

## Coromandel: Preeces Point QEII (Golden Ridge)

Graeme Jane

The covenant on Preeces Point was visited as part of a weekend trip to Coromandel on Saturday 6 November 2021. The town of Coromandel is surrounded by major mining sites the last of which ceased official operation about 1945. At some, like here at the Golden Ridge, the major shafts were filled in, I think in the 1940s or '50s, for safety reasons. As a result, the western half of this area is less disturbed than the eastern part. The area extends from tall scrub and forest in the north along the ridge-line road down to the shore and is bounded on the eastern and western sides by pasture. Since the area has been covenanted, several tracks have been created and many rimu, miro and totara and other less evident species have been planted along the track edges.

At first, we took the track that turned out to be a long loop out to the eastern boundary. Initially it was through mostly tall kanuka or secondary forest with scattered emergent rewarewa, tanekaha and ricker kauri. The tall kanuka had a diversity of shrubs and regeneration of plants such as kohekohe, pigeonwood and titoki. Initially many herbaceous weeds were present along the path as it had been bulldozed two or three years ago. The scattered patches of secondary forest were dominated by pigeonwood, *Coprosma arborea*, kohekohe, and lancewood. Near the reserve boundary at the bottom of the slope the scrub became shorter and more open. Here we encountered a large elaeagnus patch with many seedlings nearby. Later many more seedlings were seen along the shore track.

From there we followed the shoreline track which follows the foot of the hill. This bounds the wetlands and salt marshes and the upslope forest and scrub. Initially the freshwater wetlands are dominated by *Carex geminata*. Where the land is a bit higher the main cover is manuka or mahoe, often with sedges in the understorey.

Along the shoreline track we made several forays out to the shore. The first was along a grassy track dominated by tall fescue that led to a stream meander and the foot of a long shell bank complex. Along the stream a good representation of wetland plants included *Bolboschoenus medianus* and salt marsh plants such as salt marsh ribbonwood and *Cotula coronopifolia*. Offshore, mangrove swamp was bounded by a typical *Apodasmia/Juncus maritimus* community, cut by partially vegetated shell banks. These were mirrored by more recent shell banks out on the

shallow intertidal zone. On the open shell bank *Samolus repens* was common and higher up manuka or salt mash ribbonwood. Further along the current shell bank, patches of mahoe could be seen but were not explored. Later, when the track closely followed the shore, it allowed an opportunity to visit another shell bank. That provided a good overview of the wetlands from the shell bank but added only a few species such as *Atriplex prostrata* and glasswort.

After lunch under a large pukatea we entered a less disturbed area and were rewarded with a grand swamp maire amongst kiekie and *Carex geminata*. On the hill slope, tawa forest with puriri and taraire and large diameter *Coprosma arborea* were present. Near where the coast track started to follow a low cliff top, *Sophora chathamica* was quite evident along with pohutukawa. As the western boundary was approached the vegetation turned to a typical low coastal shrubland dominated by *Olearia furfuracea* and manuka. Here we saw three *Pomaderris* species, *P. kumeraho*, *P. amoena* and the local endemic *P. rugosa*. On the return to the vehicles we passed through the small but magnificent piece of coastal forest of puriri and taraire forest containing tawa, kohekohe and pukatea with a suitably placed lookout seat.

The area as a whole is a truly interesting example of a transition from shelly shore through mangroves, rushes or sedge wetlands to coastal forest and regenerating kauri on the ridge above. It covers a very wide range of habitat types in a rather small area and a diverse range of species.

