

Mataia Property, Glorit, Kaipara Harbour, 21 June 2014

Maureen Young

Participants: Gillian Adshead (host), Jenny Andrew, Bruce Calvert, Ewen Cameron, Lisa Clapperton, Neil Davies, Anne Dudley, Brian Dudley, Oscar Grant, Joe Greig, Kristy Hall, Reece Harrison, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Jane Henrys, Richard Hursthouse, Margi Keys, Alastair Macarthur, Jenny Macdonald, Brendon McLister, Christine Major, John Millett, Philip Moll, Vivienne Paterson, Gordon Perry, Colleen Pilcher, Dhahara Ranatunga, Joshua Salter, Peter Scott, Doug Sheppard, Vijay Soma, Cheryl Taylor, Valerie Tomlinson, Claire Warren, Alison Wesley, David Wilson, Angelina Young, Maureen Young (leader).

The Mataia Farm at Glorit has been in the ownership of the Gardner family since 1868. One of the members of this family, our own long-time member, Rhys Gardner, is a botanist of note. This winter's day turnout of 37 people showed the regard for which the owners of this property are becoming known. An appearance the previous week on the TV programme, "Country Calendar", helped to publicize the pest control being carried out by our hosts, Gillian (née Gardner) and Kevin Adshead and their family, which has led to the farm being suitable for the release of kiwi. After an initial poisoning in 2008, regular trapping is targeting possums, mustelids, cats, rats and any other pests. Natural areas, including bush, gumland scrub, a cabbage tree swamp and an estuary have been fenced, and apart from some weeding and planting of the riparian strips, are being left to regenerate naturally.

On the day, we parked at the old double-gabled homestead on State Highway 16 (Fig. 1), which is now used to host walkers undertaking the "K to K" walk (from Kaipara Flats to the Kaipara Harbour). With hospitality typical of the family, we were treated to a Devonshire morning tea with homemade scones, served while the day's route was explained (Fig. 2). Once replete, we car-pooled and drove up a farm road to a sand quarry (Fig. 3) on a hilltop (Mataia Headland), from where we had a view out over the harbour.

The walk from there led firstly through gumland scrub with a manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) canopy (Fig. 4). We instantly went into Bot Soc mode and began adding species to the already ample species list. Although the little daisy, *Lagenophora stipitata*, had been seen in small numbers before, it was pleasing to find that it was plentiful here. Sharp-eyed Oscar spotted a little garden, in full bloom, of the helmet orchid, *Corybas cheesemanii* (Fig. 5). It was decided that the *Dianella* with leaves like a small flax was *D. latissima*. As we moved downhill and the soil



Fig. 1. Mataia homestead. Photo: Josh Salter. All photos taken on 21 June 2014.



Fig. 2. Maureen explains the day's plan while we scoff scones at Mataia Homestead. Photo: Philip Moll.



Fig. 3. Sand quarry in late afternoon sun. Photo: Josh Salter.

became slightly more fertile, the canopy changed to kanuka (*Kunzea robusta*), with more diversity found in the gullies (Fig. 6). Kowhai (*Sophora chathamica*) is quite common (Fig. 7), with a few big trees and a good number of seedlings. A couple of medium-sized kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) are producing seedlings too. Also present are putaputaweta (*Carpodetus serratus*), *Coprosma arborea*, *Hebe macrocarpa*, native broom

(*Carmichaelia australis*) and seedlings of puriri (*Vitex lucens*), karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), kawakawa (*Piper excelsum*) and taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*). Two species of *Pseudopanax* are present: lancewood (*P. crassifolius*) and coastal fivefinger (*P. lessonii*), and hybrids between the two.

It was lunchtime before we reached the harbour's edge (Figs. 8 & 9). Here we could check out the healthy-looking pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) trees that had been reduced to almost skeletal forms prior to the possum decimation. As we proceeded around the coastline, with the saltmarsh on one side and coastal vegetation on the other (Fig. 10), we could hear fern birds calling, and noted that the usual saltmarsh villains are present: extending out



Fig. 16. Boardwalk through kauri ricker stand, near ridge top. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 17. Dave and Maureen saying their goodbyes to Gillian, at the homestead. Photo: Josh Salter.

from the path is the invasive kikuyu grass (*Cenchrus clandestinus*) (Fig. 11), and there are also saltmarsh paspalum (*P. vaginatum*), sharp rush (*Juncus acutus*) and *Spartina alterniflora*). All of these are problematical when it comes to eradication, especially when they are widespread around the harbour. Along the coast grows more pohutukawa (Figs. 12 & 13), kowhai, kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), tawaroa (*Beilschmiedia tawaroa*) and the white-flowered *Calystegia tuguriorum*, which flowers spectacularly in spring. It delighted the hearts of botanists to see occasional examples of ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) and whau (*Entelea arborea*), knowing that they are growing naturally there. The velvet fern (*Lastreopsis velutina*) was an attractive addition to the list. One of the few trees of mangleo (*Litsea calicaris*) caused interest – close inspection revealed that it had started life as a seedling growing in a cleft in the trunk of a pohutukawa, and the two trees were almost inextricably intertwined (Fig. 14). A “good” weasel was found – a dead one in a trap - and we were interested to see that the carcass was left in the trap to attract inquisitive family members, hopefully to their death also. Gillian Adshead, as well as guiding us, replenished baits in numerous traps along the track (Fig. 15).

