

Clevedon Scenic Reserve, 18 August 2012

Bec Stanley

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We visited Clevedon Scenic Reserve, SE of Auckland, 1 km north of Clevedon township, a 95 ha reserve managed by Auckland Council, on a fine winter's day, some thirty-seven years (almost to the day!) after Bot Soc's first visit on 16th August 1975 (Beever 1975). There was no plant list published from that trip but they noted the most botanically interesting plants as two orchids: *Diplodium alobulum* (which we did not see) and *Acianthus sinclairii* (which we did), as well as ribbonwood (*Plagianthus regius*) which remains a very uncommon plant in Auckland with a 'stronghold' in the Clevedon area (Wilcox 2002).

In preparing for this trip I consulted the plant list for the reserve written by Andrew Dakin (1939-2001) that I discovered in a box when I worked for Auckland Regional Council. Andrew Dakin was in charge of the ARA (Auckland Regional Authority) nursery at Hunua and grew native trees for forestry trials (Cameron & Wilcox 2001). Dakin wrote many plant lists for the reserves of south Auckland and I was grateful I'd scanned them in and could access them before our visit. I didn't ever meet Andrew Dakin but I like his lists mainly for their frank management recommendations, their hand-written style and that he helpfully notes the abundance of each species. They always have an annotated hand-drawn map ("Not to Scale"). For Clevedon Scenic Reserve Dakin (1979) records 142 indigenous plants and in the notes suggests "more care and attention" be applied because of the "rare and unusual plants" and recommends better fencing from stock and the need for goat control. The lists allow us to peek back in time when cattle grazed the summit and it was mainly "grassland/shrubland".

Today the summit is clothed in young forest (Fig. 1). To get there, and take in the fabulous views of Auckland and Coromandel (Fig. 2), you need to climb 750 steps! (Fig. 3) We were passed by many fitness fanatics on our way up. While we didn't match their pace we ascended the loop track from the south, botanizing through a dry kauri-covered ridge (where we also saw some large northern rata) to the summit (225m). We gathered at the lookout



Fig. 1. Regenerating forest seen from viewing platform, Clevedon Reserve. All photos taken by Josh Salter, 18 Aug 2012.

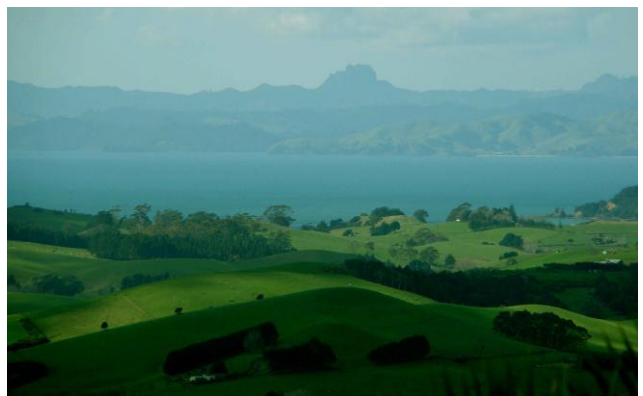


Fig. 2. Coromandel Peninsula, beyond the Firth of Thames, seen from viewing platform.

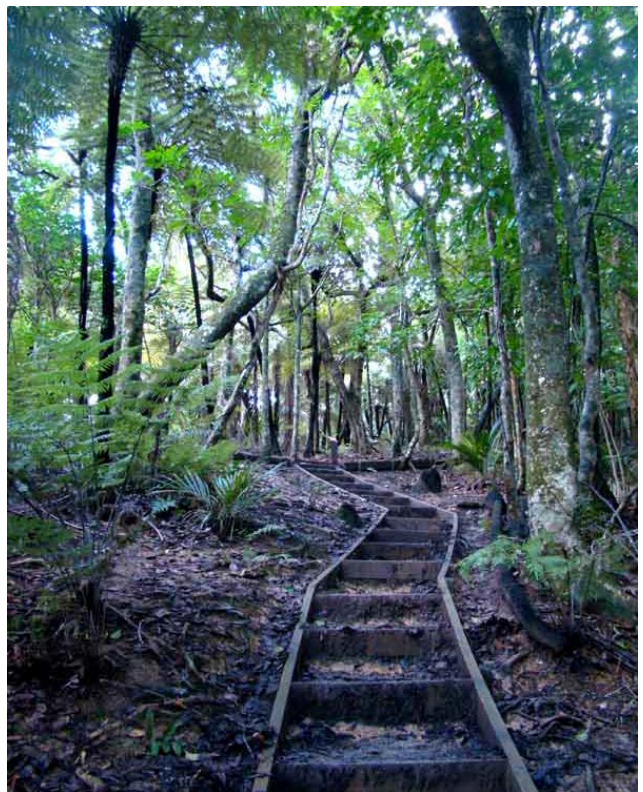


Fig. 3. Staircase ascending through taraire forest, Clevedon Reserve.



Fig. 4. Lunchstop at the viewing platform, Clevedon Reserve.



Fig. 5. Young *Psitana salicina* plants beside the track, Clevedon Reserve.

for lunch (Fig. 4) before heading downhill through the much wetter gully of taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*) forest. Before we left we popped in to the small wetland formed in an abandoned quarry (where there are two daisy weeds - *Ageratina adenophora* and *Erigeron karvinskianus*). All in all there were not many environmental weeds in the reserve. Some of us braved the boggy pasture to inspect the impressive group of ribbonwood alongside the Taitaia Stream.

