compressa intertwined in the *Undaria*. Both are edible, but are considered serious pests to the mussel farmers.

Although species of large brown seaweeds most likely occurred at depth on the rocky points, especially towards the opening to the bay, none was seen in situ and most beach drift (seven species identified) could easily have come from more exposed coasts in Queen Charlotte Sound and Cook Strait.

The following books were used for identification: *New Zealand seaweeds: an illustrated guide* by Wendy Nelson, Te Papa Press, 2013, and *Seaweeds of New Zealand: an illustrated guide* by Nancy Adams, Canterbury University Press, 1994.

DAY 2 SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2016

OIOI BAY AND THE LOWER SLOPES OF THE PURIRI PRESERVATION QEII COVENANT

Gillian Giller

The next morning a low tide enabled us to walk around the shoreline to Oioi Bay. *Olearia solandri* (in flower), *Plagianthus divaricatus* (locally rare), *Melicytus ramiflorus, Leptospermum scoparium, Melicope ternata* and *Phormium cookianum* were some of the taller species growing closest to the shoreline (Fig. 3). Their growth was shaped by the salt-laden wind. *Selliera radicans*, *Samolus repens*, *Poa anceps*, *Linum monogynum* and *Blechnum*

Figure 3 Bot Soc members fossicking along the shore of Oioi Bay (photo Miles Giller).

blechnoides were also present.

In the wetland area at Oioi Bay we found *Triglochin striata, Isolepis cernua, Cyperus ustulatus* and healthy patches of *Apodasmia similis*. There were some large specimens of *Cordyline australis* growing further back from the shoreline. Instead of retracing our steps we took a track over the hill from Oioi Bay back to Puriri Bay (Fig. 4). The sun was hot by this time so the shade of the kanuka-dominated vegetation was welcome. There was evidence of goat browsing on the understorey plants. *Cyathea dealbata* and *C. medullaris* were growing by our lunch spot. Other species on the slope included *Beilschmiedia tawa*, *Brachyglottis repanda* (rangiora), *Hedycarya arborea* (pigeonwood), *Aristotelia serrata* (wineberry), *Olearia paniculata* and *Pennantia corymbosa* (kaikomako).

Figure 4 Sorting those confusing coprosmas, Oioi Bay (photo Gillian Giller).

We arrived back at the camp in early afternoon. Some of the party decided to make use of the remaining afternoon by exploring the nearby loop track in the lower part of the Puriri Preservation QEII covenant area in Puriri Bay. This 109 ha covenant was the first QEII covenant to be registered in the Marlborough District, in November 1986. The vegetation here was older in parts than that which we had walked through earlier in the day. There were some kohekohe and hinau and it was nice to see the rotting remains of a pine that had been killed several years ago. A large fern unfamiliar to us, keyed out to be *Hypolepis dicksonioides*. Other ferns seen included *Pteris tremula*, *P. macilenta*, *Blechnum filiforme*, *Arthropteris tenella*, *Asplenium hookerianum* and *Lastreopsis velutina*.

The track emerged at the shoreline near the jetty and we were intrigued to see many eagle and short tailed rays present in the warm shallow water. We looked forward to climbing up the slope into the higher part of the covenant the next day.

DAY 3 MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2016
PURIRI PRESERVATION QEII COVENANT
Miles Giller

While some of us had briefly followed a walking track through the very lower reaches of the covenant on the previous day, we all knew there was much more scope to botanise. Presented with another fine day, we hoped to reach the upper altitude portions of the 109 ha Puriri Preservation covenant in the headwaters of the gully immediately behind the house, and perhaps also look at the DoC-administered land beyond that. We had arranged to meet local QEII representative Tom Stein and DoC senior biodiversity ranger Phil Clerke a short distance into the bush, who gave us a great run-down on the botanical history and features of both the covenant, and of Arapawa and nearby islands (Fig. 5). It was late morning before we headed uphill in earnest, but soon came into old-growth riparian kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) and titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*) forest, noting the distinctive fruit hanging from the older kohekohe trunks and branches. A few pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) were seen growing on alluvial surfaces, made easy to spot by the

Figure 5 Puriri Preservation Covenant. QEII regional representative Tom Stein providing some local insights (photo Miles Giller).