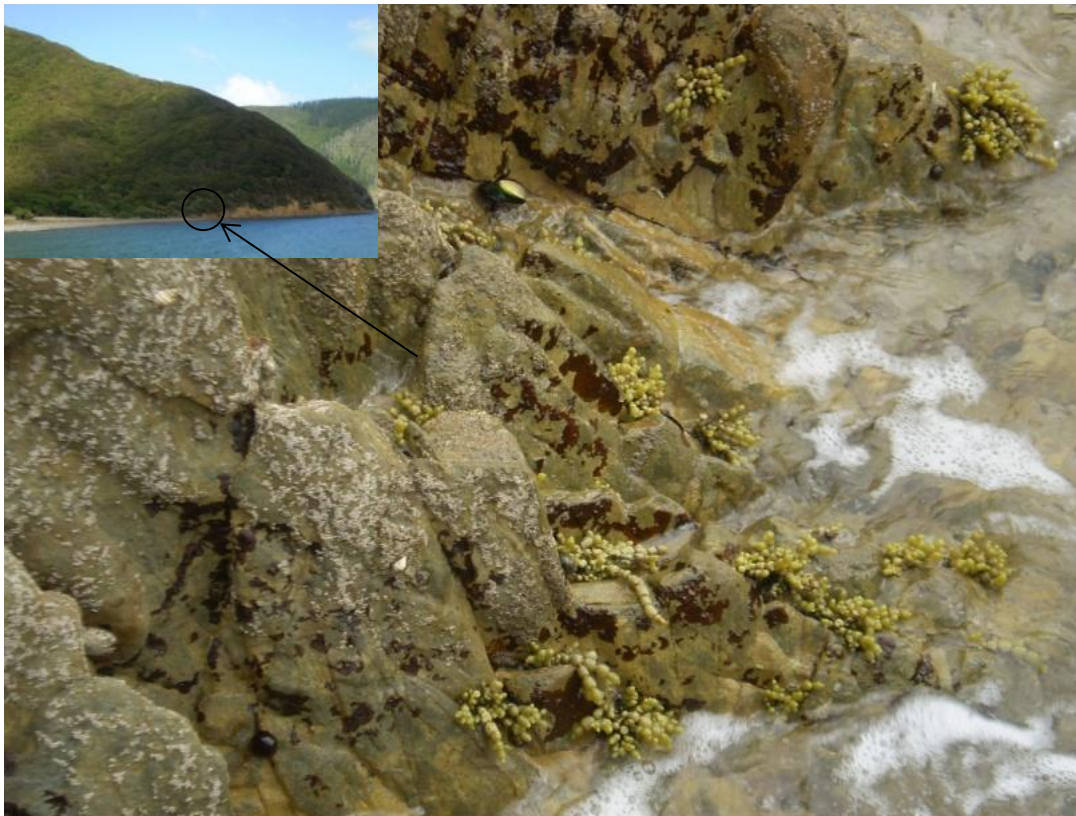


## SEAWEEDS

### Joy Talbot

The shoreline in the relatively sheltered Puriri Bay consisted of sand/gravel beaches broken by bedrock and boulder reefs and platforms at the points. The small tidal range of around 1.5 m resulted in a comparatively narrow intertidal zone. In February, the rock platforms had only a few species of algae in low densities, predominantly *Hormosira banksii* (Neptune's necklace or sea grapes) and brown crusts of a *Ralfia* species with occasional areas of encrusting pink coralline algae below the barnacle line (Fig. 2). The paucity of seaweeds gave an unexpectedly barren aspect to the shore line around the whole bay. Even the occasional rock pool had only a few further species such as the branching velvety green *Codium gracile*, and the filamentous red alga *Polysiphonia strictissima*.



**Figure 2** Puriri Bay and seaweed detail (photo Joy Talbot).

Different species occurred in the intertidal to subtidal beach zone, usually attached to larger boulders. Most common and often covering whole boulders were the small feathery brown *Scytothamnus australis* and the velvety green blobs of *Codium convolutum*. Other less common species included *Ulva pertusa* (bright green rosettes), the cosmopolitan *Lethesia marina* (soft brown blobs) and a red *Ceramium* species (fine tufts).

On the ropes of a nearby mussel farm the large introduced Japanese species *Undaria pinnatifolia* covered the mussel ropes, with the hairlike, green *Ulva*

*compressa* intertwined in the *Undaria*. Both are edible, but are considered serious pests to the mussel farmers.

Although species of large brown seaweeds most likely occurred at depth on the rocky points, especially towards the opening to the bay, none was seen in situ and most beach drift (seven species identified) could easily have come from more exposed coasts in Queen Charlotte Sound and Cook Strait.

The following books were used for identification: *New Zealand seaweeds: an illustrated guide* by Wendy Nelson, Te Papa Press, 2013, and *Seaweeds of New Zealand: an illustrated guide* by Nancy Adams, Canterbury University Press, 1994.

## **DAY 2 SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2016**

### **OIOI BAY AND THE LOWER SLOPES OF THE PURIRI PRESERVATION QEII COVENANT Gillian Giller**

The next morning a low tide enabled us to walk around the shoreline to Oioi Bay. *Olearia solandri* (in flower), *Plagianthus divaricatus* (locally rare), *Melicytus ramiflorus*, *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Melicope ternata* and *Phormium cookianum* were some of the taller species growing closest to the shoreline (Fig. 3). Their growth was shaped by the salt-laden wind. *Selliera radicans*, *Samolus repens*, *Poa anceps*, *Linum monogynum* and *Blechnum*



**Figure 3** Bot Soc members fossicking along the shore of Oioi Bay (photo Miles Giller).