A stile led into a QE II covenanted kauri forest, where the vegetation contrasted with what had been seen before. This 25 ha block was fenced and covenanted with the QE II Trust in the early 1990s. It includes ridges with a cover of young kauri (*Agathis australis*) and tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) and associated plants (Fig. 16); gullies with puriri (*Vitex lucens*), nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) and supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*); and areas of low nutrient soils that support a gumland vegetation of umbrella fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa* and *G. microphylla*), manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and the sedge, *Schoenus tendo*. On the last leg of the walk back to the homestead, along a rather muddy track, we were walking almost ankle-deep in the Nationally Vulnerable sneezeweed, *Centipeda minima*.

At the end of the walk our members were very grateful, thanking the Adshead family both for the valuable work they are doing, and also for their hospitality on the day (Fig. 17). The general opinion was that this was a project worthy of our support, and the committee later agreed that a donation of \$400 should be given to assist with ongoing costs.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to our hosts, Gillian and Kevin Adshead for their hospitality and expertise; and to Ewen Cameron, Philip Moll and Josh Salter for photographs.



Fig. 4. Botanising under the manuka canopy. Photo: Philip Moll.



Fig. 5. One of several *Corybas cheesemanii* plants in full flower, approx. 15 mm tall. Photo: Philip Moll.



Fig. 6. Approaching the edge of the harbour through tall kanuka. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 7. Kowhai with a good crop of seed pods, and karaka, above the mangroves. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 8. Lunch stop at the harbour's edge. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 9. View from lunchstop across Kaipara salt marsh, to Okahukura Peninsula. Photo: Philip Moll.



Fig. 10. Walking south between the mangrove woodland and the coastal strip, Kaipara Harbour beyond. Photo: Ewen Cameron.



Fig. 11. Bot Soccers thread their way through bright green kikuyu to the red *Sarcocornia* sward on the salt marsh. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 12 Large pohukawa meet mangroves along the coastline. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 13. Pohutukawa trunk supporting a mini forest. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 14. *Litsea* growing from the base of a pohutukawa. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 15. Gillian Adshead baiting a Timms trap on a reclining pohutukawa tree. Note *Peperomia* and karaka seedlings on trunk. Photo: Ewen Cameron.

Appendix: Species list of vascular indigenous plants for Tautau Point and Mataia Point, Glorit.

Based on original lists compiled by Maureen Young 5 June 2000, 6 August 2009 and 13 November 2012.

+ = additions observed on field trip 21 June 2014

		June 2014		
Ferns & Lycophytes			Gymnosperms	
<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>			<i>Agathis australis</i>	<i>Dichondra repens</i>
<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>			<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	<i>Drosera auriculata</i>
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>			<i>Dacrydium cupressiforme</i>	<i>Drosera hookeri</i>
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>			<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>			<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>			<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	<i>Entelea arborea</i>
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	+		<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	<i>Euchiton japonicus</i>
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>			Dicotyledons	
<i>Blechnum membranaceum</i>			<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	<i>Galium propinquum</i> +
<i>Blechnum molle</i>			<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>
<i>Blechnum molle</i> × <i>B. parrisiae</i>			<i>Alseuosmia quercifolia</i>	<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i>
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>			<i>Apium</i> "white denticles"	<i>Gonocarpus incana</i>
<i>Blechnum parrisiae</i>			<i>Avicennia marina</i>	<i>Haloragis erecta</i>
<i>Cardiomanes reniforme</i>			<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	<i>Hebe macrocarpa</i>
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>			<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	<i>Hebe stricta</i>
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>			<i>Beilschmiedia tawaroa</i> +	<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>
<i>Deparia petersenii</i>			<i>Brachyglottis kirkii</i> var. <i>angustifolia</i>	<i>Helichrysum lanceolatum</i>
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>			<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i> +
<i>Diplazium australe</i>			<i>Callitriche muelleri</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle</i> <i>novae-zeelandiae</i>
<i>Gleichenia dicarpa</i>			<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	<i>Knightia excelsa</i>
<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>			<i>Calystegia tuguriorum</i>	<i>Kunzea robusta</i>
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>			<i>Cardamine</i> sp.	<i>Lagenophora pumila</i>
<i>Hymenophyllum</i> <i>sanguinolentum</i>			<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	<i>Lagenophora stipitata</i>
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>			<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>
<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i>			<i>Centella uniflora</i>	<i>Leionema nudum</i>
<i>Lastreopsis velutina</i> +			<i>Centipeda minima</i>	<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i>
<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>			<i>Clematis cunninghamii</i>	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>
<i>Lycopodium deuterodensum</i>			<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>
<i>Lygodium articulatum</i>			<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>			<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	<i>Litsea calicaris</i>
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>			<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>			<i>Coprosma macrocarpa</i>	<i>Melicope ternata</i>
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>			<i>Coprosma macrocarpa</i> × <i>C. robusta</i> +	<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>
<i>Phlegmariurus varius</i>			<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>			<i>Coprosma propinqua</i> × <i>C. robusta</i>	<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>
<i>Polystichum neozelandicum</i>			<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	<i>Mida salicifolia</i>
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>			<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>			<i>Coprosma spathulata</i>	<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>
<i>Pteris saxatilis</i>			<i>Coriaria arborea</i>	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>
<i>Pteris tremula</i>			<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	<i>Myrsine australis</i>
<i>Pyrrosia eleagnifolia</i>			<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	<i>Myrsine divaricata</i>
<i>Schizaea bifida</i>				<i>Nertera dichondrifolia</i>
				<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>
				<i>Olearia furfuracea</i>
				<i>Olearia solandri</i> +

