

and only 2 to 3 metres away, rather than high in the trees. Further along the mature *Olearia lacunosa* trees (Fig. 13, p. 56) had long strips of hanging bark and the dense stands of *Dracophyllum traversii* invited us to linger and admire, and to take photos. *Drosera spatulata* and *Aporostylis bifolia* were flowering on the side of the track. When we spotted some *Libocedrus bidwillii* we started to look for *Hymenophyllum malingii* which is often seen growing on dead wood of this species. We found a stump 50cm high entirely covered with the fern (Fig. 14, p. 56). Its blue grey fronds overlapped like feathers on a cloak. As we neared the bushline we found *Brachyglottis laxifolia* growing in an open rocky spot. After lunch at the Mt Arthur hut and a short exploration of the marble rock just above the hut, we descended through more *Dracophyllum* and mountain and silver beech towards the Flora Hut. The spring germination of beech seedlings had been prolific and they formed a dense carpet in places looking very much like a lawn. Just before we reached the Flora Hut we heard a kakariki call and caught a brief glimpse of it in some beech trees. When we had seen the *Olearia lacunosa* earlier in the day, we had wondered if we would see any hybrids. Just past the Flora Hut, George spotted a few plants which were clearly *O. lacunosa* hybrids. Further down the track we saw *O. ilicifolia* which would have been the other parent of the hybrid plants. Back at the carpark we had a cuppa and enjoyed the late afternoon sun whilst we waited for the rest of the party to return.

## **DAY 5 WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2015**

### **MT CAMPBELL AND HOARY HEAD, NW NELSON**

**Trevor Blogg**

This particular day of our camp saw eight of us (Fig. 15, p 57) driving in two high-clearance 4WD vehicles to the Mt Campbell communications tower, a structure visible from much of the Motueka area. This provides the most convenient access to the unique vegetation of the marble mountain-top that is Hoary Head, though “convenient” is a relative term. In the event a 3½ hour undulating hike through un-tracked terrain was needed to reach the open tops. The drive in passed through remarkable, park-like areas dominated by large *Hebe topiaria* shrubs.

Our commitment to reach Hoary Head meant that we did not botanise the hiked route in any detail, but many species were obvious without close inspection. We brushed by *Olearia avicenniifolia*, *Dracophyllum filifolium* and *Podocarpus cunninghamii* (Mountain Totara), saw *Thelymitra longifolia*, *Corokia cotoneaster*, *Podocarpus nivalis*, *Olearia lacunosa*, and various coprosmas (including the ubiquitous *C. dumosa*, and the

occasional *C. pseudociliata* – also at least one *C. rugosa*, which is not on the Graeme Jane/Cathy Jones species list for Mt Campbell). Ground-cover included much *Pentachondra pumila*.

As we reached the second saddle of our route, expertly guided by Alastair Macdonald who had been before and assisted by the GPS of Miles Giller, we walked through an almost complete understorey of the pepper tree *Pseudowintera colorata*, under the canopy of mixed native beech species (*Fuscospora fusca*, *F. cliffortioides*, and *Lophozonia menziesii*). As we progressed, the frequency of (pea-green leafed) *Coprosma pseudociliata* increased markedly.

A final reorientation of our group put us at the base of the ridge onto Hoary Head, though a refreshment break was needed before the push to reach the promised marble feature. The base of the ridge offered a variety of ferns including *Blechnum procerum*. After about 300 m of climbing we emerged onto the marble area. The Gillers quickly located the endemic *Clematis marmoraria* (Fig. 16, p. 57), though not in flower. The rocky surface was surprisingly well vegetated, with plants of the (also endemic) *Myosotis arnoldii* (Fig. 17, p. 58) almost everywhere we looked, though at first we could find none in flower. *Celmisia semicordata* ssp. *semicordata* was noted. Paul Maurice quickly identified *Poranthera alpina* (previously *Oreoporanthera*), which was abundant on the high ridge. Of the umbellifers, *Anisotome filifolia*, *A. aromatica* and *Gingidia* sp. were seen. I'm told that *G. montana* has been 'split', with the original name only applying to lowland species!

Another addition to the species list was *Euphrasia monroi*. I was also pleased to see the uncommon white leafed "woollyhead", *Craspedia lanata* var. *elongata*. Paul Maurice identified *Raoulia apicinigra* and we noted the gentians, *Gentianella bellidifolia* and *G. montana* ssp. *montana*. The Gillers identified a rare *Senecio* (*S.* 'Burnett' [*Senecio* aff. *glaucophyllus* s.s.]) (Fig. 18, p. 58). Alastair Macdonald was the first to find a plant of *Myosotis arnoldii* in flower, and to photograph it. I also found and photographed the same plant later, easily identifiable to Alastair by a small stone which he'd used to prop up a flower, the stone clearly visible in my photo (Fig. 3)! As usual, Alastair was on a *Hebe* hunt and found *Hebe albicans* on the summit.

Sadly, the return trip to our vehicles allowed us only an hour of exploration of the marble top, and then we were on our way back to the vehicles on Mt Campbell, a trip which proved arduous for some of us. Our return to Tapawera was very late but we had seen two very rare endemic plants and some other very interesting botany. Our thanks go to Mount Campbell Communications (owner Lloyd Wensley) for access and to Fleur Macdonald who drove into Nelson to get the gate-key from them.