

## SENTINAL ROCK, KAIMAI-MAMAKU FOREST PARK

Chris Bycroft

On Sunday 1 April 2001 seven people meet up on the Tauranga-Katikati highway from as far afield as Katikati, Papamoa, Tauranga, Rotorua and Taranaki. A quick discussion at the Thompsons Track corner and we decided to go to Sentinal Rock. Walter assured us there was plenty of botanical interest on this track.

Within the first few hundred metres on the track we saw several *Brachyglottis kirkei* plants with several plants still in flower. A patch of *Dawsonia superba* was present a little farther up the track. After an hour or so of botanising we arrived at the Tuahu kauri; quite an impressive tree. There was a *Pitosporum cornifolium* amongst other epiphytes on the tree.

On the main ridge to Sentinal Rock we passed some specimens of *Metrosideros fulgens* in flower.

Once we got to our first views of Sentinal Rock the rain arrived and became steadier throughout the day. We decided to go along the ridge as far as several *Corokia buddleioides* plants that Walter knew were there. They were still in flower. From here we had a discussion about continuing with the increasing rainfall. Most of us decided to continue on to the Sentinal Rock. This involved a relatively easy scramble to the top, but with the ever increasing bad weather we unfortunately had no view. I guess this will give most of us an incentive to return back here at some stage. The trip down was fairly rapid as the rain got heavier.

All and all this was an enjoyable trip with a good bunch of people and good botanising.