<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>		<i>Astelia trinervia</i>		<i>Juncus edgariae</i>
<i>Peperomia urvilleana</i>		<i>Austrostipa stipoides</i>		<i>Juncus pallidus</i>
<i>Pimelea orthia</i>		<i>Caladenia chlorostyla</i>		<i>Juncus sarophorus</i>
<i>Piper excelsum</i>		<i>Callitriche muelleri</i>		<i>Juncus usitatus</i>
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>		<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	+	<i>Lepidosperma australe</i>
<i>Pomaderris amoena</i>		<i>Carex dissita</i>		<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>
<i>Pomaderris kumeraho</i>		<i>Carex flagellifera</i>		<i>Machaerina articulata</i>
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>		<i>Carex lambertiana</i>		<i>Machaerina juncea</i>
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>		<i>Carex lessoniana</i>		<i>Machaerina rubiginosa</i>
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i> × <i>P. lessonii</i>		<i>Carex "raotest"</i>	+	<i>Machaerina tenax</i>
<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i>		<i>Carex solandri</i>		<i>Machaerina teretifolia</i>
<i>Ranunculus reflexus</i>		<i>Carex virgata</i>		<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>
<i>Rubus australis</i>		<i>Collosporum hastatum</i>		<i>Morelotia affinis</i>
<i>Rubus cissoids</i>		<i>Cordyline australis</i>		<i>Nematoceras trilobum</i>
<i>Rubus cissoids</i>		<i>Cordyline pumilio</i>		<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>
<i>Samolus repens</i>		<i>Corybas cheesemanii</i>	+	<i>Phormium tenax</i>
<i>Sarcocornia quinqueflora</i>		<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>		<i>Poa anceps</i>
<i>Selliera radicans</i>		<i>Cyrtostylis oblonga</i>		<i>Pterostylis agathicola</i>
<i>Senecio hispidulus</i>	+	<i>Dianella latissima</i>		<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>
<i>Senecio minimus</i>		<i>Diplodium alobulum</i>		<i>Pterostylis graminea</i>
<i>Senecio scaberulus</i>	+	<i>Diplodium trullifolium</i>		<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>		<i>Earina mucronata</i>		<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>
<i>Solanum nodiflorum</i>	+	<i>Echinopogon ovatus</i>		<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>
<i>Sophora chathamica</i>		<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>		<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i>		<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>		<i>Schoenus tendo</i>
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i> × <i>S. banksii</i>		<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>		<i>Simpliglottis cornuta</i>
<i>Veronica plebeia</i>		<i>Gahnia lacera</i>		<i>Singularybas oblongus</i>
<i>Vitex lucens</i>		<i>Gahnia pauciflora</i>		<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>
<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i>		<i>Gahnia setifolia</i>		<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>
		<i>Gahnia xanthocarpa</i>		<i>Thelymitra</i> sp.
Monocotyledons		<i>Isachne globosa</i>		<i>Typha orientalis</i>
<i>Acianthus sinclairii</i>		<i>Isolepis cernua</i>		<i>Uncinia banksii</i>
<i>Apodasmia similis</i>		<i>Isolepis reticularis</i>		<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>
<i>Astelia banksii</i>		<i>Juncus australis</i>	+	