

WAIAU SPRING CAMP 13 – 15 NOVEMBER 2015

INTRODUCTION

Miles Giller

The Society based its 2015 spring camp at Waiau, North Canterbury. The local motor camp provided excellent facilities, with a good range of potential botanical venues available in all directions. The modest contingent of Trevor Blogg (on his last excursion with Bot Soc before moving overseas), Gillian & Miles Giller, Melissa Hutchison, Felix & Allegra Collins, Graeme Jane, Paul Maurice, Ann McMillan and Sarah Wright was ably led by Alice Shanks. There were few available records of previous botanical excursions in the area, thus we knew that a few surprises might be found – as proved to be the case. Our three eventual outings were chosen for their differing sites. Mount Terako had a historic reputation for its montane botany, the lower altitude Lottery Bush promised to reveal a few foothills novelties, while Ferniehurst Bush had a quiet reputation for its lowland podocarps. All three locations delivered both the expected and the unexpected.

DAY 1 FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2015

LOWER SLOPES OF MOUNT TERAKO AND CUNNINGHAM STREAM

Paul Maurice

A light covering of snow on Mount Terako following some southerlies in the previous week meant that we could not pursue our plan of looking at some of the alpine, so we spent a pleasant day botanising in the lower altitude habitats instead.

The forest was dominated by mountain and red beech, with scattered Hall's totara. In the shrub layer we found *Coprosma linariifolia*, *C. microcarpa* and *Pittosporum divaricatum*, with *Hebe traversii* and *H. leiophylla* near the forest margins. These two species of *Hebe* occur in similar habitats, but whereas *H. leiophylla* has a small sinus, which is usually rounded, *H. traversii* has no sinus. Rocks on the forest floor harboured colonies of *Notogrammitis billardierei* (hairs absent from the soral area and short-creeping rhizomes) and *N. patagonica* (abundant dark hairs among the sori and long-creeping rhizomes). Orchid flora included *Corybas trilobus*, *Chiloglottis cornuta* and *Thelymitra longifolia*.

The shingly stream bed (Fig. 1, p. 60) yielded *Epilobium melanocaulon*, *E. microphyllum* and *Coriaria sarmentosa*, with *Epilobium brunnescens* in wetter

patches. A bit of scrambling on rock outcrops was rewarded by finding *Pachystegia insignis*, *Heliohebe raoulii* ssp. *raoulii*, *Helichrysum parvifolium* and the southern Marlborough endemic *Helichrysum coralloides*.



Figure 1 Bot Soc in conference, Cunningham Stream, Mount Terako (photo Miles Giller).

As we gained altitude, the vegetation became more varied. The streamsides had a very photogenic display of both male and female plants of *Aciphylla glaucescens* (Fig. 2). On the steep banks we found *Geum cockaynei*, *Anisotome*

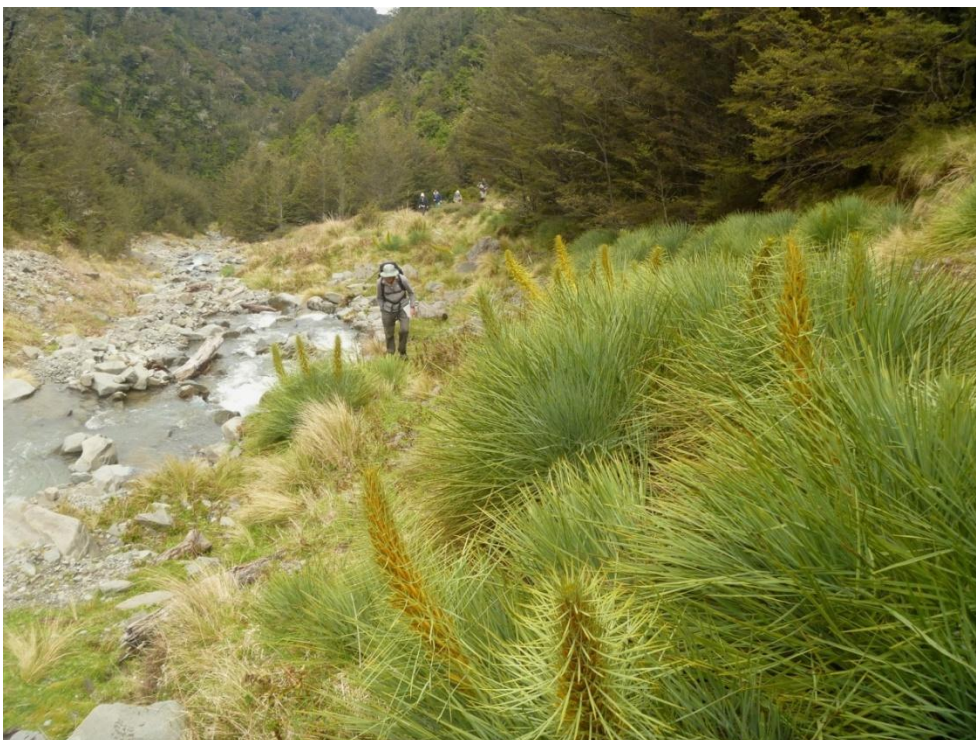


Figure 2 An impressive group of *Aciphylla glaucescens*, Mount Terako (photo Miles Giller).

filifolia, *Gingidia montana*, *Aristotelia fruticosa*, *Brachyglottis monroi*, *Olearia cymbifolia*, *O. nummulariifolia*, *Celmisia monroi*, *C. bellidioides*, *Leptinella pyrethrifolia*, *Parahebe decora*, *Hebe brachysiphon*, *H. decumbens* and our third *Notogrammitis* of the day, *N. crassior*. *Ranunculus insignis* here looked very different from the form seen on Mount Arthur, which has much larger leaves. Of particular interest was a specimen of the purple-brown *Senecio* aff. *dunedinensis*, growing in its typical semi-shaded habitat under some shrubs, spotted and identified by the Gillers.

An epilobium frequently encountered during the day, both on rock and scree, was suspected to be *Epilobium glabellum*, but we were not certain. Unfortunately, a specimen had not been collected and none of us had taken a photo. One year later Miles and Gillian were back in this covenant and were able to collect a specimen, which Miles sent to his botanist friend Kevin Platt. It was confirmed as *E. glabellum*.

On the way back down to the cars a fine specimen of *Olearia odorata*, which we had missed on the way up, was noted.

Thank you to Alice for organising this excellent Camp.

DAY 2 SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2015

LOTTERY BUSH

Miles Giller

Most people who have visited Lottery Bush probably gain entry from the eastern side off the Inland Road. We instead gained our access from the western side, from Sherwood Road and across a short stretch of farmland alongside the Lottery River. This route provided more direct access to areas of relatively flat terrace formations, where we hoped we might find a few species associated with the higher fertility alluvial soils.

Our first surprise was to encounter a significant gorge of the Lottery River cut through limestone and volcanic rocks (Fig. 3, p. 62). Kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), akiraho (*Olearia paniculata*), broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*) and black beech (*Fuscospora solandri*) were the dominant tall trees, with kanuka (probably both *Kunzea robusta* and *K. serotina*) and a range of divaricating shrubs along the toe-slopes (Fig. 4, p. 62). The upper limestone bluffs and faces were generally smooth and provided scant opportunity for small herbs, though *Asplenium lyallii* and *A. trichomanes* both occurred on limestone debris lower down. *Brachyglottis monroi* clung to a few rocky refuges, and *Korthalsella clavata* was seen hosted on *Coprosma crassifolia*.