

## NORTHERN KAINGAROA FOREST AND BIRD FIELD TRIP

Sarah M. Beadel

Earlier in 2002 I was approached by Forest and Bird about a possible field trip to look at some of the natural areas in the northern part of Kaingaroa Ecological District. Trip details were also emailed to Botanical Society members, and several came on the trip. A large group of about 30 people gathered in Kawerau and proceeded to various sites in the Tarawera Valley on 17 August 2002. The first stop was the pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) stand alongside Edwards Road, which was one of the main features of the day. Pohutukawa, along with northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*), hybrids between the two species and kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) forms the canopy in this area. The pohutukawa forest has recently been subject to a possum control operation by Fletcher Challenge Forests and was in relatively good condition.

Other vegetation types in the Edwards Road natural area include kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*)-kanuka-rewarewa (*Knightsia excelsa*) forest, kanuka forest (with large mature titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*) and scattered kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*) and mapou (*Myrsine australis*)), manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*)-Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*) scrub (with scattered rewarewa, akepiro (*Olearia furfuracea*) and koromiko (*Hebe stricta*)) and wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*) treefernland. A small *Carex secta* wetland (with occasional manuka, koromiko, karamu (*Coprosma robusta*), and toetoe (*Cortaderia fulvida*)) occurs along the stream. There is a small lukewarm mineral spring adjacent to the stream.

Pohutukawa also occurs at several other sites in the vicinity - including Putauaki (Mt Edgecumbe), Tarawera Falls, Tarawera Scarp, and also around many of the lakes in the District. An interesting find in this area was one plant of *Pimelea tomentosa* (a nationally rare species classed as "Chronically Threatened - seriously decline" in the 2002 DOC threatened species classification). A species list for the pohutukawa forest remnant is attached.

From Edwards Road we travelled down to the Tarawera River to have lunch, where we saw swamp millet (*Isachne globosa*) and hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). Moving on, we visited the Mangate Stream wetlands. The central part of the largest wetland is dominated by a shrub-sedgeland of manuka, *Baumea anthophylla*, Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*), and *Lepidosperma australe*. Clumps of *Sphagnum*, swamp kiokio (*Blechnum novaezelandiae*), lotus (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and lichen are scattered throughout. Raupo (*Typha orientalis*) reedland with abundant *Carex secta*, swamp millet, and occasional *Baumea anthophylla* is present alongside a small stream which runs through the largest wetland. A marginal band of manuka with emergent ti kouka (cabbage tree; *Cordyline australis*) surrounds the wetland. Manuka with scattered emergent ti kouka dominates the smaller wetlands.

Fernbird were heard at the larger Mangate Stream wetland but spotless crake were, as usual, elusive without the benefit of a tape deck to solicit them (they have been recorded from the wetland in the past).

We then pressed on to visit the small rimu stand near Rimu Road - about 1 ha - and Glenn Sutton showed us another smaller rimu remnant nearby.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Fletcher Challenge Forests provided access permission. Many thanks go to Linda Conning (Forest and Bird) for organising the access and attendance. Glenn Sutton (FCF) contributed his time on the day, guided us around the maze of forestry roads, and helped us to avoid large logging trucks. Willie Shaw provided useful comments on a draft of this article.

## REFERENCES

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## EDWARDS ROAD POHUTUKAWA FOREST, KAINGAROA

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### Indigenous Species

#### Gymnosperms

*Podocarpus hallii* Hall's totara

#### Monocot. trees and shrubs

*Cordyline banksii* ti ngahere, forest cabbage tree

#### Dicot. trees and shrubs

*Alectryon excelsus* var. *excelsus* titoki  
*Aristolelia serrata* makomako, wineberry  
*Beilschmiedia tawa* tawa  
*Brachyglottis repanda* s.s. rangiora  
*Carpodetus serratus* putaputaweta  
*Coprosma grandifolia* kanono  
*Coprosma lucida* karamu  
*Coprosma robusta* karamu  
*Coriaria arborea* var. *arborea* tutu  
*Fuchsia excorticata* kotukutuku  
*Gaultheria antipoda* tawiniwini  
*Geniostoma rupestre* var. *ligustrifolium* hangehange  
*Hebe stricta* var. *stricta* koromiko  
*Hedycarya arborea* porokaiwhiri  
*Knightia excelsa* rewarewa  
*Kunzea ericoides* var. *ericoides* kanuka  
*Leptecophylla juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* prickly mingimingi

<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangeao
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i> var. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Meliccytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	pohutukawa
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> × <i>M. robusta</i>	
<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	northern rata
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Olearia furfuracea</i>	akepiro
<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara
<i>Pimelea tomentosa</i>	
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> subsp. <i>colensoi</i>	rautawhiri
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> subsp. <i>tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i> var. <i>arboreus</i>	whauwhaupaku, five finger
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi

#### Dicot. lianes

<i>Clematis cunninghamii</i>	ngakau-kiore
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	puawananga
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	rata
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>	akakiore
<i>Rubus schmidelioides</i>	akatataramoa

#### Lycopods and psilopsids

<i>Huperzia varia</i>	Whiri-o-Raukatauri
<i>Tmesipteris lanceolata</i>	
<i>Tmesipteris tannensis</i>	

## Ferns

<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	huruhuru tapairu
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> s.s.	mouku
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i> s.s.	makawe
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	huruhuruwhenua
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	petako
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i> s.s. × <i>A. flaccidum</i>	petako-paraharaha
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	rereti
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i> s.s.	kiokio
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	ponga
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Diplazium australe</i>	
<i>Doodia australis</i>	pukupuku
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	irirangi
<i>Hymenophyllum multifidum</i>	mauku
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	piripiri
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	kowaowao (hounds tongue fern)
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	mokimoki
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	matata
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>	tarawera (button fern)
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	pakau
<i>Polystichum richardii</i>	pikopiko (hard shield fern)
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	rarahu (bracken)
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	turawera (shaking brake)
<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern

## Orchids

<i>Bulbophyllum pygmaeum</i>	piripiri
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i> s.s.	peka-a-waka
<i>Pterostylis alobula</i>	
<i>Winika cunninghamii</i>	

## Grasses

<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>	toetoe
<i>Deyeuxia avenoides</i>	
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> subsp. <i>imbecillis</i>	
<i>Rytidosperma gracile</i>	

## Sedges

<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	toetoe upokotangata
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	
<i>Schoenus tendo</i>	wiwi
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	kamu, matau a Maui
<i>Uncinia</i> sp.	

## Rushes

*Luzula picta* var. *picta*

## Monocot. herbs (other than orchids, grasses, sedges and rushes)

<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	turutu
<i>Libertia grandifolia</i>	mikoikoi

## Composite herbs

*Lagenifera pumila*

papataniwhaniwha

*Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum* agg.

pukatea

Dicot. herbs (other than composites)

*Drosera peltata* subsp. *auriculata*

*Haloragis erecta* subsp. *erecta*

toatoa

*Nertera depressa*

*Wahlenbergia violacea*

**Adventive Species**

Dicot. trees and shrubs

*Teline monspessulana*

Montpellier broom

Composite herbs

*Mycelis muralis*

wall lettuce