

## Trip Report: Upper Nihotupu Reservoir, Waitakere Ranges, Auckland, 16 April 2011

Peter Hutton

**Participants:** Romily Atkinson (recorder), Lisa Clapperton, Brian Cumber, Neil Davies, Frances Duff, Leslie Haines, Richard Hursthouse, Peter Hutton (leader), Margi Keys, Christine Major, Josh Salter, Val Tomlinson, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox.

From the carpark on the Piha Road (1 km west of Waiatarua) we crossed a little bridge over the Nihotupu Stream into kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) second growth. The impression that this area had been farmland perhaps 100 years ago was reinforced by finding the weedy woody vine *Elaeagnus x reflexa*, used then as a cattle hedge. Of interest was an abundant divaricating shrub, *Raukaua anomalus*. A steady drizzle commenced, making it difficult to take notes. The track joined the access road to the dam.

We passed into a wet, higher-altitude (280 m asl) type of forest with rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), thin-barked totara (*Podocarpus cunninghamii*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferrugineus*) prominent, together with tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*), and rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) all in good numbers. A giant northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*) was much admired. Lacebark (*Hoheria populnea*) was common and in flower. Other trees and shrubs of note were *Alseuosmia macrophylla*, *Corokia buddleioides*, neinei (*Dracophyllum latifolium*), kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), heketara (*Olearia rani*), tawari (*Ixerba brexioides*), toro (*Myrsine salicina*), lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*), mangeao (*Litsea calicaris*), ramarama (*Lophomyrtus bullata*), wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*), *Quintinia serrata* and swamp maire (*Syzygium maire*). Parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*) was locally abundant, forming a ground cover in damp, shady spots. Tree ferns were particularly common, and we saw four species: *Cyathea dealbata*, *C. medullaris*, *C. smithii*, and *Dicksonia squarrosa*. The access

road runs beside a number of cascades (Fig. 1) to the head of the reservoir, where the Nihotupu Stream falls directly into the lake. The road then skirts around the lake, with kowhai (*Sophora chathamica*) common. River daisy (*Anaphalioides trinervis*) taurepo (*Rhabdothamnus solandri*), tuhara (*Machaerina sinclairii*) and *Arthropodium cirratum* were abundant on the roadside cliff, as well as the exotics Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*), *Selaginella kraussiana* and pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*).



**Fig. 1. Nihotupu Stream from the access road. Photo: Peter Hutton, 16 April 2011.**

At this stage a few members (including our Recorder) became too cold and retreated to their cars. The others continued (in brightening conditions) to a convenient shelter beside the dam for lunch. We walked down to the base of the dam, up its face on very steep steps and back to the cars. As a final excursion we drove to the end of Quinn's Road then walked to the nearest repeater tower (380 m asl). The final treat for the day was finding *Raukaua edgerleyi*, with its distinctive entire glossy adult leaves.

## Native plant species list recorded during the field trip to Upper Nihotupu Dam:

### Ferns and Lycopods

*Adiantum cunninghamii*  
*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*Asplenium flaccidum*  
*Asplenium polyodon*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*Blechnum discolor*  
*Blechnum fluviatile*  
*Blechnum fraseri*  
*Blechnum novae-zealandiae*  
*Cyathea dealbata*  
*Cyathea medullaris*  
*Cyathea smithii*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
*Huperzia varia*  
*Hymenophyllum* spp.  
*Loxogramme dictyopteris*  
*Lygodium articulatum*  
*Microsorium pustulatum*  
*Microsorium scandens*  
*Paesia scaberula*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Rumohra adiantiformis*  
*Tmesipteris* sp.  
*Trichomanes venosum*

### Gymnosperms

*Agathis australis*  
*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*  
*Dacrydium cupressinum*  
*Podocarpus cunninghamii*  
*Prumnopitys ferrugineus*

### Dicotyledons

*Alseuosmia macrophylla*  
*Anaphalioides trinervis*  
*Aristotelia serrata*  
*Beilschmiedia tawa*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Carmichaelia australis*  
*Centella uniflora*  
*Clematis paniculata*  
*Coprosma grandifolia*  
*Coprosma lucida*  
*Coriaria arborea*  
*Corokia buddleoides*  
*Dracophyllum latifolium*  
*Elaeocarpus dentatus*  
*Elatostema rugosum*  
*Epilobium rotundifolium*  
*Euchiton collinus*

*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*  
*Hebe stricta*  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Hoheria populnea*  
*Hydrocotyle* sp.  
*Ixerba brexioides*  
*Knightia excelsa*  
*Kunzea ericoides*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
*Litsea calicaris*  
*Lophomyrtus bullata*  
*Melicytus macrophylla*  
*Metrosideros robusta*  
*Metrosideros diffusa*  
*Muehlenbeckia australis*  
*Myrsine salicina*  
*Nertera depressa*  
*Nertera dichondrifolia*  
*Nestegis lanceolata*  
*Nestegis montana*  
*Olearia rani*  
*Pittosporum tenuifolium*  
*Pseudopanax crassifolium*  
*Quintinia serrata*  
*Ranunculus reflexus*  
*Raukaua anomalus*  
*Rhabdothamnus solandri*  
*Rubus cissoides*  
*Schefflera digitata*  
*Sophora chathamica*  
*Syzygium maire*

### Monocotyledons

*Arthropodium cirratum*  
*Astelia trinervia*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Cordyline banksii*  
*Cordyline pumilio*  
*Dianella nigra*  
*Earina mucronata*  
*Freycinetia banksii*  
*Gahnia lacera*  
*Gahnia setifolia*  
*Machaerina sinclairii*  
*Phormium tenax*  
*Pterostylis banksii*  
*Rhopalostylis sapida*  
*Uncinia uncinata*