

## UPPER UTUHINA STREAM FIELD TRIP

Hugh Caulton

On Sunday 1st August 2004 (during Conservation Week) a party of 16 from the Rotorua Botanical Society, Rotorua Tramping Club and 2 local Mamaku residents left the car park at start of Lake Rotohokahoka walk at 9-45 am in perfect weather. The Utuhina track had been trimmed and windfall cut on the track by the author to the ending at Old Bridge Road. This track has received very little maintenance during the past 6 years, and there are still some large tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) windfalls between half way down the track and the Old Bridge Road end.

There is quite a change in tree and plant species as you leave the plateau from South Road and descend down the true right hand side of the Utuhina Stream. The canopy of tawa, interspersed with rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*), tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) and old remnants of rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*), and miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) are the main species on top of the plateau.

Leaving South Road on the Utuhina track within a few hundred metres the canopy changes to tawa, hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*), kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*), tawari (*Ixerba brexioides*) and a much greater selection of tree ferns.

Of note was the abundance of katote (*Cyathea smithii*), wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*), wheki-ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*), silver fern (*Cyathea dealbata*) and as on the main South Road section, the absence of mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*).

A species of interest to those who have not been in this area before was toru (*Toronia toru*). Some forest carpet plants of interest were kidney fern (*Trichomanes reniforme*), *Dawsonia superba*, the fungi *Scutellinia colensoi*, jelli fungi and coral fungi.

This area is often noted for the mountain cabbage tree (*Cordyline indivisa*) and although largely gone from the track they are still present on the steeper gullies overhanging the Utuhina Stream and lower down the valley the forest cabbage tree (*Cordyline banksii*).

The party soon split into 3 groups with myself leading, a local farmer friend and some members of the Rotorua Tramping Club finding the ferns, canopy and larger trees generally of most interest. A middle group enjoying the day out and a tail end group doing a complete survey and perhaps more interested in the forest carpet and hard to find specimens.

There were still several large tawa windfalls across the track, and with all the bridges now removed progress was fairly slow, but all enjoying a corner of Mamaku not visited regularly now due to track deterioration.

After a fairly easy walk, mainly downhill we crossed the Utuhina for the last time and out onto the old logging access track. This was one of the last native areas of Mamaku to be logged approx. 25 years ago. This track soon lead us out onto Old Bridge Road, a main access road to the Mamaku exotic forest. We found a cosy spot above the site of the old bridge, now a huge culvert and had a relaxing lunch.

For those of us who are very much amateur botanists this is a great time to pick the brains of those a little more learned. I'm sure all those members of the Tramping Club really enjoyed the discussions on local history of this area and of course brought up to speed on many of the plant specimens we observed on our morning's walk.

As we were finishing lunch our beautifully fine day suddenly clouded over and so a discussion was made to return to South Road via the exotic forest roads. No rain eventuated and most of the group found the fairly steep walk up Old Bridge Road very interesting especially the overhanging plant species on the very high rocky face of the Old Bridge Road.

We turned right onto Utohina Road and followed this up to join Phoenix Road. The party very much split up now into several groups and just enjoying the easy gradient and good surface to walk on. We reached South Road by 2.30pm and an easy stroll along South Road brought us back to the cars at 2.45pm.

For myself, my local farmer friend and members of Rotorua Tramping Club, this was a really interesting, informative and learning day. We really did appreciate the members of the Botanical Society who so freely gave of their knowledge to us.

VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES LIST FOR  
UPPER UTUHINA STREAM, MAMAKU

Graeme Jane

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

*Dacrydium cupressinum*  
*Podocarpus hallii*  
*Prumnopitys ferruginea*

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

*Cordyline banksii*  
*Cordyline indivisa*

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

*Alseuosmia macrophylla*  
*Aristotelia serrata*  
*Beilschmiedia tawa*  
\**Buddleja davidii*  
*Carpodetus serratus*  
*Coprosma grandifolia*  
*Coprosma lucida*  
*Coprosma robusta*  
*Coprosma "taylorae"*  
\**Cotoneaster franchetii*  
\**Cytisus scoparius*  
*Elaeocarpus dentatus*  
\**Erica lusitanica*  
*Fuchsia excorticata*  
*Gaultheria antipoda*  
*Geniostoma rupestre* var. *ligustrifolium*  
*Griselinia littoralis*  
*Hedycarya arborea*  
*Ixerba brexioides*  
*Leptospermum scoparium*  
*Leucopogon fasciculatus*  
\**Leycesteria formosa*  
*Melicope simplex*  
*Melicytus lanceolatus*  
*Myrsine salicina*  
*Nestegis lanceolata*

