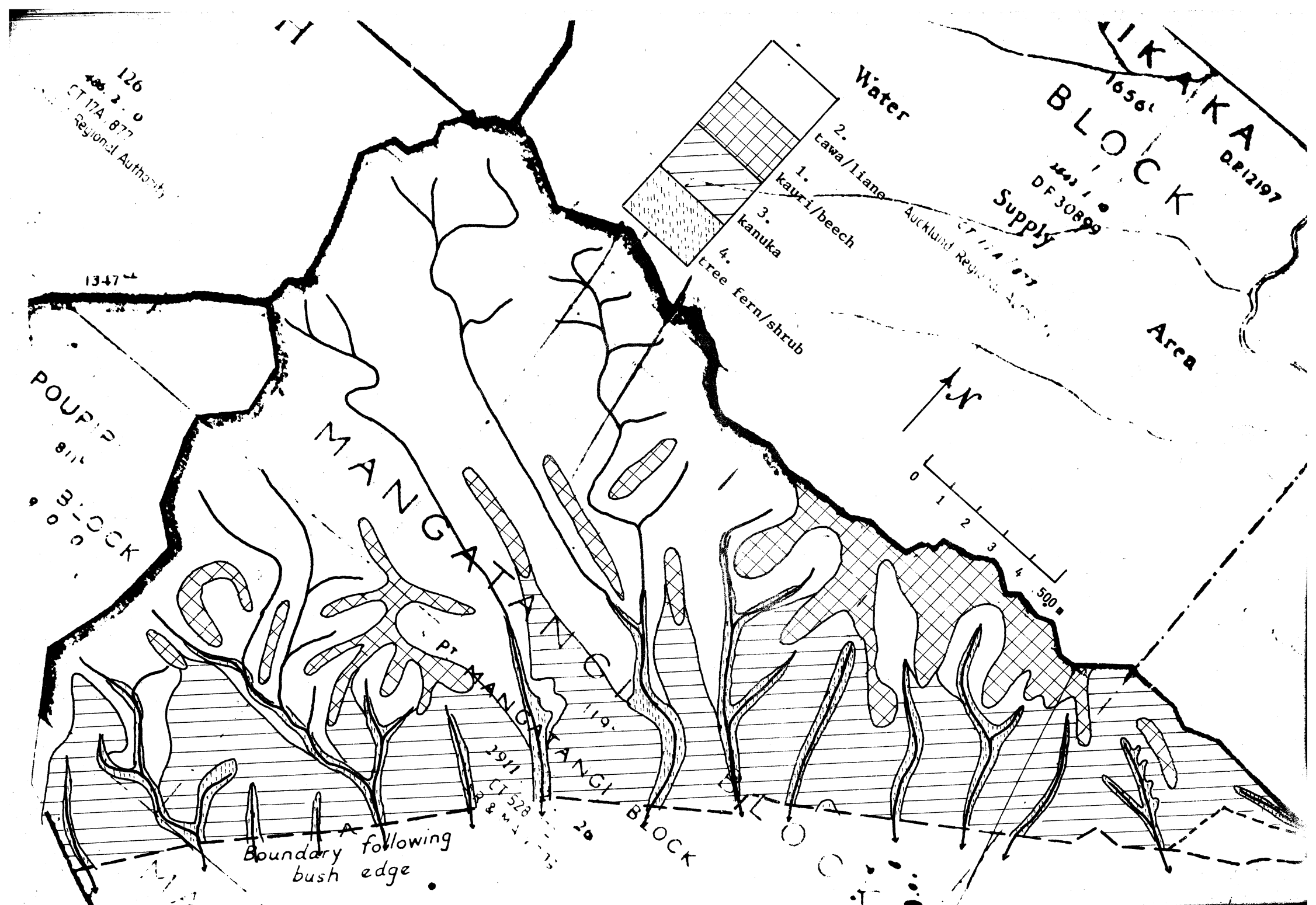
VINING SCENIC RESERVE

J. Mackinder

The lists and map presented here were compiled December 1982 as a survey of the Vining Scenic Reserve for the Department of Lands and Survey as part of their surveys of scenic reserves for the preparation of management plans. Results of surveys of other reserves in the vicinity have been published in "Scenic reserves of the lower North Auckland land district" by R.O. Gardner, D.J. Court and A.E. Esler, 1981. The page formats of that publication were used and the following notes are an extract from them. The moss list was compiled to justify a report of high numbers of "lower plants", to avoid being taken to task by Jessica Beever for a wrong assessment as R.O. Gardner was for his tick in the "low" column for Coatesville SR (see ABS NL Vol. 38 No. 1). The 44 species noted here are the result of a rather cursory gathering of the mosses growing in abundance. The vegetation map was drawn up by examining the aerial photographs, undated, of the area provided by Lands and Survey. The currently available aerial photos from N.Z. Aerial Mapping Ltd, also undated, show a considerable advance in kauri regeneration beyond the kanuka-dominant stage than is apparent from the earlier photos.

