

Other monocots

Agapanthus praecox subsp. *orientalis* *

Allium triquetrum *

Alocasia brisbanensis * (Te Ngahere) ns

Alstroemeria aurea *

Arthropodium cirratum

Asparagus scandens *

Astelia banksii

Astelia hastata (previously *Collospermum hastatum*)

Astelia solandri (Jenni Shanks) ns

Canna indica * (Te Ngahere) ns

Cordyline australis (pl. in wetland, 2012, 2013)

Cordyline banksii

Cordyline pumilio

Crocasmia × *crocasmiflora* *

Dianella latissima

Dianella nigra

Freesia refracta *

Freycinetia banksii

Gladiolus undulatus *

Hedychium gardnerianum *

Kniphofia uvaria *

Libertia grandiflora

Lilium formosana *

Monstera deliciosa *

Phormium cookianum

Phormium tenax

Rhopalostylis sapida

Ripogonum scandens

Syagrus romanzoffiana *

Tradescantia fluminensis *

Triglochin striata

Typha orientalis

Watsonia meriana 'Bulbillifera' *

Yucca sp. *

Zantedeschia aethiopicum *

A visit to Rangitoto Island

Mike Wilcox

This field trip was held on 15 August 2015, those attending being: *Michelle Boulle, Bruce Calvert, Lisa Clapperton, Brian Cumber, Bev Davidson, Geoff Davidson, Richard Davies, Joseph Kowhai, Ian McLean, Juliet Richmond, Doug Sheppard, Doug Shaw, Ian Smith, Lydia Smith, Trina Smith, Val Smith, Vijay Soma, Lawrence Thoms, Val Tomlinson, Mike Wilcox* (leader).

Our programme for the day entailed walking from the main Rangitoto wharf along the road towards Islington Bay, and down the track to Boulder Bay (Shipwreck Bay), and return. We experience intermittent rain in the morning, but the weather cleared for most of the afternoon. This particular route gives a good representation of the island's vegetation on lava flows, with some large bare lava fields (Fig. 1), areas with scattered pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), and some closed forest on parts of the Boulder Bay track (Fig. 2). The ubiquitous pohutukawa was the dominant tree everywhere, with its commonest attendant companions being puka (*Griselinia lucida*), mapou (*Myrsine australis*), hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*), and coastal astelia (*Astelia banksii*), and more sparsely, rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*). Akeake (*Dodonaea viscosa*) seedlings were abundant in places, mainly on the road margins, but also colonising otherwise bare lava. Tank lily (*Astelia hastata*, previously *Collospermum hastatum*) was noted as being very common, mainly as a terrestrial



Fig. 1. Open lava fields, Boulder Bay Track. Photo: Joseph Kowhai. All photos taken on 15 Aug 2015.



Fig. 2. Boulder Bay Track passes through a lush forest area full of ferns. Photo: Joseph Kowhai.



Fig. 3. A fine clump of *Astelia hastata* growing at the base of a pohutukawa tree, forest edge near the main road to Islington Bay, Rangitoto Island. Photo: Joseph Kowhai.



Fig. 4. Kirk's tree daisy (*Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*), forest edge near the main road to Islington Bay, Rangitoto Island. Photo: Mike Wilcox.



Fig. 5. *Daucus glochidiatus* seedlings, beside the main road heading towards Islington Bay from the junction with the summit road, Rangitoto Island. Photo: Mike Wilcox.



Fig. 6. *Poa imbecilla*, Boulder Bay Track, Rangitoto Island. Photo: Mike Wilcox.

plant (Fig. 3). The most striking plant, however, was **Kirk's tree daisy** (*Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*), commonly seen on the margins of pohutukawa forest between the Summit Road turnoff and the start of the Boulder Bay track (Fig. 4). It was in flower, perhaps a week or two past its best, but nevertheless putting on a fine display.

Road-edge and trackside plants noted were *Psilotum nudum* on the main road edge, native carrot (*Daucus glochidiatus*) seedlings in patches in localised stretches on the road edge, and also on the Boulder Bay track (Fig. 5), and the curious thread-like native grass (*Poa imbecilla*) commonly along the Boulder Bay Track (Fig. 6). There were also several wayside ferns and orchids, some favourites being necklace fern (*Asplenium flabellifolium*), rock fern (*Cheilanthes sieberi*), kidney fern (*Cardiomanes reniforme*), hounds tongue (*Microsorium pustulatum*), shining spleenwort (*Asplenium oblongifolium*), and the orchids *Acianthus sinclairii* and *Pterostylis trullifolia*.

At Boulder Bay (Fig. 7) there was a colony of mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) in a saltwater impoundment, several fine specimens of ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*), and a sizeable kowhai (*Sophora chathamica*).

Exotic plants to catch the eye as they were in flower were shrubby stonewort (*Sedum praealtum*) with yellow flowers, and pitted crassula (*Crassula multicava*) at Tidal Bay, rhamnus (*Rhamnus alaternus*) and prickly hakea (*Hakea sericea*) in the forest margins bordering the road to Islington Bay and the track to Boulder Bay, and sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*) at Boulder Bay. Some gorse bushes seen were covered in webs of the gorse spider mite (*Tetranychus lintearius*) – good biological control at work.

Bird life was nearly non-existent, but we heard kakariki towards Boulder Bay. Joseph Kowhai made it



Fig. 7. Boulder Bay (or Shipwreck Bay), our destination reached. Photo: Joseph Kowhai.

up to the summit and was very pleased to encounter there saddleback, whitehead and tomtit.

On our return to the Rangitoto Wharf, Val Smith had on display her just-published book, "*Common Ground: who's who in New Zealand botanical names*". It is a magnificent production of 304 pages

telling the stories of 250 people commemorated in New Zealand botanical names. We had an informal book launch at the DOC information shelter. Just to mention a few names in it in connection with plants we saw during the day: Avicenna, Joseph Banks, Rembert Dodoens, Francesco Grisellini, Thomas Kirk, Thomas Andrew Knight, and Andrew Sinclair.

Trip report: Summit track, The Dome Forest Conservation Area, Warkworth, 19 September 2015

Maureen Young



Fig. 1. We stopped often for interesting plants on the ascent. Photo: J. Salter. All photos taken on 19 Sep 2015.



Fig. 2. The steep stairs approaching the Lookout. Photo: J. Salter.

Participants: Chris Ashton, Bruce Calvert, Ewen Cameron, Lisa Clapperton, Frances Duff, Leslie Haines, Peter Hutton, John Lambert, Anna and Richard Mairs, Christine Major, John Millett, Philip Moll, Vivienne Paterson, Colleen Pilcher, Helen Preston Jones, Joshua Salter, Gabi Schmidt-Adams, Theng Seth (from Cambodia), Vijay Soma, Maureen Young (leader).

The Dome is the flat-topped hill (336 m) that defines the skyline to the north west of Warkworth. On checking a local history book at the Warkworth Museum I found that the Maori name is Tohitohi-o-rei, (which *may* refer to the cutting of the umbilical cord of Rei) (Mabbett 1977: p. 287) but this name is



Fig. 3. Large northern rata carrying a load of hangers-on. Photo: J Salter.