

MANGANUKU STREAM AND WAIOEKA GORGE NATURE WALK

Mike Butcher

Sunday 11th October was a lovely spring day and eleven of us gathered in Opotiki that morning for a look at the vegetation of the Waioeka Gorge area. Our plan was to visit two sites – firstly the Manganuku Stream area which is representative of the upper part of the gorge and secondly, for contrast, the site of an old DOC nature walk on the elevated benches in the lower part of the gorge.

Manganuku Stream is about 35 mins from Opotiki and we left the road-end there at around 10.30 am, crossing the historic timber bridge on to the sidle track. The Manganuku, like the rest of the Waioeka, is very steep-sided and the sidle track has been completely washed out by a large slip around two kilometres in from the carpark. However due to our intensive botanising we didn't even come close to reaching this point! The track is benched in to the steep hillside creating an array of shaded and moist banks which provided really interesting botanising with the added advantage of not having to bend to ground level to see the specimens!

Many of these banks were in naturally wet/seep areas and a variety of interesting orchids were present here including the spider orchids *Corybas acuminatus*, *Corybas "Kaimai"*, and *C. trilobus*. Below the track are steep cliffs into the river in many places, and we had to guard against stepping backwards too far after examining the plants on these interesting banks. Greenhood orchids were scattered along the trackside with *Pterostylis banksii*, *Pterostylis aff. montana*, and *P. cardiostigma* all being identified (thanks Graeme and Gael).

Numerous filmy ferns added to the interest and kept us busy, with extensive areas of *Hymenophyllum demissum*, but also *H. sanguinolentum*, *H. dilatatum*, *H. revolutum*, *H. rarum*, *H. scabrum*, and it was great to see *Hymenophyllum flabellatum*, and *H. flexuosum*.

A non-botanical highlight of the walk was the discovery of a Hochstetter's frog in a small rocky seep beside the track. Then at around 1 pm we found a comfortable access point in to the river and basked on boulders in the sun for half an hour, eating our lunch.

Resuming our walk along the sidle track we came to the point where a few specimens of the critically endangered forget-me-not *Myosotis pottsiana* are present beside the track. We were able to locate only 6 plants in total (five small and one large), none in flower. From here we continued along the track for few hundred metres more before turning and heading back to the car park, having added a number of species to the previous Manganuku list.

The second part of our day's botanising involved a quick visit to an old DOC nature walk in the lower Waioeka Gorge. We spent around an hour in a remnant area of pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zealandiae*) and podocarp forest on an elevated bench or old flood plain between the road and the river. The coastal influence was immediately apparent,

with abundant nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) and some kohekohe (*Disoxylum spectabile*). The understory throughout was heavily festooned with *Blechnum filiforme*.

A highlight here was the rediscovery of *Peperomia* (both *P. tetraphylla* and *P. urvilleana*) which Graeme had remembered as being present some years previously. *Earina mucronata* was also here at low level and in full bloom. Traces of the original track were apparent, with markers and descriptive plaques appearing here and there. We are not sure why maintenance of the Nature Walk was discontinued, but it would not be a huge task to reinstate it.

As 5 pm approached we brought our botanising to a close and headed back in to Opotiki. Many thanks to the locals and especially to those who travelled over from Rotorua and Tauranga to make this an interesting and enjoyable day.



