

Cotman's Bush, Te Papa Road, Kawakawa Bay and Tawhitokino Regional Park

Peter Hutton (editor)

A visit was made on 16 March 2013 to Kawakawa Bay and Tawhitokino Bay and a species list compiled (Appendix). Those attending were: *Hugo Baynes, Michelle Bouelle, Colleen & Warren Brewer, Jan Butcher, Ewen Cameron, Helen Cogle, Brian Cumber, Neil Davies, Joe Grieg, Richard Hursthouse, Leslie Haines, Peter Hutton (Leader), Margi Keys, John Millett, Juliet Richmond, Joshua Salter, Mike Wilcox, Dave Wilson, David & Helen Yang.*

Cotman's Bush

Margi Keys

This native bush property owned by John and Rosemary Cotman covers an area of 6.8 ha. Logging and clearing for farming took place in the early days of settlement. Rosemary Cotman has connections here going back to 1945. From her childhood Rosemary remembers one medium-sized kauri (*Agathis australis*), still doing well, which escaped the logging days. Other kauri have since been planted by her family. The present forest on the ridges and upper slopes comprises mainly scrub species such as kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), mapou (*Myrsine australis*), mingimingi (*Leucopogon fasciculatus*), kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) and hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*). More locally there is tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), and *Pomaderris rugosum* (Fig. 1) beside some of the tracks. A feature is the great abundance of coastal cuttygrass (*Gahnia lacera*) (Fig. 2) in some parts, but one area had little ground cover except for tangles of *Ripogonum scandens*. The severe drought this summer has caused marked wilting on some species, particularly shining karamu (*Coprosma lucida*), hangehange and rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*) (Fig.3). One of the tanekaha trees had much larger cladodes than usual and the consensus was that it was probably a hybrid: *Phyllocladus toatoa* × *P. trichomanoides* (vouchered: AK 338305) (Fig. 4).



Fig. 2. *Gahnia lacera*, Cotman's Bush, Kawakawa Bay. Photo: M Wilcox, 16 Mar 2013.



Fig. 3. Drought-stricken *Brachyglottis repanda*, Cotman's Bush. Photo: J Salter, 16 Mar 2013.



Fig. 1. *Pomaderris rugosum*, Cotman's Bush. Photo: J Salter, 16 Mar 2013.



Fig. 4. Ewen puzzling over the unusual 'tanekaha' in Cotman's Bush. Photo: J Salter, 16 Mar 2013.



Fig. 5. A weka followed us briefly, then disappeared into the undergrowth. Photo: J Salter, 16 Mar 2013.



Fig. 6. Tawhitokino Bay – note farmland behind the narrow strip of coastal forest. Photo: E Cameron, 16 Mar 2013.



Fig. 7. *Astelia banksii* in fruit, perched on a pohutukawa overhanging the beach, Tawhitokino Bay. Photo: J Salter, 16 Mar 2013.

A gully forest is well preserved, with fine tall trees of titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*), taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*), together with tawa (*B. tawa*), kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), and also much nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) and kiekie (*Freycinetia banksii*).

Members were interested to learn that since 2004 there is a thriving North Island weka population in the Kawakawa Bay area thanks to the local community carrying out predator control (see www.wekawatch.co.nz). They estimate that there are 130 birds in the area of which 30 are banded. We saw two weka, one banded and the other not (Fig. 5).

Papanui Point and Tawhitokino Bay Warren Brewer & David Wilson

In the afternoon we travelled from John and Rosemary Cotman's property at Kawakawa Bay along the narrow coastal road to Waiti Bay. We parked there and walked around the shoreline, scrambling over rocky outcrops, to Tukurau Bay. This little sandy beach is enclosed at its far end by a forested headland, Papanui Point. A track over the headland gives access to Tawhitokino Bay, at the southern end of which is Auckland's smallest regional park (approx. 4.5 ha). Well-made steps helped ease the steep climb up to its summit. The flora here was very similar to the Cotman property. Coastal astelia (*Astelia banksii*) was flowering, akeake (*Dodonaea viscosa*) and kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) were noted. There were also steps for the descent down to Tawhitokino Bay. The leaves of many *Astelia banksii* were tightly incurled, in response to the prolonged drought. Kanuka and tanekaha were the dominant trees along the pathway down to the beach. Abundant in the understory were *Gahnia lacera*, *Doodia australis* and *Coprosma rhamnoides*. A single holly fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) was seen beside the track over the headland, looking somewhat sickly due to the drought.



Fig. 8. Jan wading through knee-deep *Phalaris arundinacea*, Tawhitokino Regional Park. Photo: E Cameron, 16 Mar 2013.