The reserve is 460 ha of bush at the southern end of the Hunua Range, roughly triangular, facing south-east, with a moderately steep greywacke slope from a fenced farm boundary to an apex at Mangatangi Trig and with many steep-sided gullies. The 4 km of fence on the south-east boundary crosses 14 streams. Four main vegetation types are described and mapped.

1. **Kauri/beech canopy** On all the ridges between the kanuka scrub cover on the lower slopes and the tawa/liane canopy on the higher slopes is a mixture of kauri and Nothofagus truncata with tanekaha and towai. (Between c.200 and c.300 alt.) Occasionally almost pure stands of kauri or beech occur. Where kauri and beech occur together kauri tends to overtop the beech. Few other trees or shrubs grow in this region. Ground layer is dry leaf litter of beech and kauri with the orchids Chiloglottis cornuta, Corybas oblongus and Caladenia carnea everywhere. Although only 10% of the total area, it contributes most of the character and visual impact of the reserve.
2. **Tawa/pukatea/liane canopy** At the northern apex and on the steep slopes off the ridges the canopy is a mosaic of tawa, pukatea, rewarewa, supplejack foliage, Lygodium articulatum, Metrosideros fulgens, with occasional rimu, miro, kahikatea. Good sized pukatea occur at lower altitudes in gullies; at higher altitudes superb specimens occur in shallow depressions.
   Large Metrosideros robusta (reported by the district ranger as up to 1.8 DBH) occur in regions 1 and 2.
3. **Kanuka scrub cover** On the ridges and slopes from the southern boundary to an altitude of c.200 m with stong regeneration of emergent tanekaha, towai, kauri and beech but no seedlings. A ground layer of grasses near the boundary, elsewhere extensive carpets of moss or bare earth.
4. **Tree fern cover** Stream banks are covered with Cyathea dealbata, C. medullaris, C. smithii and a limited number of species of small trees and shrubs. A ground layer of Elatostema rugosum and Blechnum filiforme. At several places near the southern boundary are extensive patches of Pratia angulata. This region is perhaps better described as an understorey less disturbed by goats than elsewhere, rather than a canopy type.


Water
2. tawa/liane
1. kauri/beech
3. kanuka
4. tree fern/shrub
Area
Supply
BLOCK
DP 12197
DF 30899
Auckland Regional Authority
CT 17A 877
Regional Authority
126
1347
POUPA
811
3-LOCK
MANGATANGI
Pt MANGATANGI 119
2911
CT 528
20
Boundary following
bush edge
0 1 2 3 4 500m

The presence of goats was very evident; several sightings, goat tracks and droppings on all the ridges and damage to the understorey. Alseuosmia seems unable to grow beyond about 5 leaves and Coprosma spathulata and Myrsine australis, struggling against goat browsing, are unable to advance beyond c.20 cm high. At altitudes greater than c.350 m many pig wallows were seen. Apart from small numbers of foxglove everywhere, the reserve was remarkably weed free.

The kauri/beech, large pukateas and ratas make this an especially attractive bush which could be improved with a reduction in goat numbers. Complete, rapid elimination is probably impossible and undesirable since this could induce an artificial looking understorey of few plant species, all of similar age. An attractive feature of the reserve is that it is free of the aggressive weeds that plague nearby reserves (e.g., Hakea at Te Morehu SR). The track on the northern boundary offers good views of Mangatangi Dam, Coromandel Range and Firth of Thames, and traverses most of the vegetation types.

Vascular plants

Acaena anserinifolia
Acianthus fornicatus
A. reniformis
Adiantum cunninghamii
Agathis australis
Alseuosmia sp.
Anarthropteris lanceolata
Aristotelia serrata
Asplenium bulbiferum
A. falcatum
A. flaccidum
A. lamprophyllum
A. lucidum
Astelia solandri
Beilschmiedia tawa
Blechnum capense
B. discolor
B. filiforme
B. fluviatile
B. fraseri
B. lanceolatum
Brachyglottis repanda
Bulbophyllum pygmaeum
Caladenia carnea
Callitriche muelleri
C. stagnalis
Cardamine debilis
Carex lessoniana
C. solandri
Carpodetus serratus
Centella uniflora
Chiloglottis cornuta
Clematis paniculata
Collospermum hastatum
Coprosma australis
C. lucida
C. spathulata
Cordyline banksii
Corokia buddleioides
Corybas macranthus
C. oblongus
C. trilobus
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Ctenitis glabella
Cyathea dealbata
C. medullaris
C. smithii
Cyathodes fasciculata
C. juniperina
Dacrydium cupressinum
Dendrobium cunninghamii
Deyeuxia quadriseta
Dianella nigra
Dicksonia squarrosa
Doodia media
Dracophyllum latifolium
Drosera auriculata
Drymoanthus adversus
Dysoxylum spectabile
Earina autumnalis
E. mucronata
Elaeocarpus dentatus
Elatostema rugosum
Epilobium rotundifolium
Erechtites arguta
E. minima
Freycinetia banksii
Fuchsia excorticata
Galium propinquum
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Gleichenia cunninghamii
Grammitis ciliata
G. heterophylla
Griselinia lucida
Gymnelaea lanceolata
Haloragis erecta
H. micrantha
H. procumbens
Hedycarya arborea
Histiopteris incisa

