

Kauri Glen and Cecil Eady Reserves - Tui Glen Road, Northcote, 21 Aug 2010

Romily Atkinson

Those present were: Chris Ashton, Tricia Aspin, Romily Atkinson (leader), Brian Cumber, Frances Duff, Malcolm Fisher, Richard Hursthouse, Margi Keys, James Luty, Christine Major, Josh Salter, Juliet Richmond, Chevelle Sands, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox, Tony Williams, Dave Wilson, Philip Wrigley, Maureen Young.

Despite the threat of heavy rain, we had a fine day for our trip through the Kauri Glen and Cecil Eady Reserves. This block of forest is situated in Northcote on the North Shore of Auckland. Kauri Glen has been a reserve since 1907, and although the forest was milled for kauri (*Agathis australis*), some large trees of 200 – 300 years in age still remain. The Cecil Eady Bush became a reserve in 1987 when it was purchased by the Northcote Borough Council following the death of Cecil Eady. The two reserves now protect 16 ha of native forest on both sides of the Onepoto/Waiurutoa Stream. The stream extends a total of 4.6 km with a contributing catchment of 151 ha.

We began our botanising from the Tui Glen Road entrance into Kauri Glen (Fig. 1), on the western side of the reserve. This end of the track forms part of the surrounding ridge which descends into the valley alongside the stream. As a result there is a wonderful variety of native flora associated with the changing terrain. Included in this we saw the earthstar fungi (*Geastrum saccatum*) on the edge of the track (Fig. 2). Within metres of the entrance we were on our knees in kauri leaf litter examining four species of terrestrial orchid: Many plants of *Pterostylis agathicola* in full flower (Fig. 3), carpets of *Nematoceras trilobum*, occasional *Cyrtostylis oblonga*, and *Acianthus sinclairii*. The main species present on this dry ridge were kauri, tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) and kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) in abundance, totara (*Podocarpus totara*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*), rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*), *Coprosma areolata*, *Coprosma rhamnoides*, *Corokia buddleioides*, white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*) and *Mida salicifolia* – both prevalent throughout - toru (*Toronia toru*), akepiro (*Olearia furfuracea*), lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*, hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*) – common throughout - *Uncinia banksii*, *Uncinia uncinata*, *Carex lambertiana*, *C. virgata*, *Astelia trinervia*, *Microsorium pustulatum*, *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*, *Hydrocotyle moschata*, and the Australian *Hydrocotyle tripartita*. Abundant throughout the reserves are *Alseuosmia macrophylla* and *Cordyline pumilio* and the *Gahnia* species, *G. lacera*, *G. pauciflora*, *G. setifolia* and *G. xanthocarpa*.



Fig. 1. Tanekaha and kanuka near the Tui Glen Rd entrance into Kauri Glen, 21 Aug 2010, Photo: Romily Atkinson.

At the next junction, we headed left on the narrow, single-file track to take the northern loop past some large kauri and down into the valley. Here we were surrounded by a dense understorey rich with shrubs, ferns, tree ferns, climbers and epiphytes. Included among these are: miro, rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), totara and Hall's totara (*Podocarpus hallii*), kowhai (*Sophora chathamica*), taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*), tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), towai (*Weinmannia silvicola*), pigeonwood (*Hedycarya arborea*), some *Streblus heterophyllus*, hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*), *Schefflera digitata*, *Carpodetus serratus*, kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), puriri (*Vitex lucens*), titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*), *Metrosideros fulgens*, *M. perforata*, kiekie (*Freycinetia banksii*), nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), ponga (*Cyathea dealbata*), *Dicksonia squarrosa*, *Blechnum novae-zelandiae*, *Blechnum chambersii*, *B. membranaceum*, *B. filiforme*, *Lastreopsis hispida*, *Hymenophyllum demissum*, *H. dilatatum*, *H. sanguinolentum* and *Winika cunninghamii* (as epiphytes), bristle-leaved fern (*Trichomanes elongatum*), hangehange, mangemange (*Lygodium articulatum*), supplejack (*Ripogonum*

scandens), *Collospermum hastatum* and rice grass (*Microlaena avenacea*).



Fig. 2. Earthstar fungi (*Geastrum saccatum*) in kauri litter, 21 Aug 2010, Photo: Romily Atkinson.

