

Botanical visit to Flaws Bush in Hinau Road, and Colin Kerr-Taylor Memorial Reserve in Taylor Road, Waimauku: 18 June 2016

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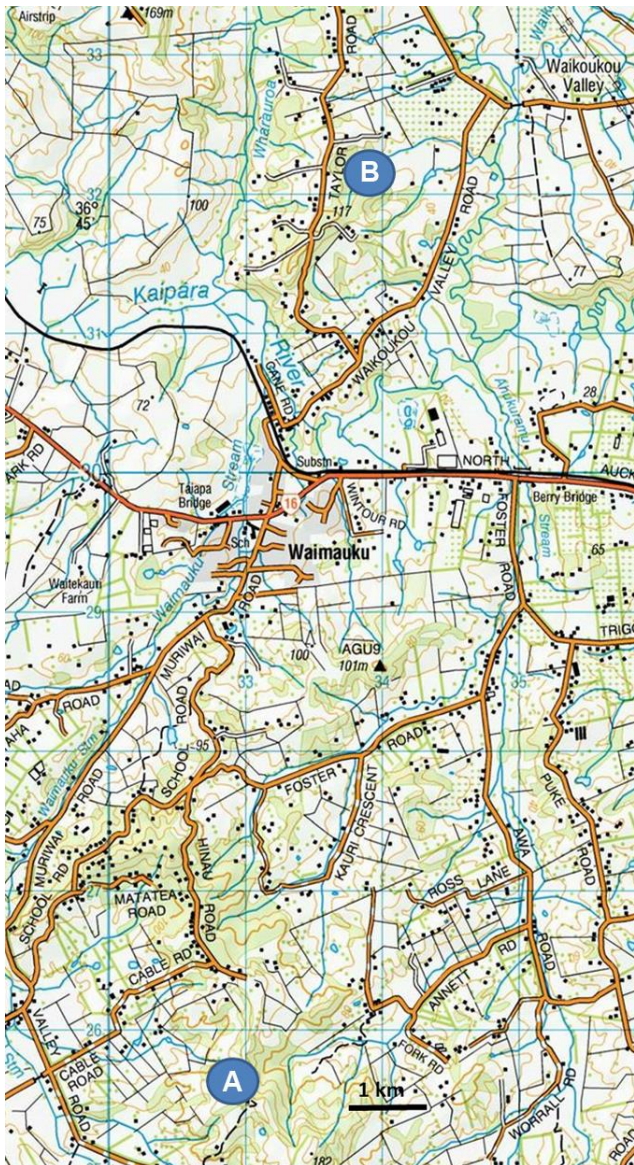


Fig. 1. (A) Location of Flaws Bush, Hinau Road, south of Waimauku. (B) Location of Colin Kerr-Taylor Reserve, north of Waimauku. Map prepared by Mike Wilcox and Josh Salter.



Fig. 2. Satellite image of Flaws farm and bush (outlined in white), Hinau Road, Waimauku. (Auckland Council). Dotted line shows ABS route from Hinau Rd to the bush.

Introduction

This field trip was a double-header, taking in two different sites on the same day (Fig. 1, A and B). Our destination was Waimauku in western Auckland, in the Kumeu subdivision of the Rodney Local Board.

Attendance: Jenny Andrew, Jan Butcher, Bruce Calvert, Ewen Cameron, Lisa Clapperton, Beverley Davidson, Geoff Davidson, Frances Duff, Ben Goodwin, Oscar Grant, Wendy John, John Lambert, Dongmei Li, Peter Mosberger, Colleen Pilcher, Dhahara Ranatunga, Juliet Richmond, Joshua Salter, Lydia Smith, Adrienne Stanton, Claire Stevens, Valerie Tomlinson, Elizabeth Walker, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox, David Wilson, Maureen Young, Megan Young and Zeng Zhao.

Native bush area of 5.6 ha on the farm of Jonathan and Mary Flaws, Hinau Road

We were accompanied by Mary Flaws, with young grandchildren Harrison and Charlotte Flaws. This property is located in the northern tip of the Waitakere Ecological District (Figs. 1 (A), 2). The land in the vicinity is rolling pastoral farmland, with pockets of native bush and some pine forestry blocks (Figs. 2, 3). Just to the north, between Kauri Crescent and Hinau Road, is the University of Auckland's 15 ha Huapai Reserve, noted for its numerous large kauri (*Agathis australis*) trees.