In total we recorded 155 indigenous plants and, with 21 species seen on previous trips (Beever 1975,

Dakin 1979, Gardner et al. 1979) that we did not locate on this trip, it brings the indigenous flora of this reserve to 176. Seeing regional rarities kaikomako (*Pennantia corymbosa*), ribbonwood and king fern (*Ptisana salicina*) (Fig. 5) on the same day was a highlight for me.

Acknowledgements

Brenda Osborne visited the reserve with me a month before the trip. Maureen Young provided me her species list at the end of the trip and Joshua Salter added the images.

References

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 Dakin, A. 1979: A List (#31) of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Clevedon Scenic reserve, Manukau. Unpublished list.
 Gardner, R.O.; Court, D.J.; Esler, A.E. 1979: Clevedon Scenic Reserve. In: Scenic Reserves of the Lower North Auckland Land District. Department of Lands and Survey, Auckland.
 Wilcox, M.D. 2002: Lowland ribbonwood *Plagianthus regius* at Clevedon. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*: 57: 144-146.

Appendix: Indigenous Plant Species List for Clevedon Scenic Reserve

Plants not seen by us are included with the initials of the author of the list in which they are recorded.

B= Beever (1975), AD= Dakin (1979), G= Gardner et al. (1979).

Ferns and Lycopods (48)

Adiantum cunninghamii
Adiantum diaphanum
Adiantum fulvum
Adiantum hispidulum
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium lamprophyllum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum discolor (AD)
Blechnum filiforme

Blechnum fraseri
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Cardiomanes reniforme
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Cyathea smithii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Doodia australis
Sticherus cunninghamii (G)
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum flabellatum (G)

Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida
Lastreopsis microsora
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lindsaea trichomanoides
Loxogramme dictyopteris
Lycopodium volubile
Lygodium articulatum
Microsorium pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Paesia scaberula
Phlegmariurus varius

Pneumatopteris pennigera
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris macilenta
Pteris tremula
Ptisana salicina
Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia
Rumohra adiantiformis (G)
Tmesipteris elongata
Tmesipteris lanceolata
Tmesipteris sigmatifolia

Gymnosperms (7)

Agathis australis
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Podocarpus totara
Prumnopitys taxifolia (AD)
Prumnopitys ferruginea
Phyllocladus trichomanoides

Dicot trees and shrubs (54)

Alectryon excelsus (AD)
Alseuosmia macrophylla
Alseuosmia quercifolia
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Carmichaelia australis
Carpodetus serratus
Coprosma arborea
Coprosma grandifolia
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma robusta
Coprosma spathulata
Coriaria arborea (G)
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Dysoxylum spectabile
Fuchsia excorticata
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Griselinia lucida
Hebe stricta var. *stricta*
Hedycarya arborea
Hoheria populnea
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea ericoides
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Leucopogon fraseri

Litsea calicaris (AD)
Lophomyrtus bullata (AD)
Macropiper excelsum
Melicope ternata
Melicytus micranthus
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros robusta
Myrsine australis
Myrsine salicina
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia furfuracea (G)
Olearia rani
Pennantia corymbosa
Pittosporum crassifolium
Pittosporum eugenoides
Pittosporum tenuifolium (AD)
Plagianthus regius
Pseudopanax arboreus
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudopanax crassifolius ×
P. lessonii
Pseudopanax lessonii
Solanum aviculare (AD)
Sophora microphylla
Streblus heterophyllus
Vitex lucens

Dicot herbs (18)

Acaena novae-zelandiae
Callitriche muelleri
Centella uniflora
Elatostema rugosum
Euchiton japonicus
Galium propinquum
Haloragis erecta
Hydrocotyle moschata (G)
Hypericum pusillum
Lagenifera pumila (G)
Lemna minor
Nertera depressa (G)
Nertera dichondrifolia
Peperomia urvilleana
Persicaria decipiens
Stellaria parviflora
Wahlenbergia ? *violacea*
Veronica plebeia

Climbers (8)

Clematis paniculata (AD)
Metrosideros diffusa
Metrosideros fulgens

Metrosideros perforata
Muehlenbeckia australis
Passiflora tetrandra
Parsonsia ? *heterophylla*
Rubus cissoides

Monocots (41)

Acianthus sinclairii
Astelia solandri
Astelia trinervia
Adelopetalum tuberculatum (AD)
Carex dissita (G)
Carex geminata agg. (G)
Carex lambertiana
Carex secta
Carex virgata (G)
CollospERMUM hastatum
Cordyline australis
Cordyline banksii
Cyperus ustulatus
Winika cunninghamii
Dianella nigra
Diplodidum alobulum (B)
Diplodidum trullifolium
Earina aestivalis
Earina autumnalis
Earina mucronata
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia pauciflora
Gahnia setifolia
Ichthyostomum pygmaeum (AD)
Libertia ? *ixioides* (G)
Microlaena avenacea
Microlaena stipoides
Oplismenus hirtellus
Phormium tenax
Pterostylis agathicola
Pterostylis banksii
Pterostylis trullifolia
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Rubus cissoides
Typha orientalis
Uncinia banksii
Uncinia distans
Uncinia uncinata
Uncinia zotovii