*Pennantia corymbosa*  
*Pseudopanax arboreus*  
*Pseudopanax crassifolius*  
*Pseudowintera axillaris*  
*Pseudowintera colorata*  
*Quintinia serrata*  
*Raukawa anomalus*  
*Raukawa edgerleyi*  
*Schefflera digitata*  
*\*Ulex europaeus*  
*Weinmannia racemosa*

#### Monocotyledonous lianes

*Ripogonum scandens*

#### Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

*Metrosideros fulgens*  
*Parsonsia heterophylla*  
*Rubus cissoides*  
*\*Rubus fruticosus*

#### Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

*Huperzia varia*  
*Lycopodium fastigiatum*  
*Lycopodium scariosum*  
*Lycopodium volubile*  
*Tmesipteris elongata*  
*Tmesipteris tannensis*

#### Ferns

*Asplenium bulbiferum*  
*Asplenium flaccidum*  
*Asplenium polyodon*  
*Blechnum chambersii*  
*Blechnum colensoi*  
*Blechnum discolor*  
*Blechnum fluviatile*  
*Blechnum nigrum*  
*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*  
*Blechnum novae-zelandiae* f. Swamp form  
*Blechnum vulcanicum*  
*Ctenopteris heterophylla*  
*Cyathea dealbata*

*Cyathea smithii*  
*Dicksonia fibrosa*  
*Dicksonia squarrosa*  
*Grammitis billardierei*  
*Histiopteris incisa*  
*Hymenophyllum bivalve*  
*Hymenophyllum demissum*  
*Hymenophyllum dilatatum*  
*Hymenophyllum ferrugineum*  
*Hymenophyllum flabellatum*  
*Hymenophyllum multifidum*  
*Hymenophyllum rarum*  
*Hymenophyllum revolutum*  
*Hymenophyllum scabrum*  
*Lastreopsis hispida*  
*Leptolepia novae-zelandiae*  
*Leptopteris hymenophylloides*  
*Leptopteris superba*  
*Lindsaea trichomanoides*  
*Microsorium pustulatum*  
*Paesia scaberula*  
*Pneumatopteris pennigera*  
*Polystichum silvaticum*  
*Polystichum vestitum*  
*Pteridium esculentum*  
*Rumobra adiantiformis*  
*Sticherus cunninghamii*  
*Trichomanes reniforme*  
*Trichomanes venosum*

### Orchids

*Corybas acuminatus*  
*Earina autumnalis*  
*Earina mucronata*

### Grasses

\**Agrostis capillaris*  
\**Anthoxanthum odoratum*  
*Cortaderia fulvida*  
\**Holcus lanatus*  
*Microlaena avenacea*

## Sedges

*Carex forsteri*  
*Gahnia setifolia*  
*Uncinia banksii*  
*Uncinia distans*  
*Uncinia ferruginea*  
*Uncinia silvestris*  
*Uncinia uncinata*  
*Uncinia zotovii*

## Rushes and allied plants

*Juncus pauciflorus*

## Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

*Astelia fragrans*  
*Astelia solandri*  
*Dianella nigra*

## Daisy-like herbs

\**Crepis capillaris*  
\**Hypochoeris radicata*  
*Lagenifera cuneata*  
\**Leucanthemum vulgare*  
*Raoulia albosericea*  
\**Senecio jacobaea*

## Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

*Cardamine "Long Style"*  
*Epilobium microphyllum*  
*Gonocarpus micranthus*  
*Hydrocotyle microphylla*  
\**Lotus pedunculatus*  
*Nertera depressa*  
*Nertera villosa*  
\**Ranunculus repens*  
*Stellaria decipiens*