The bush has been fenced off from grazing animals since 1999. It is a surviving second-growth remnant following milling of kauri and other trees, and possibly burning as well, in the 1860s (Fig. 4). The main trees of note on the damper sites with good soil were puriri (*Vitex lucens*) of which there were several large examples, together with vigorous-looking trees of kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) and totara (*Podocarpus totara*) (see Table 1). Nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) was spectacularly abundant, with numerous trees and abundant regeneration, and the climbing ferns *Blechnum filiforme* and *Microsorium scandens* grew profusely up the nikau trunks (Fig. 5). *Coprosma areolata* was one of the commonest shrubs. Another feature was that taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*) was represented just by young plants barely a metre tall. These were common, suggesting that this tree has colonised the site comparatively recently. Gullies had tangles of supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*). On the northern boundary were two massive vines of native passion fruit (*Passiflora tetrandra*), and some fine epiphytic specimens of *Griselinia lucida* were noted including one which had established itself on a nikau palm.



Fig. 3. Our group heading out across the farm towards Flaws bush, 18 June 2016. Photo: Joshua Salter.



Fig. 4. The northern edge of Flaws Bush, with totara, rimu and kahikatea in the foreground and kauri on the back ridge, 21 April 2016. Photo: Mike Wilcox.



Fig. 5. *Blechnum filiforme* and *Microsorium scandens* climbing on nikau trunks, Flaws Bush, Waimauku, 18 June 2016. Photo: Beverley Davidson.



Fig. 6. Kauri stand, Flaws Bush Waimauku 18 June 2016. Photo: Mike Wilcox.



Fig. 7. *Nertera dichondrifolia* on the forest floor in the kauri stand, 18 June 2016. Photo: Mike Wilcox.

A prominent feature of the bush is a dense grove of kauri rickers on a north-facing gentle slope (Fig. 6). The original nurse tree of kanuka (*Kunzea robusta*) is still sparsely present, but no other tree species were observed. The understory was rather dense, some of the commoner species being nikau (seedlings), silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*), lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*), mapou (*Myrsine australis*), shining karamu (*Coprosma lucida*), *Coprosma spathulata*, and, locally, heketara (*Olearia rani*) and cutty grass (*Gahnia setifolia*). *Nertera dichondrifolia* was a common ground herb (Fig. 7).

Table 1: Vascular plants recorded by ABS in Flaws Bush, Hinau Road, Waimauku.

* = adventive species; DJC = additions by David J. Court, recorded 25 Dec 2003

Ferns

Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium gracillimum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum fraseri
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum parrisiae
 (*Doodia australis*)
Deparia petersenii
Lindsaea trichomanoides
Lastreopsis hispida
Microsorium pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Pteris macilenta
Pteris tremula
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia
Tmesipteris lanceolata

Conifers

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

Monocots

Astelia hastata
Astelia solandri
Caladenia minor DJC
Carex banksiana

Carex dissita
Carex inversa
Carex longebrachiata *
 (on pasture)
Carex solandri
Cordyline australis
Cordyline banksii
Dianella nigra
Earina mucronata
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Microlaena stipoides
Microtis unifolia DJC
Oplismenus hirtellus
Pterostylis banksii DJC
Pterostylis graminea DJC
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Schoenus tendo

Dicot trees, shrubs & climbers

Alectryon excelsus
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Carpodetus serratus
Coprosma arborea
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma crassifolia
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma macrocarpa
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma spathulata
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Dysoxylum spectabile

Geniostoma ligustrifolia
Griselinia lucida
Hedycarya arborea
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea robusta
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros perforata
Muehlenbeckia australis
Myrsine australis
Myrsine salicina
Nestegis lanceolatus
Olearia furfuracea
Olearia rani
Parsonsia sp.
Passiflora tetrandra
Pennantia corymbosa
Piper excelsum
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Pseudopanax crassifolium
Pseudopanax lessonii
 (seedlings)
Rubus australis
Schefflera digitata
Solanum betaceum *
Solanum mauritianum *
Streblus heterophyllus
Vitex lucens

Dicot herbs

Centella uniflora
Nertera dichondrifolia
Potentilla indica *
Solanum nodiflorum

Forest & Bird's Colin Kerr-Taylor Memorial Reserve of 12.9 ha in Taylor Road

This native bush reserve is in the Rodney Ecological District (Figs. 1(B), 8). It was gifted to the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society in 1993 by Yvonne Hollier and Vivienne Wilson in memory of their father Colin Vivian Kerr-Taylor (1906-1984), who along with his father Vincent Fredrick Kerr-Taylor (1866-1920), and grandfather Allan Fredrick Kerr-Taylor (1832-1890) – the latter built the historic mansion “Alberton” in Mt Albert in 1863 – sought its preservation (Forest & Bird website; Forest & Bird, no date). Allan Kerr-Taylor had bought a 10,000 acre (4047 ha) block of land here in 1867, nearly all of which was milled for kauri and subsequently cleared for farming.