Lunch beside the Maunganuku Stream

Plant Species List, Manganuku Stream - lower km

Map: X16 Grid Ref: 28944 63149

G Jane & G Donaghy with RBS

* = Exotic species

Ferns & Fern Allies

<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	maiden hair fern
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	hen and chickens fern; moku
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	hanging spleenwort; makawe
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	shining spleenwort
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	sickle spleenwort; petako
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	nini; lance fern
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	crown fern; piupiu; petipeti
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	Climbing hard fern; thread fern
<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	kiwakiwa; kiwikiwi
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Cardiomanes reniforme</i>	kidney fern; raurenga
<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	slender tree fern; gully tree fern
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku; korau; black tree fern
<i>Cyathea smithii</i>	soft-leaved tree fern; katote
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki; harsh tree fern
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	piripiri; irirangi
<i>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</i>	lop-sided filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	fan fern
<i>Hymenophyllum flexuosum</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum rarum</i>	wire-stemmed filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum revolutum</i>	
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	blood-scented filmy fern
<i>Hymenophyllum scabrum</i>	coarse-haired filmy fern
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>	felted fern
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	hairy fern, hairy legs
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	single crepe fern; heruheru
<i>Loxogramme dictyopteris</i>	
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i>	waewae-koukou; climbing clubmoss
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> ssp. <i>pustulatum</i>	hound's tongue; kowaowao
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	mokimoki; fragrant fern
<i>Notogrammitis heterophylla</i>	
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	scented fern; matata; ring fern
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>	tarawera; button fern
<i>Phlegmariurus varius</i>	hanging clubmoss; iwituna
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gully fern; pakau; pakauharoha
<i>Polystichum wanranum</i>	common shield fern; pikopiko
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken; rauaruhe
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	turawera
<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	veined bristle fern

Trees, shrubs & creepers

<i>Aristolelia serrata</i>	wineberry; makomako
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora; bushmans friend
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta; marbleleaf
<i>Clematis cunninghamii</i>	scented clematis; pokopoko
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	clematis; puawhananga
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	raurekau; kanono; mamono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu; shining karamu
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	forest cabbage tree; ti ngahere
<i>Coriaria arborea</i> var. <i>arborea</i>	tree tutu
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea, white pine
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu, red pine
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	fuchsia; kotukutuku
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange; privet
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood; porokaiwhiri
<i>Hoheria sexstylosa</i>	houhere
* <i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	tutsan
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa; NZ honeysuckle
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi; kaikaitau
* <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Melicope simplex</i>	poataniwha
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	white climbing rata; akatea
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	aka; small white rata; torotoro
<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	northern rata
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	poheuheu
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo; mapou
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire
<i>Olearia rani</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	heketara
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i> var. <i>capsularis</i>	small-flowered jasmine; akakior
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	Maori jasmine; kaihu; kaiwhiria
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako
<i>Piper excelsum</i> subsp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa; pepper tree
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	lemonwood; tarata
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	black matipo; kohuhu
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro; brown pine
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai; black pine

<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five finger; puhou; whaupaku
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood; horoeaka
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack; kareao
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer; tataramoa
* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	blackberry
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate; patae; kotete
<i>Solanum aviculare</i> f. <i>aviculare</i>	poroporo
<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kamahi; towai; tawhero

Herbs

<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>	bidibid
* <i>Ammi majus</i>	bullwort
<i>Anaphalioides trinervis</i>	puatea
<i>Arthropodium candidum</i>	star lily; repehinapapa
<i>Astelia hastata</i>	kahakaha
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara
<i>Cardamine</i> 'Long Style'	
<i>Cardamine</i> 'Narrow Petal'	
<i>Cardamine debilis</i>	
* <i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	wavy bitter cress
* <i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	centary
* <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i>	mouse-eared chickweed
* <i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	annual mouse-eared chickweed
* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
* <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	basil
* <i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	
<i>Corybas</i> 'Kaimai'	
<i>Corybas acuminatus</i>	
<i>Corybas trilobus</i>	
* <i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
* <i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	blueberry; turutu
* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	Easter orchid; raupeka
<i>Epilobium pedunculare</i>	
<i>Epilobium pubens</i>	
<i>Euchiton japonicus</i>	
* <i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
* <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb Robert
<i>Haloragis erecta</i> subsp. <i>erecta</i>	toatoa
<i>Hydrocotyle elongata</i>	
<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i> var. <i>moschata</i>	
<i>Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae</i> var. <i>novae-zeelandiae</i>	common pennywort
* <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	ragwort
<i>Jovellana sinclairii</i>	Maori calceolaria