## Golden Ridge QEII (Coromandel) species list

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**Map:** BA34 **Grid Ref:** 1822996 5926807

\*= exotic or naturalised species

### Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

<i>Agathis australis</i>	kauri
* <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	macrocarpa
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea, white pine
<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	tanekaha; celery pine
* <i>Pinus pinaster</i> subsp. <i>pinaster</i>	maritime pine
<i>Podocarpus totara</i> var. <i>totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai; black pine

## Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree; ti-kouka
<i>Cordyline pumilio</i>	ti rauriki; dwarf cabbage tree
<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau

## Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

* <i>Acacia verticillata</i>	prickly Moses
* <i>Ageratina riparia</i>	mist flower
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i> subsp. <i>excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	wineberry; makomako
* <i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	
<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	taraire
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora; bushman's friend
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	whip broom; maukoro
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta; marbleleaf
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	mamangi; tree coprosma
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	thin-leaved coprosma
<i>Coprosma ×cunninghamii</i>	
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu; shining karamu
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i> var. <i>propinqua</i>	mingimingi
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	thorny coprosma
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka; kopi
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i> var. <i>dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange; privet
* <i>Hakea salicifolia</i>	willow-leaved hakea
* <i>Hakea sericea</i>	needlebrush
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood; porokaiwhiri
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa; NZ honeysuckle
<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	kanuka
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	manuka; teatree
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi; kaikaitau
* <i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	pohutukawa
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo; mapou
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire
<i>Olearia furfuracea</i>	akepiro
<i>Olearia rani</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	heketara
<i>Olearia solandri</i>	coastal tree daisy
<i>Olearia townsonii</i>	Traill's tree daisy
<i>Piper excelsum</i> subsp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa; pepper tree
<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	saltmarsh ribbonwood
<i>Pomaderris amoena</i>	tauhinu
<i>Pomaderris rugosa</i>	
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five-finger; puhou; whaupaku

<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood; horoeka
* <i>Salix cinerea</i>	grey willow
* <i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	woolly nightshade
<i>Sophora chathamica</i>	
<i>Syzygium maire</i>	swamp maire; maire tawake
* <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	puriri; kauere

### Monocotyledonous lianes

* <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	smilax
* <i>Asparagus scandens</i>	snake feather
<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack; kareao

### Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

<i>Calystegia sepium</i> subsp. <i>roseata</i>	
* <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	scarlet rata; winter rata
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	aka; small white rata; torotoro
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	pohuehue
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	pohuehue; wire vine
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i> var. <i>capsularis</i>	Small-flowered jasmine; akakiore
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	Maori jasmine; kaihu; kaiwhiria
* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	blackberry

### Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

<i>Lycopodiella cernua</i>	
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i>	waewae-koukou; climbing clubmoss

### Ferns

<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	maidenhair fern
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>	rosy maidenhair 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 filiforme</i>	Climbing hard fern; thread fern
<i>Blechnum fraseri</i>	
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Blechnum parrisiae</i>	pukupuku; rasp fern
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	ponga; silver fern
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku; korau; black tree fern
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki; harsh tree fern
<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>	waewaekaha; tangle fern
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	water fern
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	piripiri; irirangi
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	hairy fern, hairy legs
<i>Lygodium articulatum</i>	mangemange; bushman's mattress
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i> subsp. <i>pustulatum</i>	hound's tongue; kowaowao

<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	mokimoki; fragrant fern
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	scented fern; matata; ring fern
<i>Parapolystichum microsorium</i> subsp. <i>pentangulare</i>	
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gully fern; pakau; pakauharoha
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken; rauaruhe
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	sweet fern
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	turawera
<i>Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern
<i>Tmesipteris lanceolata</i>	

### Orchids

<i>Acianthus sinclairii</i>	heart-leaf orchid
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	spring orchid; peka-a-waka
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	onion orchid
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	tutukiwi
<i>Pterostylis trullifolia</i>	trowel-leaved orchid
<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>	white sun orchid
<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>	

### Grasses

* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop
* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal
* <i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>	narrow-leaved carpet grass
* <i>Briza minor</i>	shivery grass
* <i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i>	kikuyu
* <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	pampas
* <i>Entolasia marginata</i>	bordered panic grass
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>	tumble grass
* <i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	forest rice grass
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> subsp. <i>imbecillis</i>	oat grass
* <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	paspalum
* <i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	Vasey grass
* <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>	saltwater paspalum
<i>Poa anceps</i> subsp. <i>anceps</i>	coastal poa
* <i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky blue grass
* <i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i>	
* <i>Sporobolus africanus</i>	needle grass; ratstail