Heading into the Cecil Eady Reserve, we climbed up a well-built flight of steps which took us onto the eastern ridge, dominated by species typical of the more open, drier aspect. Here we found mostly kanuka with black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), and smaller shrubs including mingimingi (*Leptecophylla juniperina*) with a few remaining bell-shaped delicate tiny white flowers, *Coprosma macrocarpa*, *C. rhamnoides*, *C. lucida*, *Pseudopanax lessonii*, *P. crassifolius* × *P. lessonii*, *Dianella nigra*, *Rubus cissoides*, small plants of *Clematis paniculata* and native jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*) and bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*). Also noted were the sedges *Schoenus tendo* and *Lepidosperma laterale* which grow on poor soil. In this area we passed the Bullock Tracks, where kauri were logged and removed from the area by bullock over a century ago. The undulations in the substrate are now covered by vegetation. At the next intersection we sat on kanuka logs which had been felled and enjoyed our lunch before venturing down into the eastern valley, again alongside the Onepoto/Waiurutoa Stream. Margi pointed out that this is a favourite area for the native wood pigeons to nest. Taraire, puriri and kohekohe were abundant by the shady stream-side. The single-file track was very muddy owing to the previous week of heavy rain, but with due care exercised, there were no mishaps. We came across one very large specimen of queen of the night (*Cestrum nocturnum*) which had put long branches across the narrow path and was competing with a nikau on the other side! We were surprised how self-controlled Richard was when he saw this!

From here we made a short back-track along the ridge path, crossing the stream by a bridge, to meet the loop track in Kauri Glen on the southern side. We discovered the epiphytic primitive ferns *Tmesipteris elongata* and *T. lanceolata* as well as *Asplenium flaccidum*, present throughout, and *Loxogramme*



Fig. 3. Double-headed *Pterostyllis agathicola*, 21 Aug 2010, Photo: Romily Atkinson.

dictyopteris with its large sori on the backs of the fronds. The track winds upwards through a mass of young kauri rickers back to the ridge, and after the week of heavy rain, was more of an obstacle course than a walking path. It was not only narrow, and very muddy and slippery, but steep in places and during the past week, a tree trunk had fallen across the path. It felt quite different now from what it had done in drier weather! However on the lower side of the track we were rewarded by sighting *Diplodium brumalum*, some in flower, beneath the kauri rickers, along with the other orchid species we had seen earlier. It was here that some kidney fern (*Cardiomanes reniforme*) had spread itself over the western side of a young kauri. Another portion of this track was prevalent with the most attractive 'lacy' fern *Lindsaea trichomanoides*, on the upper side of the path, and *Alseuosmia macrophylla*, present throughout the reserve, was abundant here. We crossed another bridge and wound our way towards the next junction, passing some very large Hall's totara and some rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*). Not far from here is a small area which has a swathe of *Gleichenia dicarpa* in a recessed area under the kanuka. However, we did not have time to investigate this on this foray.

We completed the final loop back at the western side of Kauri Glen by heading from the ridge behind Northcote College, down to the streamside, luxuriant with kiekie and nikau and the prevalent supplejack. As we approached the final bridge we spotted *Euchiton collinus* and *Ranunculus reflexus* together on the sunny clay bank. We stopped on the bridge to enjoy a view of the waterfall and the pool it created (Fig. 4), before heading up the steps, admiring that fern-like moss on the north-facing bank, and back to the entrance track.

Mike had carefully noted the weed species present throughout: Those of particular concern are monkey apple (*Syzygium smithii*), phoenix palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*), queen of

the night , tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*), selaginella (*Selaginella kraussiana*), montbretia (*Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora*), black wattle, spindle berry (*Euonymus japonica*) and elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus x reflexa*). Some minor exotics were self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and Australian pennywort (*Hydrocotyle tripartita*). Monkey apple and loquat are the worst ones here and are at risk of becoming established in the undisturbed bush.

Thanks to all the experts with us especially Mike, Maureen and Tricia, who increased our knowledge of flora large, small and minute, and to Christine for assisting me on the reccies beforehand.



Fig. 4. The waterfall in Kauri Glen Reserve, 21 Aug 2010, Photo: Romily Atkinson.

Vascular Plant List recorded during the reccies and the field trip by Maureen Young and Romily Atkinson.