* <i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly lettuce
<i>Lagenophora pumila</i>	
<i>Libertia grandiflora</i>	
<i>Lobelia angulata</i>	panakenake
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus major
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	onion orchid
* <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Myosotis pottsiana</i>	
* <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> subsp. <i>sylvatica</i>	garden forget-me-not
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	common nertera
* <i>Orobanche minor</i>	broomrape
* <i>Phytolacca octandra</i>	inkweed
* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort; narrow-leaved plantain
* <i>Plantago major</i>	broad-leaved plantain
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal
<i>Pterostylis</i> aff. <i>montana</i>	
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	tutukiwi
<i>Pterostylis cardiostigma</i>	
* <i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>	small-flowered buttercup
<i>Ranunculus reflexus</i>	maruru; hairy buttercup
* <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
* <i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	water figwort
* <i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed
<i>Senecio minimus</i>	fireweed
* <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade
* <i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow thistle; puha
* <i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	hedge woundwort
<i>Stellaria parviflora</i>	
* <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion
* <i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
<i>Urtica incisa</i>	stinging nettle

Grasses & similar plants

* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop
<i>Austroderia fulvida</i>	kakaho; toetoe
<i>Carex forsteri</i>	
<i>Carex spinirostris</i>	
* <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
<i>Gahnia setifolia</i>	
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
* <i>Juncus bufonius</i> var. <i>bufonius</i>	toad rush
<i>Juncus edgariae</i>	wiwi
* <i>Juncus tenuis</i> ssp. <i>tenuis</i>	track rush
<i>Luzula picta</i> var. <i>picta</i>	
<i>Luzula subclavata</i>	

<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass; oat grass
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	forest rice grass
* <i>Miscanthus nepalensis</i>	Himalayan fairy grass
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> ssp. <i>imbecillis</i>	oat grass
<i>Rytidosperma gracile</i>	forest fairy grass
* <i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i>	
<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	watu

BOOK REVIEW

‘Common Ground: Who’s Who in New Zealand Botanical Names’.

By Val Smith. ISBN 978-0-473-30847-6.

Published in a limited edition in 2015 by Wordsmith, 80 Mill Road, Lower Vogeltown, New Plymouth 4310, N.Z. assisted by Wellington Botanical Society’s Jubilee Fund and the George Mason Charitable Trust.

This book arrived in our letterbox just a day or two before this newsletter went to the printers. The author, a keen gardener, plantswoman, outdoor enthusiast and amateur botanist, became curious about the people whose surnames gave rise to the botanical names of many of our indigenous plants. This book is the result of that fascination.

The softbound volume, of just over 300 pages, covers the lives and careers of some 250 people, dating from Aristotle (384 BC to 322 BC) right through to contemporary botanists who are personally familiar to many of us, and for whom a botanical name commemorates the person. The majority of those people carried out botanical work; the rest had some other link to scientific endeavours. Each one has a page devoted to their biography, interests, major publications and achievements, plus a relevant colour image. For example, James Adams (1839 – 1906) has a biography accompanied by a photo of *Hebe adamsii*. The photographs are of high quality, in most cases taken by the author, and are often of plants that are less well known to many of us, which adds to their interest.

The foreword is a reprint of the response of H.H. Allen (first director of DSIR’s Botany Division) to a cyclostyled predecessor to this book; “Those Troublesome Names”, which was published in 1944 as Bulletin No. 1 of the Auckland Botanical Society. A Botanical Bibliography and an extensive list of Biographical References occupy the final 37 pages of this most pleasing and fascinating volume. Highly recommended to anyone who has an interest in our New Zealand flora, and the people who have studied and investigated it.

Orders to Val Smith, email: valdsmit@xtra.co.nz , Ph. (06) 758 3521.

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