

Lake Ōkāreka walkway

Rob Fairley

March 9, 2024 was a spectacular day for a botanical society walk. The turnout was such that our cars completely filled the car park at the southern Ōkāreka walkway car park. Mike Goodwin from the Ōkāreka Landcare Group gave a short rundown on the development of the track and walked a short distance with us to show the presence of *Tupeia antarctica* mistletoe in a planted avenue of trees at the start of the track. Although mistletoe occur in the Ōkāreka residential area, these mistletoe are highly likely to have been brought in by birds from the Ōkāreka Mistletoe Restoration Project between 500 to 700 metres away. Mike reported that there had been a massive expansion of the number of this species of mistletoe in the restoration area.

Other sections of the track have been planted (such as the kahikatea from Mike Goodwin's own pre-retirement farm in the Waikato where he had a nursery) but much of the vegetation is still naturally occurring.

From there we headed slowly through the main wetland area. The wetland is substantially infested with exotic weeds, the most common being *Lycopus europaeus*, which was being very actively pollinated by bumblebees, but many native wetland plants are present. One exciting find was *Ranunculus amphitrichus*, uncommon amongst exotic *Ranunculus* species including *R. flammula*; conspicuous flowering exotics included pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) and water forget-me-not (*Mysotis laxa* subsp. *caespitosa*).

Special mention goes to Sarah Beadel, who with great enthusiasm led the search by closely examining the miniature plants on the sandy margins of the lake and wetland on her hands and knees. A mosaic of intermingled mat plants included *Gratiola sexdentata*, *Lilaeopsis ruthiana*, *Glossostigma elatinoides*, *Centipeda cunninghamii* and *Myriophyllum propinquum*, all flowering. Two species of *Eleocharis*, and occasional *Lythrum hyssopifolia* added to the interest for those enjoying this array at close quarters.

Lunch was had in an elevated spot with a beautiful view of the lake and then we walked quickly to look at several largish northern rātā closer to the outlet. Jacqui Bond commented that several pōhutukawa planted on a beach near the northern rātā had substantial myrtle rust damage last year, but they had no signs of infection this time and they had many seed capsules indicating good flowering, which suggested that they hadn't been affected this season.

A bit of voluntary work was done as we went along with several small grey willow and cherry seedlings and at least one male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) ripped out.



An intrepid explorer returns across the outlet from Lake Ōkāreka.
Photo: Elizabeth Miller.

Some of us made it to the outlet, then we all wandered back to the start of the track at our own pace, in good time to get ready for the 40th anniversary of the Rotorua Botanical Society evening gathering.

Lake Ōkāreka walkway — species list

Graeme Jane

* = naturalised species.

Visit 9 March 2026, RBS

Planted species are not included, unless they had seeded (as was often the case).

Although some mistletoe (*Tupeia antarctica*) may be artificially established, other plants are likely to be bird-established.

- * *Acaena novae-zelandiae*
- * *Achillea millefolium*
- Adiantum cunninghamii*
- * *Agrostis capillaris* (A. tenuis)
- * *Agrostis stolonifera*
- * *Aira caryophyllea* subsp. *caryophyllea*
- * *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
- Aristotelia serrata*
- Asplenium appendiculatum* subsp. *appendiculatum* (A. terrestre)
- Asplenium flaccidum* s.s.
- Asplenium oblongifolium* (A. lucidum)
- Austroderia fulvida*
- * *Axonopus fissifolius* (A. affinis)
- * *Bellardia viscosa*
- * *Bellis perennis*
- * *Bidens frondosa*
- Blechnum chambersii* (B. lanceolatum, Austroblechnum)
- Blechnum novae-zelandiae* (p.p. *B. capense*; *Parablechnum*)
- Blechnum parrisiae* (*Doodia australis*, *D. media* var.)
- * *Bromus catharticus* var. *catharticus* (*B. willdenowii*, *B. unioides*)
- * *Carex leporina* (C. ovalis)
- Carex maorica*
- Carex secta*
- Carex uncinata* (Uncinia)
- Carex virgata*
- * *Carex vulpinoidea*
- * *Centaurium erythraea* (C. umbellatum; *Erythraea centaurium*)
- Centipeda cunninghamii*
- * *Cichorium intybus*
- * *Cirsium arvense*
- * *Cirsium vulgare* (C. lanceolatum)
- Coprosma ×cunninghamii* (C. propinqua × *C. robusta*)
- Coprosma propinqua* var. *propinqua*
- Coprosma robusta*
- Cordyline australis*
- Coriaria arborea* var. *arborea*

