

Woods Mill track, Mamaku Ranges – 2nd Sept 2023

Combined Waikato Botanical Society – Rotorua Botanical Society Trip

Kerry Jones

Eighteen keen botanists turned up at the Woods Mill Track entrance on S.H. 5 across the Mamaku Ranges. The entrance of the track was decorated with malodorous possum carcasses (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). Vegetation at the track entrance was karamu (*Coprosma robusta*), wheki (*Dicksonia squarrosa*), wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*) with kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*) and gully fern (*Pakau pennigera*) in the understorey.

A short distance later we came out in a small clearing.



From here we could see the sort of forest that we would be spending most of the day in: kamahi (*Pterophylla racemosa*) and tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*). Around the edges of the clearing were pate (*Schefflera digitata*) and bush lawyer (*Rubus cissoides*). African club moss (*Selaginella kraussiana*) was seen on the edge of the track here. In the centre of the clearing was waist-high gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

Back into the tawa-kamahi forest we saw hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*) and *Alseuosmia macrophylla* in the understorey. *Alseuosmia* is a good indicator of low numbers of ungulate browsers – there are no goats in this

area and evidence from our field trip confirmed that deer numbers are very low to absent from this wider area north of SH5 and into Opuiaiki to the north.



We stopped to take a look at a big rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), where *Asplenium bulbiferum* and supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*) were in the understorey. It was around this point that *Hymenophyllum rufescens* was spotted.

A bit further along a large tree branch had come down from way up in the canopy and it had brought down some *Pittosporum cornifolium*.



From here the track dropped down onto an old

tramline. The return track back to the car park from here was missed by some of the party later in the day. The tramline was flanked by *Dicksonia squarrosa* and mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*).



Tramlines make great tracks – straight and flat.



Carpet floor of *Hypnodendron* moss and supplejack seedlings.

We stopped here and discussed the leaf of hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*).





Next stop was a small clearing [below] made up of dead *Hysteropteris incisa* possibly killed off by a recent frost. A cabbage tree (*Cordyline banksii*) grew at the edge of the clearing. There was some discussion as to whether this was a mountain cabbage tree (*Cordyline indivisa*) or a hybrid.



We stopped at the next large clearing and checked the leaves of several kaikomako (*Pennantia corymbosa*) and talked about how the juvenile leaves looked like a duck's foot and how the leaves were different for mature trees. Also in the clearing were some wheki ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*).

I took a closer look at this photo when I got home as we discussed how some of the leaves of the tawa tree in the background had died off. Paul Cashmore confirmed later that this was probably due to the late harsh frost that we

had in October 2022 (see article by Paul in June 2023 Issue of Rotorua Botanical Society Newsletter.)

People were getting hungry so we stopped in the clearing for an early lunch. We didn't get far from the lunch spot when someone spotted *Corybas acuminatus* growing right beside the track.



Corybas acuminatus



Searching the track sides



The track from the clearing went through some cuttings and over some embankments. On the walls of the cutting grew kiokio (*Blechnum novae-zelandiae*), *Leptopteris hymenophylloides*, *Metrosideros perforata* and *Blechnum chambersii* and some kamahi (*Pterophylla racemosa*) seedlings. On the floor of the cutting grew pate,

mahoe, *Asplenium bulbiferum*, supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*), hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium*), *Blechnum fluviatile* and *Coprosma grandifolia*.



There was another orchid stop where we looked at *Corybas sanctigeorgianus* [pictured left] and *Corybas vitreus*.

It was shortly after this that I got quite a good whack in the eye with a stick. My eye was quickly attended to by Dell, Mary Jean and Kathryn. It got a good wash out and eye patch installed and Dell, Mary-Jean and I headed back to car and left Kathryn and John to tell that party that we had bailed. I have seen Paul wearing safety glasses on occasion in the bush and I will be considering this seriously in the future.

Thanks to Dell and Jasmine who shared the Land Rover driving and dropped me at the clinic in Hamilton where I was told that I had a slight scratch on a non-seeing part of the eye. Thanks to all those that came on the trip. There is still the north end of the track to explore next time.

Woods Mill track, Mamaku Ranges – species list

G Jane, G Donaghy & RBS

* = naturalised species

Visit Date: 02-09-2023

Psilopsids, Lycopods & Quillworts

Lycopodium deuterodensum

puakarimu

Lycopodium volubile

climbing clubmoss

Phlegmariurus varius

hanging clubmoss; iwituna

* *Selaginella kraussiana*

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum

hen and chickens fern; moku

Asplenium flaccidum

hanging spleenwort; makawe

Asplenium oblongifolium

shining spleenwort

Asplenium polyodon

sickle spleenwort; petako

Blechnum chambersii

nini; lance fern

Blechnum fluviatile

kiwakiwa; kiwikiwi

Blechnum novae-zelandiae

kiokio

Blechnum penna-marina subsp. *alpina*

alpine blechnum

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

piripiri; irirangi

Hymenophyllum dilatatum

lop-sided filmy fern

Hymenophyllum flabellatum

fan fern

Hymenophyllum frankliniae

Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum

kidney fern; raurenga

Hymenophyllum rarum

wire-stemmed filmy fern

Hymenophyllum revolutum

Hymenophyllum rufescens

red-haired filmy fern

Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum

blood-scented filmy fern

Hymenophyllum scabrum

coarse-haired filmy fern

Lastreopsis hispida

hairy fern, hairy legs

Lecanopteris pustulata subsp. *pustulata*

hound's tongue; kowaowao

Leptopteris hymenophylloides

single crepe fern; heruheru

Loxogramme dictyopteris

sexy fern

Notogrammitis heterophylla

Paesia scaberula

scented fern; matata; ring fern

Pakau pennigera

gully fern; paka

Polystichum vestitum

prickly shield fern; punui

Pteridium esculentum

bracken; rauaruhe

Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia

leather-leaf fern

Rumohra adiantiformis

butcher's fern

Tmesipteris elongata

Trichomanes venosum

veined bristle fern

Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea, white pine
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu, red pine
<i>Phyllocladus alpinus</i>	mountain toatoa; celery pine
* <i>Pinus pinaster</i> subsp. <i>pinaster</i>	maritime pine
* <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine; radiata
<i>Podocarpus laetus</i>	Hall's totara; thin bark totara
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro; brown pine

Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Alseuosmia macrophylla</i>	toropapa; shrubby honeysuckle
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	wineberry; makomako
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
* <i>Berberis glaucocarpa</i>	barberry
<i>Brachyglottis kirkii</i> var. <i>kirkii</i>	Kirk's daisy
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora; bushmans friend
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta; marbleleaf
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	raurekau; kanono; mamono
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	karamu; shining karamu
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i> var. <i>propinqua</i>	mingimingi
<i>Coprosma propinqua</i> × <i>C. tayloriae</i>	
<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>	thorny coprosma
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu
<i>Coprosma rotundifolia</i>	round-leaved coprosma
<i>Dracophyllum strictum</i>	totorwhiti; grass tree
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i> var. <i>dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Gaultheria antipoda</i>	snowberry; tawiniwini
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i> var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange; privet
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	broadleaf; kapuka
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Hebe stricta</i> var. <i>stricta</i>	koromiko
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood; porokaiwhiri
<i>Ixerba brexioides</i>	tawari
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa; NZ honeysuckle
<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	kanuka
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	manuka; red teatree
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	mingimingi; kaikaitau
* <i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Himalayan honeysuckle
<i>Melicytus lanceolatus</i> var. <i>lancelolatus</i>	narrow-leaved mahoe
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> subsp. <i>ramiflorus</i>	mahoe; whitey wood
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako
<i>Pittosporum cornifolium</i>	tawhirikaro;
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	black matipo; kohuhu
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five finger; puhou; whaupaku
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood; horoeka

<i>Pseudowintera axillaris</i>	horopito
<i>Pterophylla racemosa</i>	kamahi
<i>Raukaua anomalus</i>	whauwhaupaku
<i>Raukaua edgerleyi</i>	raukawa
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate; patae; kotete
<i>Toronia toru</i>	toru
* <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse

Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	clematis; puawhananga
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	white climbing rata; akatea
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	scarlet rata; winter rata
<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	aka; small white rata; torotoro
<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i> var. <i>capsularis</i>	akakiore
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	Maori jasmine; kaihu
<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	bush lawyer; tataramoa
* <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	blackberry

Daisy-like herbs

* <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle
* <i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	broad-leaved fleabane
* <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	oxeye daisy
<i>Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed

Dicotyledonous herbs other than Daisies

<i>Callitriche petriei</i>	
<i>Cardamine chlorina</i>	
* <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	bitter cress; spitting Jenny
* <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove
<i>Haloragis erecta</i> subsp. <i>erecta</i>	toatoa
<i>Hydrocotyle heteromeria</i>	wax weed
<i>Lobelia angulata</i>	panakenake
* <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus major
* <i>Mentha x piperita</i> var. <i>piperita</i>	peppermint; bergamot mint
<i>Nertera depressa</i>	common nertera
* <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	narrow-leaved plantain
* <i>Plantago major</i>	broad-leaved plantain
* <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal
* <i>Ranunculus acris</i> subsp. <i>acris</i>	giant buttercup
* <i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	spearwort
* <i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>	small-flowered buttercup
* <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup
<i>Stellaria parviflora</i>	

Monocotyledonous trees and shrubs

<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree; ti-kouka
<i>Cordyline banksii</i>	forest cabbage tree; ti ngahere
<i>Cordyline indivisa</i>	mountain cabbage tree; toi

Monocotyledonous lianes

<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack; kareao
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Sedges

- * *Carex demissa*
- Carex dipsacea*
- Carex dissita*
- Carex flagellifera*
- Carex uncinata* watu
- Gahnia pauciflora*
- Lepidosperma australe* four square
- Morelotia affinis*

Rushes and allied plants

- Juncus edgariae* wiwi
- * *Juncus effusus* var. *effusus* soft rush
- * *Juncus tenuis* subsp. *tenuis* track rush

Grasses

- * *Anthoxanthum odoratum* sweet vernal
- Austroderia fulvida* kakaho; toetoe
- * *Dactylis glomerata* cocksfoot
- Hierochloa redolens* sweet-scented holy grass
- * *Holcus lanatus* Yorkshire fog
- * *Lolium arundinaceum* subsp. *arundinaceum* tall fescue
- Microlaena avenacea* bush rice grass; oat grass
- Microlaena stipoides* forest rice grass
- Rytidosperma gracile* forest fairy grass

Remaining Monocotyledonous herbs

- Astelia fragrans* bushflax; kakaha
- Astelia microsperma*
- Astelia solandri* kowharawhara
- Astelia trinervia*
- * *Crocasmia ×crocosmiiflora* montbretia
- Dianella nigra* blueberry; turutu

Orchids

- Corybas acuminatus*
- Corybas oblongus*
- Corybas sanctigeorgianus*
- Corybas vitreus*
- Dendrobium cunninghamii* bamboo orchid
- Earina autumnalis* Easter orchid; raupeka
- Earina mucronata* spring orchid; peka-a-waka
- Pterostylis trullifolia* trowel-leaved orchid
- Thelymitra pauciflora*