

*Astelia trinervia*  
*Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*  
*Carex dissita*  
*Carex lambertiana*  
*Carex solandri*  
*Collospermum hastatum*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Cordyline banksii*  
*Cordyline pumilio*  
*Cortaderia splendens*  
*Corybas cheesemanii*  
*Danhatchia australis*  
*Dianella nigra*  
*Dichelachne crinita*  
*Diplodium alobulum*  
*Drymoanthus adversus*  
*Earina mucronata*  
*Freycinetia banksii*  
*Gahnia lacera*  
*Gahnia pauciflora*  
*Gahnia setifolia*

*Gahnia xanthocarpa*  
*Isolepis reticularis*  
*Libertia ixioides*  
*Microlaena avenacea*  
*Microlaena stipoides*  
*Nematoceras trilobum*  
*Oplismenus hirtellus*  
*Phormium tenax*  
*Poa anceps*  
*Pterostylis agathicola*  
*Pterostylis banksii*  
*Rhopalostylis sapida*  
*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Schoenus maschalinus*  
*Schoenus tendo*  
*Thelymitra aemula*  
*Uncinia banksii*  
*Uncinia distans*  
*Uncinia uncinata*  
*Uncinia zotovii*  
*Winika cunninghamii*

## Labour Weekend Camp: Whangarei Heads, 19–22 October 2007

Maureen Young

### Camp participants:

Jan Butcher, Lisa Clapperton, Brian Cumber, Bev & Geoff Davidson, Leslie Haines, Graeme Hambly, John Kendrick, Elaine Marshall, Helen Preston Jones, Juliet Richmond, John & Stella Rowe, Doug Sheppard, Shirley Tomlinson, Alison Wesley, Ian Wilson, Philip Wrigley, Maureen Young (camp mother). The camp was based at the Manaia Baptist Camp at McGregors Bay.

### Friday 19 October

For those lucky enough not to have to work, there was an afternoon walk up Mt Aubrey, guided by old friend, Lisa Forester (Northland Regional Council) and Wendy Holland (Department of Conservation). Wendy lives at the base of Mt Manaia, and had kindly offered to be our guide for the weekend, also supplying us with species lists and maps.

Mt Aubrey, at 216 m, is a low peak compared to the other volcanic outcrops of Wairakau andesites at Whangarei Heads, but it was a good training run to get our legs accustomed to what lay ahead of us over the weekend. It lies on the coastal side of the road, is administered by the Whangarei District Council, and has well-defined mown tracks.

*Coprosma macrocarpa*, looking quite distinctive with very wavy leaves and green fruit with long peduncles, was a common component of the vegetation along the track, and here we first met the *Hebe* that has variously been known as *Hebe* "Whangarei" or *Hebe*

"sp. m" (Eagle 1982, 1986). It has now been included in *H. ligustrifolia* (although in Eagle 2006 it has been differentiated by tagging it *H. ligustrifolia* (1)), but having dark stems and short, rather wide leaves, it would not immediately strike one as belonging to that species.

Wendy pointed out some white spots high up on a rock face; these were flowering plants of *Celmisia adamsii* var. *rugosula*, the daisy that is endemic to the Whangarei Heads. Although we later saw quite a few plants, unfortunately none of them had open flowers. While climbing one of the large rock peaks we saw *Ctenopteris heterophylla*, *Huperzia varia*, *Ichthyostomum pygmaeum*, *Winika cunninghamii*, *Cheilanthes sieberi*, *Crassula sieberiana*, *Wahlenbergia littoricola*, *Cotula australis*, *Peperomia urvilleana* and *Thelymitra pauciflora*.

Back beside the track was the northern form of *Pittosporum eugenioides*, also *P. umbellatum*, and scrambling over some shrubs of *Coprosma rhamnoides* were plants of the dainty *Calystegia marginata*, showing the arrow-shaped leaves. Although too early for flowers, the one bud present showed the narrow frilly wings on the peduncle from which the plant takes its name. Also seen here were many vines of *Clematis cunninghamii* showing the yellow-green flowers, both male and female. This plant was a feature of the weekend, commonly seen along all of the tracks. Also a common feature was the rock forest, often with large pohutukawa trees, and with the ferns

*Loxogramme dictyopteris* (= *Anarthropteris lanceolata*), *Arthropteris tenella*, *Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum* and plentiful *H. flexuosum*. As we walked around the coast back to the cars we saw *Pteris comans*, *Parietaria debilis*, kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), tawapou (*Planchonella costata*), and flowering whau (*Entelea arborescens*).