- * *Crepis capillaris*
- Cyathea dealbata* (Alsophila tricolor)
- Cyathea medullaris* (Sphaeropteris)
- Cyperus ustulatus* (Mariscus)
- * *Cytisus scoparius* (Sarthamnus; Spartium)
- Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* (Podocarpus)
- * *Dactylis glomerata*
- Deparia petersenii* subsp. *congrua*
- Dianella nigra*
- Dichondra repens*
- Dicksonia squarrosa*
- * *Digitalis purpurea*
- * *Digitaria sanguinalis* (Panicum)
- * *Dryopteris filix-mas*
- Earina mucronata*
- * *Ehrharta erecta*
- Eleocharis acuta*
- Eleocharis gracilis*
- Epilobium billardioreanum* subsp. *cinereum* (E. cinereum)
- * *Eragrostis brownii* (E. benthamii)
- * *Erechtites hieraciifolius*
- * *Erica lusitanica*
- * *Erigeron sumatrensis* (Conyza)
- * *Eucalyptus* sp.
- Euchiton involucratus*
- * *Euphorbia peplus*
- * *Galium aparine*
- * *Galium palustre*
- * *Gamochaeta americana* (G. coarctata; G. spicata; Gnaphalium)
- Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium* (G. rupestre)
- * *Geranium gardneri* (G. "coarse hairs")
- Glossostigma elatinoides*
- Gratiola sexdentata*
- Haloragis erecta* subsp. *erecta* agg. (H. colenoi)
- Hebe stricta* var. *stricta* ss.
- Hedycarya arborea*
- Histiopteris incisa*
- Hoheria sexstylosa* (H. populnea var. lanceolata)
- * *Holcus lanatus*
- Hydrocotyle heteromeria* (H. americana var.)
- Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum*
- * *Hypericum androsaemum*
- Hypericum pusillum* (H. japonicum)
- * *Hypochaeris radicata* (Hypochoeris)
- Hypolepis ambigua* (agg., H. punctata; p.p. H. tenuifolia)

<i>Isolepis habra</i>	(<i>Scirpus</i>)
* <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	(<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)
* <i>Juncus acuminatus</i>	(<i>Verojuncus</i>)
* <i>Juncus articulatus</i>	(<i>J. lampocarpus</i> ; <i>Verojuncus</i>)
<i>Juncus edgariae</i>	(<i>J. gregiflorus</i> p.p.; <i>Agathryon</i>)
* <i>Juncus effusus</i> var. <i>effusus</i>	(<i>Agathryon</i> , <i>J. sarophorus</i> auct.)
* <i>Juncus microcephalus</i>	(<i>Verojuncus</i>)
<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	(<i>Agathryon</i>)
<i>Juncus sarophorus</i>	(<i>Agathryon</i>)
* <i>Juncus tenuis</i> subsp. <i>tenuis</i>	(<i>Agathryon</i> , <i>J. macer</i>)
<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	
* <i>Lactuca muralis</i>	(<i>Mycelis</i>)
<i>Lecanopteris pustulata</i> subsp. <i>pustulata</i>	(<i>Microsorium</i>)
* <i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	(<i>L. taraxacoides</i> , <i>L. hispidus</i>)
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	(<i>Styphelia</i> ; <i>Cyathodes fasciculata</i>)
<i>Limosella australis</i>	<i>L. lineata</i>
* <i>Linum bienne</i>	(<i>L. marginale</i> ; <i>L. angustifolium</i>)
<i>Lilaeopsis ruthiana</i>	
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	(<i>Pratia</i>)
* <i>Lolium arundinaceum</i> subsp. <i>arundinaceum</i>	(<i>Festuca</i> , <i>Schedenorus</i>)
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	(<i>L. major</i> ; <i>L. uliginosus</i>)
* <i>Lotus subbiflorus</i>	
* <i>Ludwigia palustris</i>	
* <i>Luzula multiflora</i>	
* <i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> subsp. <i>arvensis</i> var. <i>arvensis</i>	
* <i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	(<i>Anagallis</i>)
<i>Machaerina articulata</i>	(<i>Baumea</i>)
<i>Machaerina rubiginosa</i>	(<i>Baumea</i>)
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	
* <i>Mentha ×piperita</i> var. <i>citrata</i>	(<i>M. aquatica</i>)
* <i>Mentha pulegium</i>	
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> × <i>M. robusta</i>	
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	(<i>Ehrharta</i>)
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	
* <i>Modiola caroliniana</i>	(<i>M. multifida</i>)
<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	
* <i>Myosotis laxa</i> subsp. <i>caespitosa</i>	
* <i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	
* <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> subsp. <i>sylvatica</i>	
<i>Myriophyllum propinquum</i>	
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	
* <i>Nymphaea alba</i>	
* <i>Orobanche minor</i>	