Hydrocotyle americana
H. moschata
Hymenophyllum demissum
H. dilatatum
H. ferrugineum
H. flabellatum
H. revolutum
H. sanguinolentum
H. scabrum
Hypolepis sp. ("delta")
Knightia excelsa
Lagenophora pumila
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Leptospermum ericoides
L. scoparium
Libertia ixiodes
Lindsaea linearis
L. trichomanoides
Litsea calicaris
Lobelia anceps
Lophomyrtus bullata
Lycopodium billardieri
L. deuterodensum
L. volubile
Lygodium articulatum
Marattia salicina
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros diffusa
M. fulgens
M. perforata
M. robusta
Microlaena avenacea
Microtis unifolia
Myrsine australis
M. salicina
Neopanax anomalum
N. arboreum
Nertera cunninghamii
N. dichondraefolia
Notodanthonia racemosa
Nothofagus truncata
Olearia furfuracea
O. rani
Oplismenus imbecillus
Oxalis corniculata
Paesia scaberula
Parsonsia sp.
Phyllocladus trichomaniodes
Phymatodes diversifolium
P. scandens
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Podocarpus dacrydioides
P. ferrugineus
P. totara
Pomaderris phylicifolia
Pratia angulata
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pteridium aquilinum
Pteris tremula
Pterostylis banksii
P. trullifolia
Pyrrosia serpens
Quintinia serrata
Ranunculus hirtus
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Rubus australis
R. cissoides
Rumohra adiantiformis
R. hispida
Schefflera digitata
Schoenus maschalinus
S. tendo
Scirpus chlorostachyus
S. inundatus
Senecio kirkii
Stellaria parviflora
Tetrapathaea tetrandra
Thelymitra longifolia
T. pauciflora
Thelypteris pennigera
Tmesipteris tannensis
Todea hymenophylloides
Trichomanes elongatum
T. reniforme
T. venosum
Uncinia banksii
U. uncinata
Vitex lucens
Wahlenbergia gracilis
Weinmannia silvicola

Species count: 171. The names used are those of the L & S supplied checklist.

Mosses

Atrichum androgynum
Braithwaitea sulcata
Bryum billardieri
Campylopus clavatus
Catagonium politum
Ceratodon purpureus
Cladomnion ericoides
Dicnemon calycinum
Dicranoloma dicarpum
D. menziesii
Distichophyllum microcarpum
Eurhynchium praelongum
Fissidens aspleniodes
F. rigidulus
Echinodium hispidulum
Holomitrium perichaetiale
Homalia falcifolia
Hypnum chrysogaster
H. cupressiforme
Hypnodendron colensoi
H. arcuatum
Hypopterygium commutatum
H. filiculaeforme
Leptostomum macrocarpum
Lopidium concinnum
Macromitrium gracile
M. ?ligulare
M. sp.
Mnium rostratum
Papillaria ambyacis
P. crocea
P. flavo-limbata
P. flexicaulis
Pogonatum subulatum
Pterygophyllum quadrifarium
Rhacopilum convolutaceum
Rhizogonium distichum
Rhizogonium novae-hollandiae
Sematophyllum jolliffii
Thuidium furfurosum
T. laeviusculum
Trachyloma planifolium
Weymouthia cochlearifolia
Wijkia extenuata

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Alan Esler and Jessica Beever for their assistance with some identifications.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY FINDS, 1983

Lucy B. Moore

It takes a sharp and dedicated eye to spot a single leaf a centimetre long on a bush track. That is what Bruce Irwin achieved on 4 June on the Mt Auckland (Atuanui) Walkway. It was on an obliquely leaning taraire trunk about 25 cm through and a couple of metres above ground level. This one leaf alone would have been enough evidence for a record of Bulbophyllum tuberculatum but in addition there was, further round on the bark, a nice tight little clump of bulbils, a few of them with leaf blades.

These days it pays to look at every Tmesipteris plant to see which of our four species it belongs to. Within a stretch of fifty metres or so, still on Mt Auckland, we found three different ones: T. tannensis with only one brown synangium showing the typical narrow end lifted well away from the sporophyll; T. lanceolata as a few short, flattish, shiny fronds with rounded (testicular) synangia, pale green and more or less hidden amongst the leaves; T. elongata, fronds to 25 cm long with narrow tapering extremities full of young pale testicular synangia.

The find next day, at Tawharanui Regional Park, was Psilotum nudum, a sturdy little plant at about eye level, growing out from a cleft in an old dry puriri trunk, in full light. The yellow tips carried even brighter golden synangia.