to us the morphological differences between *Lycopodiella cernua*, *Lycopodium deuterodensum* and *Lycopodium volubile*.

Species diversity in this area seemed high, especially for ground cover species. The only environmental weeds recorded were hakea (*Hakea sericea*), pampas, blackberry and gorse.

Further up, the steep clay tracks ascended into mature rewarewa, tanekaha, kauri and hard beech-clad ridges, along with a sprinkling of hinau. In season, abundant ground orchid populations can be found along here. The valleys and eastern ridges support tawa. Prominent plants in the understory were *Astelia trinervia*, *Coprosma spathulata*, *Cordyline banksii* and *Alseuosmia quercifolia*. As we reached the lookout (our highest point for the day) we were lucky enough to observe climbing rata (*Metrosideros fulgens*) in flower.

On the walk back down to the carpark via the southern loop track, we traversed an area of vegetation reminiscent of gumland scrub, a highlight here was finding the comb fern (*Schizaea fistulosa*), while Kerry managed to spot a *Brachyglottis kirkii* at the side of the track.

Another highlight of the day was Clive Shirley's knowledge of the local fungi. Despite it being early in the fungi season, and unusually dry, a few fungi species were noted. Most specimens noted are ones that are mycorrhizal with *Leptospermum*, the main species that dominates the lower levels of the park, or *Nothofagus truncata* (hard beech) which is more common higher up on the ridges.