- * *Oxalis corniculata*
- Paesia scaberula*
- * *Paspalum dilatatum*
- * *Paspalum distichum*
- Pelargonium inodorum*
- Pellaea rotundifolia*
- Pentapogon crinitus* (Dichelachne)
- * *Persicaria hydropiper*
- * *Persicaria maculosa*
- Phormium tenax*
- * *Physalis peruviana*
- * *Phytolacca octandra*
- Piper excelsum* subsp. *excelsum* (Macropiper)
- Pittosporum tenuifolium* agg. (*P. colensoi*; *P. huttonianum*)
- * *Plantago lanceolata*
- Poa anceps* subsp. *anceps*
- Podocarpus laetus* (*P. hallii*, *P. cunninghamii*)
- Polystichum wawranum* (p.p. *P. richardii*)
- * *Populus nigra* (*P. fastigiata*)
- Potamogeton cheesemanii*
- * *Prunella vulgaris*
- * *Prunus serrulata*
- Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum* agg. (*G. luteoalbum* var.)
- Pseudopanax arboreus* agg. (*Neopanax arboreum*)
- Pteridium esculentum* (*P. aquilinum* var. *esculentum*)
- Pteris tremula*
- Pterophylla racemosa* (Weinmannia)
- Pyrrosia eleagnifolia* (*P. serpens*)
- Ranunculus amphitrichus* (*R. rivularis* agg.)
- * *Ranunculus flammula*
- * *Ranunculus repens*
- * *Rubus fruticosus* agg.
- * *Rumex obtusifolius*
- Rytidosperma clavatum* (*Notodanthonia stricta*,
Austrodanthonia)
- Rytidosperma gracile* (*Notodanthonia*; *Danthonia*)
- * *Rytidosperma racemosum* (*Notodanthonia*)
- * *Salix cinerea*
- * *Salix xfragilis* f. *fragilis*
- * *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* (*S. validus*, *Scirpus*)
- Schoenus maschalinus*
- Senecio bipinnatisectus* (*Erechtites atkinsoniae*)
- Senecio minimus* (*Erechtites minima*)
- * *Setaria parviflora* (*S. pumila* subsp. *pallide-fusca*)
- * *Sisyrinchium rosulatum*

<i>Solanum americanum</i>	(<i>S. nodiflorum</i>)
* <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	(<i>S. nigrum</i> var. <i>chlorocarpum</i>)
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	
* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	
* <i>Sporobolus africanus</i>	(<i>S. indicus</i> ; <i>S. capensis</i>)
* <i>Stellaria media</i>	
<i>Styphelia nesophila</i>	
* <i>Symphyotrichum subulatum</i>	
* <i>Trifolium arvense</i>	
* <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	
* <i>Trifolium repens</i>	
<i>Triglochin striata</i>	
<i>Tupeia antarctica</i>	
* <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	
* <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	
<i>Wahlenbergia violacea</i>	(<i>W. gracilis</i>)

Ōkāreka mistletoe restoration project work day

Weed control/plant releasing work day for 2024

Come and join Rotorua Botanical Society/Landcare Ōkāreka to control weeds threatening mistletoe sites and release plantings. Activities will involve hand-pulling, cutting, sawing of vines, climbers, and small trees.

When: Sat 19 October 2024

Meet: Corner Summit and Loop Roads (lake end) @ 8:45 am

Grade: Medium-hard - activities suitable for all ages and abilities will be provided.

**Please contact the organiser Paul Cashmore
027 650 7264 (mob) or 07 349 7432 (work) to RSVP.**

Equipment to bring will be advised.