The bay is an almost straight and unbroken stretch of white sand about 1.4 km long (Fig. 6). Two small streams flow onto the beach. The land behind the foreshore rises steeply, becoming a bush-clad escarpment.

The native grasses *Poa anceps* and *Lachnagrostis billardierei* were present. Clumps of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) initially dominated the hillside. These were later replaced by mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*) and ti ngahere (*Cordyline banksii*). Along the foreshore it was a delight to find colonies of native celery (*Apium prostratum*) and N.Z. lobelia (*Lobelia anceps*) that was flowering. One *Astelia banksii*, perched on the bank at the base of a pohutukawa trunk, was fruiting vigorously (Fig. 7). Several large pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) guarded the shoreline as well as a single mature karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*). Shore bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*) was also present. We stopped at a campsite situated on a hillock near the far end of the beach for swimming and refreshments. An exotic grass, *Phalaris arundinacea* (Fig. 8) was dominant in a wetland area to one side of the hillock. A small group explored the

flora of the stream bank below the other side of the hillock. This area was much more sheltered, with many fern species in the gully.

The lagoon at the mouth of the stream had dense growth of a green alga, which Mike later identified as a species of *Mougeotia* (Fig. 9).



Fig. 13. *Mougeotia*, a green alga, in the lagoon at the stream mouth, Tawhitikino Regional Park. Photo: M Wilcox, 16 Mar 2013.

Appendix: Species list for Cotman's Bush (Kawakawa Bay) and Papanui Point headland / Tawhitokino Regional Park (as recorded on the field trip, 16 Mar 2013). * = naturalised species.

	Cotman's Bush	Tawhitokino		
Ferns and fern allies			<i>Lycopodium deuterodensum</i>	+
<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	+	+	<i>Lygodium articulatum</i>	+
<i>Adiantum viridescens</i>	+		<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	+
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>		+	<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	+
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	+	+	<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	+
<i>Asplenium gracillimum</i>	+		<i>Polystichum neozelandicum</i>	+
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	+	+	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	+
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>		+	<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	+
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	+	+	<i>Pteris tremula</i>	+
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>	+	+	<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>	+
<i>Cardiomanes reniforme</i>	+		Conifers	
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	+	+	<i>Agathis australis</i>	+
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>		+	<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	+
<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i> *		+	<i>Phyllocladus toatoa</i> x <i>P. trichomanoides</i>	+
<i>Deparia petersenii</i>		+	<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	+
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>		+	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	+
<i>Doodia australis</i>	+	+	Dicots	
<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>		+	<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	+
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	+		<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	+
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	+		<i>Apium prostratum</i>	+
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>		+	<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	+
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>		+		
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>		+		

<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	+		<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>		+
<i>Beilschmiedia tawaroa</i>	+		<i>Pittosporum eugenoides</i>	+	
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	+	+	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	+	+
<i>Callitriche muelleri</i>		+	<i>Pomaderris amoena</i>	+	
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i> *		+	<i>Pomaderris rugosa</i>	+	
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>		+	<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	+	+
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	+		<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	+	+
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	+	+	<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i> x <i>P. lessonii</i>	+	
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	+		<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i>	+	+
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	+		<i>Sophora chathamica</i>	+	+
<i>Coprosma macrocarpa</i>	+	+	<i>Ulex europaeus</i> *		+
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	+	+	<i>Vitex lucens</i>	+	+
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	+	+			
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	+				
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>		+	Monocots		
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	+		<i>Aristea ecklonii</i> *	+	
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>		+	<i>Astelia banksii</i>	+	+
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i>	+		<i>Astelia trinervia</i>	+	
<i>Gonocarpus incanus</i>	+		<i>Austrostipa stipoides</i>		+
<i>Haloragis erecta</i>		+	<i>Carex flagellifera</i>		+
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	+	+	<i>Carex lambertiana</i>		+
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	+		<i>Carex virgata</i>		+
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	+	+	<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	+	
<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i>	+	+	<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	+	+
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	+	+	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> *		+
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	+	+	<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>		+
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>		+	<i>Dianella nigra</i>	+	+
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	+		<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>		+
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	+	+	<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	+	+
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	+	+	<i>Gahnia lacera</i>	+	+
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>		+	<i>Lachnagrostis billardiieri</i>		+
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	+	+	<i>Lepidosperma australe</i>	+	
<i>Mida salicifolia</i>	+		<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>	+	
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	+	+	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> *		+
<i>Nertera dichondrifolia</i>		+	<i>Poa anceps</i>	+	+
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	+	+	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	+	
<i>Olearia albida</i>	+		<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	+	+
<i>Olearia furfuracea</i>	+	+	<i>Schoenus tendo</i>	+	
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	+	+	<i>Uncinia banksii</i>	+	+
<i>Phytolacca octandra</i> *	+		<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	+	