

## Homunga Bay coast track, northern Bay of Plenty

Graeme Jane & Gael Donaghy

To reach Homunga Bay a steep descent leads from the carpark on Ngatitangata Road, mostly through pasture, to the reserve. The track from Homunga Bay south to Orokawa Bay closely follows the shore along cliff tops or sidles through gullies for much of the way and is a basic track that continues on to Waihi Beach as a track highway.

Sunday 18 September 2022 was a nice fine day so the group made a quick descent down along a farm track then through pasture to the fence of the reserve. At the gate we decided to head down the old farm track rather than down the gully to the bay as the old banks on the track provided a wide range of interest, especially in the initial few hundred metres. The group was quite small and consisted of several new members, so the opportunity was taken to introduce the new people to the local plants and their key features. The track followed a spur with the kanuka, kamahi, tanekaha, and rewarewa on the ridge whereas mahoe fringed the lower side along with tree ferns, especially mamaku. The understorey included typical young seral plants such as hangehange and rangiora. The upper bank was more sunny and had a wide variety of plants including the ferns *Adiantum cunninghamii* and *Blechnum parrisiae* and the sedge, *Gahnia lacera*. Unexpected species included the short-stemmed *Cordyline pumila*, *Gaultheria antipoda*, *Coprosma arborea* and the local shrubby weed, *Erica caffra*. Further down, where it was more open, the yellow flowers of *Pomaderris amoena* and *P. kumeraho* were very evident and *Morelotia affinis* was common. Finally, we reached a lunch spot under a few large old radiata pines just 200 m from the fence.

After lunch three people departed and the last four dedicated botanists descended a short link track to the main coastal track near an old pah site. This was identified by a trench and terrace and the characteristic karaka and puriri. The route then was mostly along the tops under pohutukawa which also clad the cliffs to the storm line. This provided spectacular views through the trees to the rocks below, broken only by patches of flax and *Astelia banksii*.

Where the route wound into steep gullies, we had the opportunity to see remnant coastal forest comprised of tawa, kohekohe, nikau, kawakawa and houpara with many tree ferns, especially mamaku and wheki. Here the damper banks revealed several orchids including *Pterostylis banksii*, *P. trullifolia* and *P. alobula* in flower and

swathes of *Acianthus sinclairii* in dense fruit. New ferns included *Asplenium oblongifolium* and *Pteris carsei*. Palatable species were generally uncommon because of past goat numbers and stock grazing. Scrubby areas were dominated by manuka, hakea, the local hebe (*H. pubescens*) and mingimingi with tall *Leucopogon fraseri* on the barer banks. We turned for home after yet another descent to a creek. Here the flax under the pohutukawa was windswept and on sheltered parts of the slope the odd renga lily survived. Beyond the creek large swathes of *Machaerina juncea* and *Apodasmia similis* covered the exposed coastal slopes.

After retreating back along the track, we continued to Homunga Bay beach, seeking out previously reported *Cyrtomium falcatum*. It was quickly located on the cliffs, where the track descended to the beach that we had just walked above. There is some debate whether this is a self-introduced fern or a cultivation escape. As seen here and at a few other coastal places in the Bay of Plenty it is near previous habitation sites.

From there it was the long grind back up to the cars.

## Homunga Bay to Orokawa Bay coast track, northern Bay of Plenty

Graeme Jane & Gael Donaghy

**Visit Date:** 18-09-2022, Rotorua Botanical Society

**Map:** BC36 **Grid Ref:** 1860194 5860283

\* = exotic or introduced species

### Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	tanekaha; celery pine
* <i>Pinus pinaster</i> ssp. <i>pinaster</i>	maritime pine
* <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine; radiata

### Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

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

### Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	toropapa; shrubby honeysuckle
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora; bushman's friend
<i>Carmichaelia australis</i>	whip broom; maukoro
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	mamangi; tree coprosma
<i>Coprosma xcunninghamii</i>	
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu; shining karamu
<i>Coprosma macrocarpa</i> ssp. <i>minor</i>	
<i>Coprosma macrocarpa</i> x <i>C. robusta</i>	
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	taupata
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	thorny coprosma

<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka; kopi
<sup>3</sup> <i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>	
<sup>3</sup> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	broom
<i>Didymocheton spectabilis</i>	kohekohe
<sup>3</sup> <i>Erica caffra</i>	hedge heath
<sup>3</sup> <i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish heath
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry; tawiniwini
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var.	
<sup>2</sup> <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange; privet
<sup>3</sup> <i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Montpellier broom
<sup>3</sup> <i>Hakea sericea</i>	needlebrush
<i>Hebe pubescens</i> ssp. <i>pubescens</i>	
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood; porokaiwhiri
<i>Helichrysum lanceolatum</i>	niniao
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa; NZ honeysuckle
<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	kanuka
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> var.	
<i>scoparium</i>	manuka; red teatree
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi; kaikaitau
<i>Leucopogon fraseri</i>	patotara
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> ssp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	pohutukawa
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	red matipo; mapou
<i>Olearia rani</i> var. <i>colorata</i>	heketara
<i>Ozothamnus leptophyllus</i>	tauhinu; cottonwood
<i>Piper excelsum</i> ssp. <i>excelsum</i>	kawakawa; pepper tree
<i>Pomaderris amoena</i>	tauhinu
<i>Pomaderris kumeraho</i>	kumarahou; golden taunui
<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i>	houpara
<sup>3</sup> <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	puriri; kauere

### Monocotyledonous lianes

<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack; kareao

### Dicotyledonous lianes & trailing plants

<sup>3</sup> <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
<sup>3</sup> <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	blackberry

### Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

<i>Lycopodium deuterodensum</i>	Puakarimu
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i>	waewae-koukou; climbing clubmoss

## Ferns

<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	maidenhair fern
<i>Adiantum diaphanum</i>	small maidenhair
<i>Adiantum hispidulum</i>	rosy maidenhair fern
<i>Asplenium appendiculatum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i>	
<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 minus</i>	swamp kiokio
<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>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	holly fern
<i>Deparia petersenii</i> ssp. <i>congrua</i>	
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki; harsh tree fern
<i>Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum</i>	kidney fern; raurenga
<i>Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum</i>	blood-scented filmy fern
<i>Lastreopsis microsora</i> ssp. <i>pentangularis</i>	velvet fern
<i>Lecanopteris scandens</i> ( <i>Microsorium</i> )	mokimoki; fragrant fern
<i>Paesia scaberula</i>	scented fern; matata; ring fern
<i>Pakau pennigera</i>	gully fern; pakau; pakauroharoha
<i>Polystichum neozelandicum</i>	
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken; rauaruhe
<i>Pteris carsei</i> ( <i>P. comans</i> )	
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	sweet fern
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	turawera
<i>Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern

## Orchids

<i>Acianthus sinclairii</i>	heart-leaf orchid
<i>Bulbophyllum pygmaeum</i>	
<i>Corybas oblongus</i>	
<i>Dendrobium cunninghamii</i>	bamboo orchid
<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	Easter orchid; raupeka
<i>Earina mucronata</i>	spring orchid; peka-a-waka
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	onion orchid
<i>Pterostylis alobula</i>	
<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	
<i>Pterostylis trullifolia</i>	trowel-leaved orchid
<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>	white sun orchid

## Grasses

<sup>3</sup> <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal
<sup>3</sup> <i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>	narrow-leaved carpet grass
<sup>3</sup> <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	pampas

<i>*Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot
<i>*Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	forest rice grass
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> ssp. <i>imbecillis</i>	oat grass
<i>*Paspalum vaginatum</i>	saltwater paspalum
<i>Poa anceps</i> ssp. <i>anceps</i>	coastal poa
<i>*Sporobolus africanus</i>	needle grass; rat's tail
<i>Zoysia pauciflora</i>	

### Sedges

<i>Carex dissita</i>	
<i>*Carex divulsa</i>	
<i>Carex flagellifera</i>	
<i>Carex lessoniana</i>	
<i>Carex spirostris</i>	
<i>Carex virgata</i>	
<i>Cyperus ustulatus</i>	coastal cutty grass
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	wiwi; leafless sedge
<i>Gahnia lacera</i>	
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	
<i>Machaerina juncea</i>	
<i>Morelotia affinis</i>	
<i>Schoenus tendo</i>	

### Rushes and allied plants

*Apodasmia similis*

### Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

<i>Astelia banksii</i>	wharawhara; shore astelia
<i>Astelia hastata</i>	kahakaha
<i>*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	montbretia
<i>Dianella nigra</i>	blueberry; turutu
<i>Libertia ixioides</i>	mikoikoi; native iris
<i>Phormium cookianum</i> ssp. <i>hookeri</i>	
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	flax
<i>*Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	arum lily

### Daisy-like herbs

<i>*Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>*Crepis capillaris</i>	hawksbeard
<i>*Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Mexican daisy
<i>*Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	broad-leaved fleabane
<i>Euchiton limosus</i>	swamp cudweed
<i>*Gamochaeta americana</i>	purple cudweed
<i>*Hypochaeris radicata</i>	catsear
<i>*Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	ragwort
<i>Lagenophora pumila</i>	
<i>*Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	oxeye daisy
<i>Senecio minimus</i>	fireweed
<i>Senecio wairauensis</i>	fireweed

*Sonchus asper*  
*Sonchus oleraceus*

prickly sow thistle; puha  
sow thistle; puha; puka

### Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies

*Acaena novae-zelandiae*

red bidibid; piripiri

*Ammi majus*

bullwort

*Apium prostratum* spp. *prostratum*  
var. *filiforme*

native celery

*Centaurium erythraea*

centuary

*Centella uniflora*

*Cerastium glomeratum*

annual mouse-eared chickweed

*Dichondra repens*

Mercury Bay weed

*Digitalis purpurea*

foxglove

*Drosera auriculata*

*Euphorbia peplus*

milkweed

*Galium aparine*

cleavers

*Geranium homeanum*

*Geranium robertianum*

herb Robert

*Geranium solanderi*

*Gonocarpus incanus*

*Haloragis erecta* ssp. *erecta*

toatoa

*Lobelia anceps*

wild lobelia

*Lotus pedunculatus*

lotus major

*Lotus suaveolens*

hairy birdsfoot-trefoil

*Lysimachia arvensis* ssp. *arvensis*  
var. *arvensis*

scarlet pimpernel

*Modiola caroliniana*

creeping mallow

*Nertera dichondrifolia*

hairy nertera

*Oxalis corniculata*

horned oxalis

*Pelargonium inodorum*

*Plantago lanceolata*

ribwort; narrow-leaved plantain

*Plantago major*

broad-leaved plantain

*Prunella vulgaris*

selfheal

*Ranunculus parviflorus*

small-flowered buttercup

*Ranunculus reflexus*

maruru; hairy buttercup

*Ranunculus repens*

creeping buttercup

*Salicornia quinqueflora* ssp.  
*quinqueflora*

glasswort

*Trifolium repens*

white clover

*Verbena bonariensis*

purple-top

*Veronica plebeia*

Australian speedwell

*Vicia sativa*

vetch

*Wahlenbergia violacea*

blue harebell; rimu-roa