

creamy cloak over a fallen log (Fig. 25). Jessica Beever very kindly identified these two species from my photographs, so at least these two names in this account are correct!

### Some birds of Waikaremoana

**Stella Rowe**

The main bird habitats visited by our group were freshwater wetlands and native forest, with shrublands/residential areas adding several species, and two species reaching the sub-alpine zone on Panekiri Bluff.

#### Freshwater wetlands

On the lakes we saw black swans, paradise shelducks, mallards, grey ducks, NZ scaups, and little shags. Black swans and scaups were in good numbers near the Waikaremoana Motor Camp. On the ephemeral wetlands of Lake Kiriopukae we added two white-faced herons, an immature black shag and four pied stilts. A kingfisher was noted at Lake Waikaremoana, and welcome swallows, which overlap habitat boundaries using both lakes and clearings in native bush.

#### Native Forest

Birds seen and heard in the forest were NZ pigeons, long-tailed cuckoos, riflemen, grey warblers,

bellbirds, tui, whiteheads, fantails, tomtits, silvereyes, the latter being the most commonly-seen bush bird. At no time however did we feel there was an abundance of bird life in the bush. Calls from bellbirds and tui were infrequent. It was pleasing though to ear every now and then the tiny high pitched 'tst' of a rifleman, especially on the Waikareiti Track.

#### Residential/Shrubland

In this area around Lake Kaitawa and the Lodge we added a pheasant with young, magpies, blackbirds, house sparrows and goldfinches. New Zealand pigeons regularly flew over the Lodge attracted by tree lucerne in the area.

#### Sub-alpine

In this zone on Panekiri Bluffs, two species were noted, swallows and chaffinches, both commonly seen at lower altitudes.

### Acknowledgements

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## A visit to the new Te Muri Regional Park 16 February 2013

**Maureen Young**

Participants: Bruce Calvert, Ewen Cameron, Lisa Clapperton, Janeen Collings, Brian Cumber, Neil Davies, Frances Duff, Joe Grieg, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Wolfgang Heiss-Dunlop, Richard Hursthouse, Peter Hutton, John Lambert, Teresa Lebel, John Millett, Philip Moll, Brenda Osborne, Mark Paterson, Sian Potier, Helen Preston Jones, Juliet Richmond, Joshua Salter, Jennifer Shanks, Toby Shanley, Alison Wesley, David Wilson, Maureen Young (leader).

Te Muri Beach and the headland to the north of the Puhoi River have long been part of the western portion of the 245 ha Mahurangi Regional Park. Te Muri-o-Tarariki Stream estuary has to be crossed to access the beach and this can only be done at low tide. In September 2010, just prior to the establishment of the greater Auckland Council in 2011, the 407 ha farm previously owned by Peter Schischka and adjoining Te Muri Beach, was



**Fig. 1. Location of Te Muri Regional Park, north of the Puhoi River. Map produced from NZTopo50-AZ31 and NZTopo50-AZ32, adapted by J Salter.**



**Fig. 2. Regenerating kauri forest, reached from the farm road on the ridge. Photo: J Salter, 16 Feb 2013.**



**Fig. 3. *Clematis vitalba* (old man's beard) in gully near lower edge of bush. Photo: J Salter, 16 Feb 2013.**

purchased to create the new Te Muri Regional Park (Fig. 1). Together with the 149 ha Wenderholm Regional Park to the south of the Puhoi River, this puts an area of stunning coastal properties, from the Waiwera River northwards to the Mahurangi River, into public hands. The new park includes freshwater and estuarine wetlands, coastal forest, broadleaf/podocarp/kauri forest, shrublands and exotic forest. In the Ecological Assessment Report (Forbes et al. 2011) 348 species of vascular plants were noted, of which 78 (22.4%) were exotic.

Although it is not yet open to the public, Auckland Botanical Society (ABS) gained permission to explore a part of this newly acquired farm. We were assisted by two of our members who are employed by the Auckland Council, Janeen Collings and Brenda Osborne, and also by having at hand the species list included in the Ecological Assessment Report. The morning was spent in the northern portion of an area of bush that straddles the farm road (Map Ref NZMS 260 R10 628192) (Fig. 2). Later in the afternoon we got an overview of the bush, and it could be seen that it follows a pattern that is common in the north, of kauri (*Agathis australis*) on the ridges, some puriri (*Vitex lucens*) in the gullies, a little taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*) on the lower slopes and much tall kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*).

Although the bush is fenced it had obviously been grazed for many years prior to fencing, and the occasional presence of fresh cow manure was testament to the current state of the boundary. A tree of hard beech (*Nothofagus truncata*) was encountered before we had even entered the fenced area, and a few very large, but senescent trees, an occasional younger specimen, and even two or three seedlings of this species were seen.