### Sedges

<i>Bolboschoenus medianus</i>	
<i>Carex dissita</i>	
<i>Carex flagellifera</i>	
<i>Carex inversa</i>	
<i>Carex lessoniana</i>	
<i>Carex uncinata</i>	watu
<i>Carex virgata</i>	

* <i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	coastal cutty grass
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	wiwi; leafless sedge
<i>Gahnia lacera</i>	
<i>Gahnia setifolia</i>	
<i>Gahnia xanthocarpa</i>	giant sedge
* <i>Isolepis sepulcralis</i>	
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	
<i>Machaerina juncea</i>	
<i>Machaerina tenax</i>	
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	
<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>	
<i>Schoenus tendo</i>	

### Rushes and allied plants

<i>Apodasmia similis</i>	
* <i>Juncus bufonius</i> var. <i>bufonius</i>	toad rush
* <i>Juncus effusus</i> var. <i>effusus</i>	soft rush
<i>Juncus kraussii</i> subsp. <i>australiensis</i>	sea rush
<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	
* <i>Juncus tenuis</i> subsp. <i>tenuis</i>	track rush
<i>Luzula picta</i> var. <i>limosa</i>	

### Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

* <i>Aristea ecklonii</i>	
<i>Astelia banksii</i>	wharawhara; shore astelia
<i>Astelia hastata</i>	kahakaha
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	blueberry; turutu
* <i>Lilium formosanum</i>	
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	flax
* <i>Watsonia meriana</i> 'Bulbillifera'	

### Daisy-like herbs

* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	bachelor's button
* <i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
* <i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	broad-leaved fleabane
<i>Euchiton japonicus</i>	
<i>Euchiton limosus</i>	swamp cudweed
<i>Euchiton sphaericus</i>	Japanese cudweed
* <i>Gamochaeta coarctata</i>	
* <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	catsear
* <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	ragwort
* <i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly lettuce
* <i>Lapsana communis</i>	nipplewort
<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey cudweed
<i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed
<i>Senecio hispidulus</i>	fireweed
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	sow thistle; puha; puka

## Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies

* <i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	hastate orache
* <i>Bellardia viscosa</i>	tarweed
<i>Callitriche petriei</i> ssp. <i>petriei</i>	
<i>Centella uniflora</i>	
* <i>Daucus carota</i>	carrot
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Mercury Bay weed
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	
* <i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	milkweed
* <i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Galium perpusillum</i>	bedstraw
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	
<i>Gonocarpus incanus</i>	
<i>Haloragis erecta</i> subsp. <i>erecta</i>	toatoa
<i>Hydrocotyle heteromeria</i>	wax weed
<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i> var. <i>moschata</i>	
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	wild lobelia
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus major
* <i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> subsp. <i>arvensis</i> var. <i>arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel
* <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	hyssop loosestrife
* <i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	creeping mallow
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	common nertera
<i>Nertera dichondrifolia</i>	hairy nertera
* <i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	horned oxalis
<i>Oxalis rubens</i>	
* <i>Plantago australis</i>	swamp plantain
* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort; narrow-leaved plantain
* <i>Plantago major</i>	broad-leaved plantain
* <i>Potentilla indica</i>	Indian strawberry
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal
<i>Ranunculus membranifolius</i>	
* <i>Rumex pulcher</i>	fiddle dock
<i>Salicornia quinqueflora</i> subsp. <i>quinqueflora</i>	glasswort
<i>Samolus repens</i> var. <i>repens</i>	maakoako
<i>Solanum americanum</i>	small-flowered nightshade
* <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade
* <i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover
* <i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	purple-top
* <i>Veronica arvensis</i>	field speedwell
<i>Veronica plebeia</i>	Australian speedwell
* <i>Vicia disperma</i>	small French tare
* <i>Vicia sativa</i>	vetch
<i>Viola filicaulis</i>	forest violet
<i>Wahlenbergia vernicosa</i>	
<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i>	blue harebell; rimu-roa