### Saturday 20 October

Wendy, with ornithologist Ray Pierce, met us at the Mt Manaia car park for an early start up the peak, so we could travel the considerable distance that we intended to cover, at a botanist's pace. The first interesting find of the day was a good patch of the spider orchid, *Nematoceras macranthum*. It needed close searching to see the flowers, but they were there in quantity, hiding beneath the long-petiolate leaves. This orchid was seen in several damp places during the day.

At about the half-way point there is a lookout with views to the east, and here the vegetation suddenly changed from being rather ordinary to distinctly interesting. Some kauri trees with *Dracophyllum sinclairii* growing around them were the first signs that things were changing, and then flowering *Corokia cotoneaster* and *Clematis cunninghamii* both appeared. *Leionema nudum* was mostly in bud, but careful searching revealed a few flowers to show those who were unfamiliar with this dainty shrub. It was good to be able to compare *Pittosporum umbellatum* and *P. ellipticum* (Fig. 1), the latter with fresh new leaves showing well the dense golden-brown pubescence that distinguishes that species. We had our first sighting of the day of *Pomaderris paniculata* subsp. *novae-zelandiae* (Fig. 2), unfortunately a little early for it to be in flower. This rather prostrate plant has the curious distribution of growing only on the Surville Cliffs at North Cape, and Mt Manaia – a special plant, indeed. A *Pimelea*, tagged (b) (*Pimelea* sp. (iv) in Eagle 2006), grows here (and Mt Aubrey). The plants we saw straggled to a length of c. 60 cm and were showing white flowers at the end of the branches. Out on the open rocks were *Phormium cookianum*, *Celmisia adamsii* var. *rugosula*, and *Thelymitra pauciflora*.

Back on the track one shrub of *Coprosma crassifolia* was a new addition to the species list, and there was much discussion about the *Coprosma* that was listed as *C. neglecta*. It is named *C. neglecta* (iv) in Eagle 2006, and is certainly quite different from the plants of *C. neglecta* that grow around Whangaroa Harbour. *Alseuosmia macrophylla* became common along the track, and showed thick leaves with rather scalloped leaf margins. Large rocks with the suite of ferns that were seen at Mt Aubrey were again in evidence, with much *Hymenophyllum flexuosum*.

The summit (441 m) was reached by lunchtime. There was much more of the *Pomaderris* and the

*Celmisia* here, also *Blechnum procerum*, *Collospermum microspermum*, *Libertia grandiflora*, *Helichrysum lanceolatum*, *Phormium cookianum*, *Litsea calicularis* – and was it *Metrosideros carminea* creeping over the rock face? As we moved off after lunch John Kendrick spied a mottled grey gecko, *Hoplodactylus granulatus*, well camouflaged on the trunk of a totara. It was a stumpy specimen that had lost its tail, and it didn't move despite all the flashing cameras. We thought that perhaps the cold wind had slowed down its reactions.

Line break

At this point some chose to return to the cars, but most of us set off northwards along the main ridge of the massif in a hunt for the prize of the weekend – the newly named *Pseudowintera insperata* (nationally critical, Fig. 3). As this was not a public track the going was a bit tough at times, and when we came to an exposed sloping rock we stopped for a welcome break. I was checking the two species of *Cheilanthes*, and performing a caesarean on a *Thelymitra* bud, when I was urgently called over to where Helen PJ was sitting. Beside her was a small group of my favourite, *Ophioglossum coriaceum* (Fig. 4) – great excitement! Careful searching revealed maybe a hundred small plants. Newly inspired, we carried on along the ridge, wondering if we were ever going to reach our goal. Along the way were *Asplenium lamprophyllum*, *Sophora fulvida*, a plant or two of a diminutive *Asplenium hookerianum*, and a terrestrial *Pittosporum cornifolium*. At last Wendy pointed out four plants of *Pseudowintera insperata*, and after the photographers were satisfied we hurried back the way we had come. Ironically, as we started back down the main track we spied the one *P. insperata* seedling that Wendy and I knew grew there, but which we had missed on the way up. It showed nicely the smooth, semi-glossy leaves with rounded ends, and the paler midrib.

Back at camp the Rowses had once more proved their worth by getting dinner underway, and after dinner the enthusiasts had a game or two of botanical scrabble.