Psilopsids and Lycopods

Tmesipteris elongata
Tmesipteris lanceolata

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Dicksonia squarrosa
Gleichenia dicarpa
Grammitis ciliata
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum dilatatum
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Lastreopsis hispida
Lindsaea trichomanoides
Lygodium articulatum
Microsorium pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris tremula
Trichomanes elongatum
Trichomanes reniforme

Gymnosperm Trees and Shrubs

Agathis australis
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Podocarpus hallii
Podocarpus totara
Prumnopitys ferrugineus

Dicotyledonous Trees and Shrubs

Alectryon excelsus

Alseuosmia macrophylla
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Carpodetus serratus
Coprosma arborea
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma macrocarpa
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma robusta
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Dysoxylum spectabile
Elaeocarpus dentatus
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Hedycarya arborea
Hoheria populnea
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea ericoides
Leptecophylla juniperina
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Macropiper excelsum
Melicytus ramiflorus
Mida salicifolia
Myrsine australis
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia furfuracea
Olearia rani
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Pseudopanax arboreus
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudopanax lessonii
Pseudopanax crassifolius x P. lessonii
Schefflera digitata
Sophora chathamica
Streblus heterophyllus
Toronia toru
Vitex lucens
Weinmannia silvicola

Dicotyledonous Lianes and Related Trailing Plants

Clematis paniculata
Metrosideros fulgens

Metrosideros perforata
Parsonsia heterophylla
Rubus cissoides

Dicotyledonous Herbs

Euchiton collinus
Haloragis erecta
Nertera dichondrifolia
Ranunculus reflexus

Monocotyledonous Trees and Shrubs

Cordyline australis
Cordyline pumilio
Rhopalostylis sapida

Monocotyledonous Lianes

Freycinetia banksii
Ripogonum scandens

Lilies and Allied Plants

Astelia banksii
Astelia trinervia
Collospermum hastatum
Dianella nigra

Orchids

Acianthus sinclairii
Cyrtostylis oblonga
Diplodium brumalium
Pterostylis agathicola
Nematoceras trilobum
Winika cunninghamii

Sedges

Carex lambertiana
Carex virgata
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia pauciflora
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Lepidosperma laterale
Schoenus maschalinus
Schoenus tendo
Uncinia banksii
Uncinia uncinata

Grasses

Microlaena avenacea
Oplismenus hirtellus

Norfolk Island - A record of the Auckland Botanical Society's visit, 4-11 September 2010

Mike Wilcox, Anne Fraser, Christine Major, Geoff Davidson, Maureen Young, Stella Rowe

Introduction

Norfolk Island is New Zealand's nearest neighbour – just 740 km away. It is close enough and sufficiently temperate to share several native plants with northern New Zealand, and numerous adventives, yet distant and isolated enough to have its own, mostly endemic native flora, as well as its fair share of exotic introductions. We eagerly anticipated our visit, the objective being to see as much as possible of the 3529 ha island's vegetation, flora and fauna, to learn about the history and geology, and to meet some of the 1800 locals.

Programme

Saturday 4 Sep: Flight from Auckland to Norfolk Island, 1120 km (Fig. 1). Accommodation at Hibiscus Crown Motel, New Cascade Road – more or less in the centre of the Island. Initial botanical exploration on foot along New Cascade Road, Cascade Road, and Harpers Road.

Sunday 5 Sep: Visited the Sunday morning market at Burnt Pine. By bus to the Mt Pitt Section of the National Park (460 ha) with Margaret Christian, Mt Pitt and Mt Bates Track, ending at the Botanic Garden.

Monday 6 Sep: Visited Phillip Island (Phillip Island Section of the National Park, 190 ha) for the morning on a boat operated by Dave Bigg (Charter Marine), with guides Karlene Christian and Peter Cassidy. In

the afternoon explored the coral reef at Slaughter Bay, Lone Pine, Emily Bay, Kingston, the Cemetery, and Bumbora (Cresswell Bay).

Tuesday 7 Sep: In the morning, a conducted bus tour (Baunti Escapes) of the island, with driver Eddie Hooker: Oakridge School, Kingston, Emily Bay, Cascade, St Barnabas Chapel (Melanesian Mission), Anson Bay. In the afternoon we met Coral Rowston, Manager of the National Park. Explored the Botanic Garden (5.5 ha), which features impressive boardwalks through bush. In the evening, a progressive dinner comprising nibbles (Byron "Truck" Adams, "Bedrock", Duncombe Bay); soup (Darren & Shari Bates, "Wildwood", Stockyard Road – Darren also does wood turning, producing bowls and ornaments from Norfolk pine wood, and operates a fishing charter business); main course (Eddie Christian, Mill Road); dessert (Rachael Nobbs, 91 Ferny Road).

Wednesday 8 Sep: A wettish day. In the morning visited Anson Bay, followed by inspection of eucalypt plantations and the giant banyan on Bullocks Hut Road. In the afternoon visited the Hundred Acres Reserve and Rocky Point.

Thursday 9 Sep: In the morning visited the National Park in the Palm Glen area. In the afternoon visited the garden of Kaye Wood at Silky Oak Stables, Mission Road. Some people later visited Ball Bay, and