There was not much more than mossy mounds left to show that some kauri had been felled in the very early days of colonisation (the first wave of Bohemian settlers arrived in the Puhoi area in 1863). Other gymnosperms present were plentiful tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), some totara (*Podocarpus totara*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) seedlings, one sizable rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) and some saplings, some kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) in the lower gullies, and one 5 m tall sapling of kawaka (*Libocedrus plumosa*). Quite a few plants of broom (*Carmichaelia australis*) were growing under the kauri, kowhai (*Sophora chathamica*) was common, and diligent searching by Mark located one plant of the orchid, *Drymoanthus adversus* high up on a tanekaha. A small plant of *Cyathea smithii* was an addition to the species list, as were poroporo (*Solanum aviculare*) and *Clematis cunninghamii*, but an unwelcome presence was that of the invasive clematis, *C. vitalba* (Fig. 3). This plant, though a real pest further south, does not thrive so well in warmer climates, and the few



outbreaks reported in the district in the past were always quickly eliminated by the former Rodney District Council.

After lunching in the shade of the bush we headed downhill to the Te Muri-o-Tarariki Stream, with the aim of finding the swamp fern, *Thelypteris confluens*, which had been found there by the original survey team. The stream is not fenced, and as a consequence much damage has been inflicted by stock, and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) has a good toe-hold in the upper reaches. However, it was plainly clear that the remnants of swamp and salt marsh turfs will bounce back when animals are excluded. Just as we were planning to abandon the *Thelypteris* search and head back uphill to the cars, Brenda assured us that if we persevered a little longer we would find it, and sure enough we did (Fig. 4). There was a large area covered by this fern, which although it has fragile-looking fronds, never the less has very robust rhizomes to anchor it to the watery substrates that it favours. It was pleasing to see it growing among a good population of *Machaerina arthrophylla*.

After walking up the paddocks in the hot sun and avoiding a large bull, a couple of us had just enough energy to climb back over the fence into the top corner of the bush to check out a large tree of *Metrosideros*. Was it northern rata (*M. robusta*), or was it the pohutukawa/rata hybrid that was listed? Fallen leaves and a twig with withered flowers confirmed that it was rata, another addition to the species list (Appendix).

#### References

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#### Appendix: Vascular plants of Te Muri Farm Regional Park, based on Bot Soc visit, 16 Feb 2013. Pasture species were not looked at closely. \* = exotic \*\* = planted + = species not recorded in Forbes (2011).

##### Ferns

*Adiantum viridescens*  
*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*Asplenium flaccidum*  
*Asplenium oblongifolium*  
*Asplenium polyodon*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*Blechnum filiforme*  
*Blechnum fraseri*  
*Blechnum membranaceum*  
*Blechnum minus*  
*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*  
*Cardiomanes reniforme* +  
*Cyathea dealbata*  
*Cyathea medullaris*  
*Cyathea smithii* +

*Deparia petersenii*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
*Diplazium australe*  
*Doodia australis*  
*Huperzia varia*  
*Hymenophyllum demissum*  
*Hymenophyllum flabellatum*  
*Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum*  
*Lastreopsis glabella*  
*Lastreopsis hispida*  
*Lastreopsis microsora* +  
*Lindsaea linearis*  
*Lindsaea trichomanoides*  
*Lygodium articulatum*  
*Microsorium pustulatum*  
*Microsorium scandens*

*Notogrammitis ciliata*  
*Paesia scaberula*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Pteris tremula*  
*Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia*  
*Thelypteris confluens*  
*Tmesipteris lanceolata*

##### Gymnosperms

*Agathis australis*  
*Cryptomeria japonica*\*\*  
*Cupressus macrocarpa*\*\*  
*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*  
*Dacrydium cupressinum*  
*Libocedrus plumosa*



Fig. 4. *Thelypteris confluens* holding its own in the swamp, Te Muri-o-Tarariki Stream. Photo: EK Cameron, 16 Feb 2013.

Although councils have little money to spare at the moment, no doubt weeding and fencing will eventually be undertaken, and the high restoration potential of this wonderful property will be realised.

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Janeen Collings for gaining permission from the Auckland Council for the outing to take place, and for giving a health & safety briefing; to Bec Stanley for writing a health & safety plan; to Matt Vujcich, Principal Ranger of Te Muri Regional Park, for his co-operation in allowing us access.