### Sunday 21 October

Exploring Bream Head was the aim for the day, and waiting with Wendy at the Peach Cove car park was Andrew Townsend, the new Department of Conservation (DoC) botanist for Northland, and his three year old son Ryan. As we climbed upwards, mainly through kikuyu, we could see many trees of flowering kowhai in the forest ahead of us, and on reaching the bush edge we found it to be *Sophora fulvida*. The compound leaves with small, closely spaced leaflets proclaimed the species – Mt Manaia and Bream Head are the only east coast sites for it. The trees were spectacularly smothered in flowers, rather later in the spring than the other local species. *Parsonsia capsularis*, *Clematis cunninghamii*, and *Rubus squarrosa* were all flowering. The latter, known



Fig. 1. *Pittosporum ellipticum*, Manaia Ridge Scenic Reserve (Fig. 1-6 by Alison Wesley Oct 2007 field trip)



Fig. 2. *Pomaderris paniculata* subsp. *novaezelandiae*, Manaia Ridge Scenic Reserve



Fig. 3. *Pseudowintera inspirata*, Bream Head Scenic Reserve



Fig. 4. *Ophioglossum coriaceum*, Manaia Ridge Scenic Reserve



Fig. 5. *Drymoanthus adversus*, Peach Cove Walk



Fig. 6. *Pterostylis banksii*, Bream Head Scenic Reserve



as “leafless lawyer”, was here quite leafy, but it could be determined by the bright yellow prickles. In the rather open bush with grassy patches here and there, were some trees of whau (*Entelea arborescens*), crowned by white blossom, and many bushes, or trees, of *Hebe parviflora*. This narrow-leaved *Hebe* is the second tallest in the genus, after *H. barkeri* on the Chatham Islands, and later in the day we saw one with a trunk c. 20 cm diameter. There was no sign of flowers or buds. In this same area was a slope covered with brilliantly red fronds of *Doodia australis* – the young fronds of *Adiantum hispidulum* were similarly bright. On a dead kowhai stump above this colourful slope were 20 plants of the orchid *Drymoanthus adversus* (Fig. 5), each plant with at least one robust (relatively speaking) spray of flowers. The dry slopes supported *Asplenium lamprophyllum*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Pteris comans*, *Pellaea rotundifolia*, *Polystichum neozelandicum* and *Microlaena polynoda*.

The party consolidated here before tackling the steep drop down to Peach Cove. As we zig-zagged downwards under impressive northern coastal forest, it seemed to us as if this tip of the Whangarei Heads peninsula was imbued with the “island influence”, so large were the leaves on many of the plants. The tawaroa (*Beilschmiedia tawaroa*) particularly impressed us, and in my imagination I could hear Anthony Wright, who described this species, call out, “Hooray! Some believers!” The canopy also contained kohekohe, karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), tawapou, some taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*), and nearer the coast, pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), whau and *Pseudopanax lessonii*. The sub canopy was largely kawakawa (*Macropiper excelsum*) with some *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, and under that grew the velvet fern, *Lastreopsis velutina*.

A spectacular sight greeted us at the coast – just before we reached the small DoC hut we came to an enormous rock with an equally enormous pohutukawa growing on the summit. Large roots, each the size of the trunk of a mature tree, grew down over the rock, giving the whole the appearance of a giant’s birthday present tied with giant rope, with plants of *Collospermum hastatum* and *Peperomia urvilleana* scattered like green tinsel.

We hurried westward to where it was known that *Fuchsia procumbens* grew, passing on the way a tangled heap of trunks and branches – trees that had not survived the July storms. A sapling of parapara (*Pisonia brunoniana*) had miraculously survived, with fallen branches on either side of it. The *Fuchsia*, alas, had not been so fortunate. The banks where it grew had been eroded in the storm, and the salt water had obviously not been beneficial either. However, some fresh green shoots were showing, and all looked well for its recovery. On the way back to the hut we checked out the saplings of *Streblus* that grew in

numbers under the canopy. Some had leaves that were big enough to qualify as *S. banksii*, but several did not. This helped to consolidate my view that maybe there are not two species – *S. banksii* and *S. heterophyllus* – but one species with forms that grade smoothly from one to the other.

After lunching on the hut deck, Wendy led us down another track to the beach, with the promise of showing us a snail from the most southerly population of *Placostylus hongii*. We waited on the beach while she found a small specimen to display. Karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*) growing in the coastal fringe, showed no signs of storm damage. Heading back, a search of the trackside forest revealed a young tree of parapara, 5 or 6 m. tall with leaves reaching 45 cm in length.

After a slow climb up the steep slope, we gathered at the intersection with the Bream Head track to decide on a plan of action. Some, including Andrew with young Ryan in a back pack, decided that they had exhausted their day’s supply of energy, and set off homewards. There were others who had also reached that state, but with Wendy’s promise of more *Pseudowintera insperata* and an undulating track, showed true Bot Soc grit and decided to tackle the walk along to the summit (476 m). We soon found that in this case undulating did not mean “up and down”, it meant “up and up”. However, the forest was so wondrous, with the canopy soaring above us, a rock wall on one side, *Pterostylis banksii* (Fig. 6) flowering voluptuously at our feet, and sprinklings of the white flowers of *Libertia grandiflora* along the track, that we could only be glad that we had made the effort. This time the patch of *Pseudowintera* contain several full-sized trees, but the one flower present did not lend itself very well to being photographed.

