

Highlands Farm – August 6, 2022

Martin Pearce

Eight of us left Rotorua on a foggy morning with the prospect of a beautiful day. We stopped to pick up Rob at Te Puia car park then met Chris and Matt at the corner of SH5 and Highlands Road, making a total of eleven. A nice turn out for a BotSoc trip on a winter's day. We followed a well-formed road up through the farm to the first of the forest blocks, the rise in elevation lifting us above the fog into sunshine. The Highlands farm is a 1240 ha hill country farm with sheep and cattle. It ranges from 420 to 719 metres above sea level and has been in the Ford family since 1931. Around 25% of the property is in native bush and work has been done over the last 86 years to protect these forest remnants. The highest point is Tutaeheke and our initial plan was to make it up to this point. Small forest remnants have been fenced off to keep livestock out, but this doesn't prevent deer and wallaby browsing the forest. The larger of the blocks have been QE2 covenanted, and these blocks have been visited by John Hobbs, so thanks to him we had a species list to set off with.

We parked at the first of the forest blocks and after a short get together we headed into the bush. A few redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) had been planted along the edge. Reasonable sized tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) are the dominant canopy with plenty of supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) to keep the walk interesting.



View out over Lake Tarawera towards the cone of Putauaki and Mt Tarawera.

Photo: Martin Pearce



The perfect lunch spot. *Photo: Martin Pearce*

After lunch we decided we didn't have enough time to make it up to Tutaeheke in the next larger remnant of forest. Instead, we headed down through the farm and then back into the bush, which was very similar forest to the other end of the forest remnant, with reasonably dense supplejack which we mainly avoided. The forest floor dropped into smaller gullies and we made our way out onto the farm road.



Looking out towards Rotomahana, the Ureweras in the background.
Photo: Martin Pearce

In 2016 John had found in an unfenced area under light forest open to cattle grazing, a scattered population of native forget-me-not (*Myosotis forsteri*). This area had now been fenced and regrowth was such that he considered that that population had now been suppressed to extinction.



Discoveries returning along the farm road to the cars.

Photo: Martin Pearce

Along the road heading back to the cars Matt discovered a lovely bryophyte-rich bank, while a short discussion was held about the large dead tree on the roadside. It was agreed it was a northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*).

Back at the cars we agreed it was an interesting spot for a BotSoc trip but as we didn't make it to the trig on Tutaeheke and another larger block of native bush we will need to return.

Highlands Road bush QEII species list

Graeme Jane & Gael Donaghy

Visit dates: John Hobbs: March-April 2016
Rotorua Botanical Society: 06 August 2022

Map: BF37 Grid Ref: 1892912 5760513
* = exotic or introduced species

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

Phlegmariurus varius hanging clubmoss; iwituna
Tmesipteris elongata fork fern

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum hen and chickens fern; moku
Asplenium flaccidum hanging spleenwort; makawe
Asplenium gracillimum
Asplenium oblongifolium shining spleenwort
Asplenium polyodon sickle spleenwort; petako
Blechnum chambersii nini; lance fern
Blechnum colensoi peretao; paretao
Blechnum discolor crown fern; piupiu; petipeti
Blechnum filiforme climbing hard fern; thread fern
Blechnum fluviatile kiwakiwa; kiwikiwi
Blechnum novae-zelandiae kiokio
Cyathea cunninghamii gully tree fern, ponga
Cyathea dealbata ponga; silver fern
Cyathea medullaris mamaku; korau; black tree fern
Cyathea smithii soft-leaved tree fern; katote
Dicksonia fibrosa wheki-ponga; kuripaka
Dicksonia squarrosa wheki; harsh tree fern
Histiopteris incisa water fern
Hymenophyllum demissum pipiriri; irirangi
Hymenophyllum flabellatum fan fern
Hymenophyllum revolutum filmy fern
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum blood-scented filmy fern
Hypolepis ambigua
Lastreopsis hispida hairy fern, hairy legs
Lecanopteris pustulata hound's tongue; kowaowao
Leptolepia novae-zelandiae lacey fern
Leptopteris hymenophylloides single crepe fern; heruheru
Paesia scaberula lace fern, matata
Parapolystichum glabellum felted fern
Pellaea rotundifolia button fern, tarawera
Pakau (Pneumatopteris) pennigera gully fern; pakau; pakauroharoha
Polystichum sylvaticum
Polystichum vestitum prickly shield fern; punui
Polystichum wawranum common shield fern
Pteridium esculentum bracken; rauaruhe
Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia leather-leaf fern
Rumohra adiantiformis butcher's fern

<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	veined bristle fern
Gymnosperm trees and shrubs	
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea, white pine
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu, red pine
<i>Pectinopitys ferruginea</i>	miro
* <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	redwood
Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs	
<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	toropapa; shrubby honeysuckle
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	wineberry; makomako
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora; bushmans friend
* <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	summer lilac; buddleia
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta; marbleleaf
<i>Coprosma autumnalis</i>	raurekau; kanono; mamono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu; shining karamu
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coriaria arborea</i> var. <i>arborea</i>	tree tutu
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	fuchsia; kotukutuku
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry; tawiniwini
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange; privet
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood; porokaiwhiri
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa; NZ honeysuckle
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangeo
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> ssp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako
<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i>	tawhirikaro; perching kohukohu
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five finger; puhou; whaupaku
<i>Pterophylla racemosa</i>	kamahi; towai; tawhero
<i>Raukaua edgerleyi</i>	raukawa
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate; patae; kotete
<i>Solanum aviculare</i> / <i>laciniatum</i>	poroporo
Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants	
<i>Clematis forsteri</i>	clematis, poananga
<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	Clematis, puawhananga
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	white climbing rata, rata
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	aka; small white rata; torotoro
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	poehuehue
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	Maori jasmine; kaihu; kaiwhiria
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer; tataramoa
<i>Rubus schmidelioides</i> var. <i>schmidelioides</i>	white-leaved lawyer; akatataramoa
Daisy-like herbs	
* <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Californian thistle

* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
* <i>Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
* <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	catsear
<i>Lagenophora pumila</i>	
* <i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	sow thistle; puha; puka
Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies	
<i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>	bidibid
* <i>Cerastium fontanum ssp. vulgare</i>	mouse-eared chickweed
* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Epilobium nerteroides</i>	
<i>Epilobium rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved willowherb
<i>Gonocarpus montanus</i>	
<i>Hydrocotyle microphylla</i>	hydrocotyle
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	common nertera
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal
<i>Ranunculus reflexus</i>	maruru; hairy buttercup
<i>Stellaria parviflora</i>	
Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs	
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	forest cabbage tree; ti ngahere
Monocotyledonous lianes	
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack; kareao
Sedges	
<i>Carex uncinata</i>	watu
Rushes and allied plants	
* <i>Juncus tenuis ssp. tenuis</i>	track rush
Grasses	
* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop
<i>Austroderia toetoe</i>	toetoe
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass; oat grass
<i>Rytidosperma gracile</i>	forest fairy grass
Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs	
<i>Astelia nervosa</i>	kahakaha
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kowharawhara
Orchids	
<i>Dendrobium cunninghamii</i>	bamboo orchid
<i>Drymoanthus adversus</i>	green fleshy orchid
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	Easter orchid; raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	spring orchid; peka-a-waka
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	onion orchid