

SUMMER CAMP BASED AT LENZ RESERVE, CATLINS, 6 – 11 JANUARY 2012

INTRODUCTION

Gillian & Miles Giller

The Summer Camp in the Catlins, 6 – 11 January 2012, coincided with a week of mostly fine mild weather. Our venue was the Royal Forest and Bird Society's Tautuku Forest cabins in the Lenz Reserve, nestled among the regenerating podocarp-hardwood forests of Tautuku Bay. The majority of the camp participants arrived late on Thursday afternoon and that evening local naturalist Fergus Sutherland from nearby Mohua Park gave us a most interesting talk on some of the local geological and botanical highlights, and on the history of the Catlins area. We were very lucky to have Fergus, plus Southland DoC botanist Brian Rance and Otago DoC's Graeme Loh join and inspire us on various days with their intimate knowledge of the area. Species lists kindly provided by Graeme Jane and from local DoC offices provided a valuable reference for most areas we visited. Each was updated after our visit.

Camp participants: Robert Birks, Eleanor & Barry Bissell, Trevor Blogg, Barbara & Owen Cassidy, Jane Demeter, Margaret & Bert Geerkens, Gillian & Miles Giller, Bryony Macmillan, Paul & Ruth Maurice, Ann McMillan, Fraser Ross, Zuni Steer.

With help from: Graeme Loh & Sue Maturin, Gay Munro, Brian Rance, Fergus Sutherland.

6 JANUARY – TAUTUKU ESTUARY, LAKE WILKIE, AND LENZ RESERVE

Gillian Giller

With Fergus Sutherland's information fresh in our minds we were ready to start exploring the following morning. Brian Rance, DoC botanist, accompanied us for the day and we were grateful for his expertise. We visited areas close to camp and did very little driving, which was good after the long trip down the day before. Our first unscheduled stop was beside the entrance gate to the Tautuku Forest cabins where *Crassula ruamahanga* was pointed out happily growing on the side of the road. Across the road, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ilex aquifolium* and *Tropaeolum speciosum* grew on the site of an old school and housing. In the short section of forest before the Tautuku Estuary boardwalk we saw the first of many filmy ferns we were to see during the week - *Hymenophyllum flabellatum* and *H. demissum*. The main canopy trees in this disturbed forest were kamahi, *Fuchsia excorticata* and *Leptospermum scoparium*.