One of the rock outcrops on the high point of the ridge made an excellent viewpoint, with great views to Mt Manaia, Marsden Point, the harbour and the sea. On the rock grew plants of *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii* with fluffy seeds showing, and *Corokia buddleioides* with flowers. A little further along the track grew some *Blechnum triangularifolium*.

Not far on the downward slope, Wendy and I stopped by a small tree with large, dark green leaves. I was thinking that the leaves were too wide for tawapou, and the venation was not right, when at the same instance the penny dropped for both of us – coastal maire (*Nestegis apetala*). This made our day, as it completed the suite of northern coastal plants that we had been hoping to see. A long, rather dreary drop down to sea level saw a very tired group finally get back to the cars. At this point we said goodbye to Wendy, our wonderfully friendly and helpful guide, whose assistance made the planning of the weekend so much easier.

## Monday 22 October

After cleaning up the lodge we drove to Urquharts Bay for a short walk along Smugglers Bay and around Busby Head. On the cliffs at the end of Smugglers Bay were *Scandia rosifolia*, *Stellaria decipiens*, *Arthropodium cirratum* and *Lobelia anceps*. A kaka was seen in a pohutukawa tree, and on the beach was found a large pink snaketail brittlestar (*Pectinura maculata*). On Busby Head there were many plants of *Thelymitra* aff. *longifolia*, with strongly perfumed flowers. At first we again saw the *Hebe ligustrifolia* with the dark stems, but soon the more common form

with narrower leaves and yellow petioles and midribs was plentiful on the track sides. At the end of the walk by some old gun emplacements, *Calystegia tuguriorum* was common, with many large white flowers.

This ended a tiring, but interesting weekend in a fascinating part of Northland. We all agreed that when we next drive down the north side of the Brynderwyns and see the strange shapes of Bream Head and Mt Manaia in the distance, we will have a proprietary feeling towards them.

The following bird list was compiled by Stella and John Rowe and John Kendrick:

|                 |                   |                        |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Shining cuckoo  | Kingfisher        | Starling               |
| Tui             | Pukeko            | Myna                   |
| Bellbird        | Californian quail | Sparrow                |
| Kaka            | Pheasant          | Variable oystercatcher |
| Fantail         | Peafowl           | Pied shag              |
| Silvereye       | Swallow           | Little shag            |
| Grey warbler    | Paradise shelduck | Black-backed gull      |
| Eastern rosella | Chaffinch         | Red-billed gull        |
| Tomtit          | Goldfinch         | Gannet                 |
| Morepork        | Thrush            | Pipit                  |
| NZ pigeon       | Blackbird         |                        |

### Acknowledgements

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## Rotoroa Island, inner Hauraki Gulf, trip report

Ewen K. Cameron (editor)

### Introduction

Ewen Cameron

In continuation of the Auckland Botanical Society (ABS) visiting and recording the vegetation and floras of Hauraki Gulf Islands, on 4 Nov 2006, 43 people met at Pine Harbour marina, Beachlands, for the 8.30 am departure on the Salvation Army vessel, *Serenity Rotoroa* (a tidy double-hulled boat surveyed for 50 passengers), for a one-day field trip to Rotoroa Island in the inner Hauraki Gulf (Fig. 1). It was a beautiful clear day and the sea was calm.

Participants of the trip (Fig. 2): Rich Afford (Fig. 3), Chris & Noel Ashton, Tricia Aspin, Paul & Enid Asquith, Ross & Jessica Beever, Kerry Bodmin, Jonathan Boow, Ewen Cameron (leader), Stella Christoffersen, Colleen Crampton, Neil Davies, Peter de Lange, Gael Donaghy, Frances Duff, Raewyn Faloon, Jo Fillery, Alan Foubister, Kane Frost, Richard Gallen, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Wolfgang Heiss, Peter Hutton, Graeme Jane,

Sandra Jones, Joan Kember, Helen Lindsay, Carol Lockett, Alistair MacArthur, Elaine Marshall, John Millett, Sharon Osman, Helen Preston Jones, Juliet Richmond, Josh Salter, Bec Stanley, Heather Stone, Shirley Tomlinson, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox, and Maureen Young. Trindi Walker (Fig. 3), Events & Booking Co-ordinator, of The Salvation Army welcomed us and gave us our induction to the island, her husband, Graeme Walker skippered the boat and was also the island Manager.

The landscape plantings at Pine Harbour marina included an ominous long row of mature bangalow palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*) – I hope they don't prove to be a seed source for the adjacent islands? Also concerning was the number of Norfolk Island hibiscus seedlings and saplings (*Lagunaria patersonia*) naturalising under planted adult trees by