*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*  
*Podocarpus totara*  
*Prumnopitys ferruginea*  
*Sequoia sempervirens\*\**

#### Dicotyledons

*Acacia melanoxylon\*\**  
*Alseuosmia macrophylla*  
*Apium* "white denticles"  
*Aster subulatus* \* +  
*Avicennia marina*  
*Beilschmiedia taraire*  
*Beilschmiedia tawaroa*  
*Brachyglottis repanda*  
*Callitriche muelleri*  
*Calystegia sepium* subsp. *roseata* +  
*Carmichaelia australis*  
*Carpodetus serratus*  
*Centaurium erythraea* \* +  
*Centella uniflora*  
*Cirsium vulgare\**  
*Clematis cunninghamii* +  
*Clematis paniculata*  
*Clematis vitalba* \* +  
*Conyza sumatrensis* \*  
*Coprosma arborea*  
*Coprosma areolata*  
*Coprosma rhamnoides*  
*Coprosma robusta*  
*Coprosma spathulata*  
*Coriaria arborea*  
*Corynocarpus laevigatus*  
*Cotula coronopifolia*  
*Dysoxylum spectabile*  
*Elatostema rugosa*  
*Erechtites valerianifolia\**  
*Eucalyptus pilularis\*\**  
*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*  
*Geranium homeanum* +  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Hoheria populnea*  
*Hypericum androsaemum* \* +  
*Jacobaea vulgaris* \* +  
*Knightia excelsa*  
*Kunzea ericoides*  
*Leptecophylla juniperina*  
*Leptospermum scoparium*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
*Lobelia anceps*  
*Lotus pedunculatus* \*

*Macropiper excelsum*  
*Meliccytus ramiflorus*  
*Mentha pulegium* \* +  
*Metrosideros diffusa*  
*Metrosideros fulgens*  
*Metrosideros perforata*  
*Metrosideros robusta*  
*Mida salicifolia*  
*Myosotis laxa* ssp. *caespitosa* \*  
*Myrsine australis*  
*Nasturtium officinale* \*  
*Nertera depressa*  
*Nertera dichondrifolia*  
*Nestegis lanceolata*  
*Nothofagus truncata*  
*Olearia furfuracea*  
*Olearia rani*  
*Persicaria decipiens*  
*Persicaria punctata* \* +  
*Phytolacca octandra* \*  
*Pittosporum tenuifolium*  
*Plagianthus divaricatus*  
*Plantago australis* \*  
*Pseudopanax crassifolius*  
*Pseudopanax crassifolius*  
× *P. lessonii* +  
*Pseudopanax lessonii*  
*Ranunculus repens* \*  
*Rhabdothamnus solandri*  
*Rubus cissoides*  
*Salix fragilis* \*  
*Samolus repens*  
*Selliera radicans*  
*Senecio bipinnatisectus* \* +  
*Senecio minimus* +  
*Solanum aviculare* +  
*Sophora chathamica*  
*Streblus heterophylla*  
*Ulex europaeus* \*  
*Vitex lucens*  
*Weinmannia silvicola*

#### Monocotyledons

*Astelia solandri*  
*Carex dissita*  
*Carex fascicularis*  
*Carex flagellifera*  
*Carex geminata* agg.  
*Carex lambertiana* +  
*Carex ochrosaccus* +  
*Carex solandri*

*Carex virgata*  
*Cenchrus clandestinus* \*  
*Collospermum hastatum*  
*Cordyline australis*  
*Cordyline australis* × *C. pumilio*+  
*Cordyline banksii*  
*Cortaderia jubata* \*  
*Cyperus brevifolius* \*  
*Cyperus ustulatus*  
*Dactylis glomeratus* \*  
*Dianella nigra*  
*Drymoanthus adversus*  
*Earina mucronata*  
*Eleocharis acuta*  
*Freycinetia banksii*  
*Gahnia lacera*  
*Gahnia pauciflora* +  
*Gahnia setifolia*  
*Gahnia xanthocarpa*  
*Holcus lanatus* \*  
*Ichthyostomum pygmaeum*  
*Isachne globosa* +  
*Isolepis cernua*  
*Isolepis reticularis*  
*Isolepis sepulcralis* \*  
*Juncus edgariae*  
*Juncus effusus* \*  
*Juncus kraussii*  
*Juncus sarophorus*  
*Juncus usitatus*  
*Lemna minor*  
*Machaerina arthropphylla* +  
*Machaerina juncea*  
*Microlaena stipoides*  
*Oplismenus hirtellus*  
*Paspalum dilatatum* \*  
*Potamogeton cheesemani*  
*Rhopalostylis sapida*  
*Ripogonum scandens*  
*Rytidosperma gracile* +  
*Rytidosperma penicillatum* \* +  
*Schedonorus arundinaceus* \*  
*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*  
*Schoenus maschalinus*  
*Schoenus tendo*  
*Triglochin striata*  
*Typha orientalis*  
*Uncinia uncinata*  
*Winika cunninghamii*