There are three main types of forest in the reserve: kanuka forest, kauri/tanekaha ricker groves (Fig. 9), and mixed gully forest. Kanuka forest can be seen from the reserve entrance along the Vivienne Wilson Track. There is an open canopy of kanuka, with a big variety of understorey plants including regenerating kauri, totara, Hall's totara (*Podocarpus laetus*), tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*), pigeonwood (*Hedycarya arborea*), mapou, white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*), and tree ferns (*Cyathea dealbata*, *C. medullaris*) (see Table 2).

On the higher ground the dominant forest type is kauri. There are dense stands of rickers, with some tanekaha and kanuka. Associates noted were saplings of white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*), heketara, pigeonwood, and a sparse ground cover of *Nertera dichondrifolia*, with patches of *Lindsaea trichomanoides* (Fig. 10). A patch of the uncommon herb *Gratiola sexdentata* was found by Ben Goodwin in a damp spot on one of the tracks through the kauri ricker forest.

The start of the gully forest along the Murray Jones Track was marked by a huge, perfectly-formed kauri, protected by a board walk and platform built in 2002. In the main gully grows a magnificent kahikatea tree, reputedly Auckland's biggest (Fig. 11). The dry stream bed was covered with the large thallose liverwort *Monoclea forsteri*. Further up the gully is another large kahikatea tree, together with a sizeable pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) – John Staniland (pers. comm.). One party in our group explored the lower loop track and found a large matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia* – Fig. 12). Other good sightings included sizeable specimens of white maire, and also a single tree of *Nestegis montana*.

Native species seen by our group, not previously listed from the reserve were: *Astelia trinervia*, *Carex virgata*, *Coprosma rigida*,



Fig. 8. Satellite image of Colin Kerr-Taylor Reserve (outlined in white), Taylor Road, Waimauku. (Auckland Council).



Fig. 9. Hard at work, recording plants in a kauri/tanekaha ricker grove, Colin Kerr-Taylor Reserve. Photo: Joshua Salter.



Fig. 10. *Lindsaea trichomanoides*, Colin Kerr-Taylor Reserve, 18 June 2016. Photo: Mike Wilcox.

Eleocharis acuta, *Gahnia xanthocarpa*, *Galium propinquum*, *Gratiola sexdentata*, *Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae*, *Hymenophyllum dilatatum*, *Lindsaea linearis*, *Melicytus macrophyllus*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Oplismenus hirtellus* and *Podocarpus laetus*.

A follow-up group (Sandra Jones, Helen Cogle, Anne Grace and Gorakh Silvester) visited the Reserve on 11 July 2016 and recorded the orchids *Corybas cheesemanii* and *Pterostylis alobula*, both in full flower, the filmy ferns *Hymenophyllum flexuosum* and *H. revolutum*, and the shrub *Piper excelsum*.

The reserve is reasonably free of weeds, the main ones being *Aristea ecklonii* along the Yvonne Hollier

Track, *Selaginella kraussiana* near the start of Colin's Track, the ubiquitous self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) in damp places along tracks, and the occasional seedling and sapling in the bush of monkey apple (*Syzygium smithii*).

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Mary and Jonathan Flaws for the opportunity to visit their property, and to Adrienne Stanton for helping to arrange the visit; to Sandra Jones, John Staniland and Petra Gloyn for information about Colin Kerr-Taylor Memorial Reserve; to ABS members in attendance for their contributions to the species lists; and to Beverley Davidson, Joshua Salter and Alison Wesley for photographs.



Fig. 11. Large kahikatea, Colin Kerr-Taylor Reserve, 18 June 2016. From left: John Lambert, Mike Wilcox, Jenny Andrew, Elizabeth Walker, Bev Davidson, Val Tomlinson, Colleen Pilcher. Photo: Alison Wesley.



Fig. 12. A large matai approx. 45 cm diam., Colin Kerr-Taylor Reserve, 18 June 2016. Photo: Joshua Salter.

References

Forest & Bird 2016: Colin Kerr-Taylor Memorial Reserve, Auckland. Information on www.forestandbird.org.nz
 Forest & Bird (no date): Colin Kerr-Taylor Memorial Reserve Management Plan. Prepared by P. White.

Table 2: Vascular plants recorded by ABS in the Colin Kerr-Taylor Memorial Reserve

* = adventive species; # = additional records by A. Grace 1994; S. Jones 1999 and 2002; P. White 1999; H. Beacham 2002; S. Jones, A. Grace, H. Cogle & G. Silvester, 11 Jul 2016.

Lycophytes

Lycopodium volubile
Phlegmariurus varius
Selaginella kraussiana *

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum

Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon #
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum fraseri
Blechnum membranaceum #
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Blechnum parrisiae
Cyathea dealbata

Cyathea medullaris
Hymenophyllum dilatatum
Hymenophyllum flabellatum #
Hymenophyllum flexuosum #
Hymenophyllum revolutum #
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Lastreopsis hispida #
Lindsaea linearis