

## PAHIKO - WAIORONGOMAI VALLEY TRIP

Graeme Jane

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December eight members from the Waikato and Rotorua Botanical Societies gathered at the carpark at the foot of the Waiorongomai Road end for a hike up the Waiorongomai Valley with the aim of reaching the summit of Pahiko. A brief discussion was held on what species of plant were on the watch-for list. Among the possible highlights discussed was *Pittosporum kirkii* for which a trophy of a chocolate fish was offered. As it was to be a long day, we decided to make a fast trip to the Pylon Track junction. The level Piako tramway through relatively recent forest regeneration was followed by a steep climb through older forest with patches of kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), kauri (*Agathis australis*), toatoa (*Phyllocladus toatoa*) and maire (*Mida salicifolia*).

At the kauri grove the track became a "route" along an old pack track. Initially it passed through a fern rich, pukatea gully where the locally common, shiny-leaved *Asplenium lamprophyllum* was common. Further along it sidled steeply through a wet gully of parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*) with *Trichomanes elongatum* on the steeper shaded banks. By lunchtime we were in more open low scrubland and selected a rocky lookout surrounded by kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), snowberry (*Gaultheria antipoda*), *Gonocarpus incanus* and *Schoenus tendo* and the odd emergent hard beech (*Nothofagus truncata*). From there the rather open ridge track continued through low scrub including gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*) to the main ridge where we turned southwards toward Pahiko trig through silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*), tawari (*Ixerba brexioides*), *Dracophyllum latifolium* and toropapa (*Alseuosmia macrophylla*). The scrubby climb to the lookout near the trig, through *Gabnia pauciflora*, *Dracophyllum sinclairii* and *Pseudopanax laetus*, provided grand views of the upper Waitawheta valley tors. On the descent we spotted the expected *Hymenophyllum armstrongii* as a mat on a treefern and scattered *Grammitis magellanica* growing out of epiphytic moss on shrubs.

A short cut return via a more northern ridge took us through kaikawaka (*Libocedrus bidwillii*) then tawari and kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) where the chocolate fish was won simultaneously by two people spotting *Pittosporum kirkii* at different places. One had gorgeous, large fruit. Nearby was *Microsorium novae-zelandiae*, starting as usual well up the tree. The route soon descended steeply back on to the Kauri loop track near its upper end where we arrived at the old hut site amongst a mass of *Gladiolus undulatus*. After crossing the creek and climbing through kanuka scrub we regained the Piako tramway for a hasty and easy return.



*Pittosporum kirkii* (Photo: Kerry Jones)

# PYLON TRACK FROM KAURI GROVE TO PAHIKO

## VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES LIST

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* <i>Acaena agnipila</i> var. <i>protenta</i>	
<i>Agathis australis</i>	kauri
* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop
<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	toropapa
* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	hen and chickens fern
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	hanging spleenwort
<i>Asplenium lamprophyllum</i>	
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	shining spleenwort
<i>Astelia nervosa</i>	kahakaha
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara
<i>Astelia trinervia</i>	
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	nini
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	crown fern
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	climbing hard fern
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	kiwakiwa
<i>Blechnum fraseri</i>	
<i>Blechnum nigrum</i>	black fern
<i>Blechnum novaezelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Blechnum procerum</i>	kiokio
<i>Blechnum vulcanicum</i>	
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora
<i>Cardiomanes reniforme</i>	kidney fern
<i>Carex solandri</i>	
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta
* <i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	centaury
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	puawhananga
<i>Coprosma colensoi</i>	springy coprosma
<i>Coprosma foetidissima</i>	stinkwood
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	forest cabbage tree
<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i>	toetoe
<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	silver fern
<i>Cyathea smithii</i>	soft-leaved tree fern
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu
<i>Deyeuxia avenoides</i>	mountain oatgrass
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki

<i>Dracophyllum latifolium</i>	needle-leaved neinei
<i>Dracophyllum sinclairii</i>	
<i>Dracophyllum traversii</i>	neinei
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	peka-a-waka
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Elatostema rugosum</i>	parataniwha
* <i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish heath
<i>Euchiton collinus</i>	
<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
<i>Gabnia pauciflora</i>	
<i>Gabnia setifolia</i>	
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange
<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i>	
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	broadleaf
<i>Hebe corriganii</i>	purple-flowered hebe
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	water fern
<i>Huperzia varia</i>	hanging clubmoss
<i>Hydrocotyle dissecta</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum armstrongii</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	piripiri; irirangi
<i>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</i>	lop-sided filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	fan fern
<i>Hymenophyllum frankliniae</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum multifidum</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum rarum</i>	wire-stemmed filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	blood-scented filmy fern
* <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	catsear
<i>Hypolepis lactea</i>	
<i>Ixerba brexioides</i>	tawari
* <i>Juncus effusus</i> var. <i>effusus</i>	soft rush
<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Lagenifera pumila</i>	
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	hairy fern
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Lepidosperma australe</i>	four square
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	heruheru
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	patotara

<i>Libertia micrantha</i>	star herb
<i>Libocedrus bidwillii</i>	kaikawaka
<i>Lindsaea trichomanoides</i>	
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus major
<i>Loxogramme dictyopteris</i>	
<i>Luzuriaga parviflora</i>	puwatawata
<i>Lycopodium deuterodensum</i>	puakarimu
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i>	climbing clubmoss
<i>Lygodium articulatum</i>	mangemange
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	akatea
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	scarlet rata
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	small white rata
<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	northern rata
<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>	southern rata
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass
<i>Microsorium novae-zeelandiae</i>	fragrant fern
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> subsp. <i>pustulatum</i>	hounds tongue
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	fragrant fern
<i>Microtis parviflora</i>	
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	onion orchid
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	poheuheu
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	pohuehue; wire vine
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Myrsine salicina</i>	toro
<i>Nematoceras acuminatum</i>	
<i>Nematoceras trilobum</i>	
<i>Nertera dichondrifolia</i>	hairy nertera
<i>Nothofagus fusca</i>	red beech
<i>Nothofagus menziesii</i>	silver beech
<i>Nothofagus truncata</i>	hard beech
<i>Olearia rani</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	heketara
<i>Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae</i>	
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	scented fern
<i>Petalochilus chlorostylus</i>	
<i>Phormium cookianum</i> subsp. <i>cookianum</i>	mountain flax; wharariki
<i>Phyllocladus toatoa</i>	toatoa
* <i>Pinus pinaster</i>	maritime pine
* <i>Pinus radiata</i>	radiata pine
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gully fern
<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>	Hall's totara
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal

<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood
<i>Pseudopanax laetus</i>	
<i>Pseudowintera axillaris</i>	horopito
<i>Pseudowintera colorata</i>	mountain horopito
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	tutukiwi
<i>Pterostylis montana</i>	
<i>Quintinia serrata</i>	tawheowheo
<i>Raoulia glabra</i>	
<i>Raoulia subsericea</i>	
<i>Raukawa anomalus</i>	whauwhaupaku
<i>Raukawa edgerleyi</i>	raukawa
<i>Raukawa simplex</i>	haumakoroa
<i>Rhabdothamnus solandri</i>	taurepo
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack
* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	blackberry
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	butcher's fern
<i>Rytidosperma gracile</i>	forest fairy grass
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
<i>Schoenus tendo</i>	
<i>Simpliglottis cornuta</i>	green bird orchid
<i>Singularybas oblongus</i>	
<i>Sticherus cunninghamii</i>	umbrella fern
<i>Thelymitra colensoi</i>	
<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>	white sun orchid
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>	
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	veined bristle fern
* <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse
<i>Uncinia distans</i>	
<i>Uncinia rupestris</i>	
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	watu
<i>Viola filicaulis</i>	forest violet
<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i>	blue harebell
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi
<i>Winika cunninghamii</i>	bamboo orchid