

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*.



Figure 3 Lottery Bush and Lottery River gorge (photo Melissa Hutchison).



Figure 4 Lottery Bush provided a challenging range of divaricating shrubs under a beech canopy (photo Melissa Hutchison).

After lunch and a circuitous scramble to the terrace at the top of the scarp, we crossed a cultivated paddock and entered a fenced-off part of Lottery Bush,

the margin at first dominated by black beech with scattered kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) and pokaka (*Elaeocarpus hookerianus*). Another pygmy mistletoe *Korthalsella lindsayi* was spotted hosted on *Lophomyrtus obcordata*. As we got away from the exposed edges the lower tiers became richer, with a variety of small-leaved, look-alike shrubs, including *Lophomyrtus obcordata*, *Neomyrtus pedunculata*, *Raukaua anomalus*, *Melicope simplex*, *Myrsine divaricata*, *Coprosma propinqua*, *C. rhamnoides*, *Corokia cotoneaster* and *Helichrysum lanceolatum*. As if that wasn't enough, the top challenge was distinguishing between *Coprosma pedicellata* (Declining) and *Coprosma dumosa*, the former generally being larger (sometimes of tree stature), showing far stronger apical dominance and (on female bushes) having a distinctive curved pedicel holding the unripe fruit.

Occasional miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*), matai (*P. taxifolia*) and rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) were found, and late in the day we came across a single lowland totara (*Podocarpus totara*) – making a fairly full quota of podocarps. Sedges were moderately represented, including a possible record of *Carex strictissima* (Nationally Endangered and rarely recorded in the region). Twenty-three fern species were recorded in the terrace forest, though there was clearly scope to find several additions. Orchids were well represented, including *Chiloglottis cornuta*, *Pterostylis areolata*, *P. banksii*, *P. graminea* and *P. montana*.

We left somewhat reluctantly and without having looked closely at the large area of hill-slope forest vegetation, several of us vowing to return to assess the balance of the reserve. A plant species list was compiled (divided into the three main habitats) and forwarded to DoC. We were delighted to learn that several patches of similar forest on nearby private land have recently been added to the reserve, as this bush was yet another little hidden gem that certainly warranted its legal and physical protection.

DAY 3 SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2015

FERNIEHURST BUSH

Miles Giller

After two days of dry weather we rose to a gathering southerly wind, with light drizzle setting in just before we left camp. Ferniehurst was no different, and parkas were donned on arrival. Landowner Richard Wilding kindly provided us with copies of various records regarding the bush and the farm, and explained where we might best wander. An old driveway across the bush gave us our first insight, with mature kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*)