

Lindsaea trichomanoides
Loxogramme dictyopteris #
Lygodium articulatum #
Microsorium pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia
Schizaea fistulosa #
Tmesipteris elongata
Tmesipteris lanceolata
Tmesipteris sigmatifolia #
Tmesipteris tannensis
Trichomanes elongatum #
Trichomanes endlicherianum #

Conifers

Agathis australis
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Libocedrus plumosa #
Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Pinus radiata *
 (pl. by lower boundary)
Podocarpus laetus
Podocarpus totara
Prumnopitys ferruginea
Prumnopitys taxifolia

Monocots

Acianthus sinclairii
Aristea ecklonii *
Astelia hastata
Astelia solandri #
Astelia trinervia
Axonopus fissifolius *
Carex banksiana
Carex lambertiana
Carex uncinata
Carex virgata
Carex zotovii #
Cordyline australis
Cordyline australis ×
C. banksii #
Corybas cheesemanii #
Corybas oblongus #
Corybas trilobus #
Dendrobium cunninghamii #
Dianella nigra

Earina mucronata
Eleocharis acuta
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Iris foetidissima * #
Isolepis reticularis #
Lepidosperma australe
Machaerina tenax
Microlaena stipoides
Microtis unifolia
Oplismenus hirtellus
Pterostylis agathicola
Pterostylis alobula
Pterostylis banksii #
Pterostylis graminea
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Schoenus maschalinus #
Schoenus tendo
Thelymitra sp.
Zantedeschia aethiopica *

Dicot trees, shrubs & climbers

Alectryon excelsus
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa #
Brachyglottis repanda #
Carpodetus serratus
Clematis paniculata
Coprosma arborea
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma rigida
Coprosma robusta
Coprosma spathulata
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Dysoxylum spectabile
Geniostoma ligustrifolia
Griselinia lucida
Hedera helix * #
Hedycarya arborea
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea robusta
Laurelia novae-zelandiae
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus

Lonicera japonica * #
Meliccytus macrophyllus
Meliccytus micranthus
Meliccytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros diffusa #
Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros perforata
Mida salicifolia
Muehlenbeckia australis
Myrsine australis
Myrsine salicina #
Nestegis lanceolata
Nestegis montana
Olearia furfuracea
Olearia rani
Parsonia heterophylla
Passiflora tetrandra
Pennantia corymbosa
Piper excelsum #
Pittosporum crassifolium
 (adventive)
Pittosporum cornifolium #
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudopanax lessonii
Rubus australis
Rubus cissoides
Schefflera digitata
Streblus heterophyllus #
Syzygium smithii *
Ulex europaeus *
Vitex lucens

Dicot herbs

Centella uniflora
Galium propinquum
Gamochaeta simplicicaulis *
Gonocarpus incanus
Gratiola sexdentata
Hydrocotyle dissecta
Hydrocotyle novae-zelandiae
Hypericum pusillum
Lobelia anceps
Nertera depressa
Nertera dichondrifolia
Prunella vulgaris *
Veronica plebeia (road edge
 near reserve entrance)

Trip report: Kellys Road and Oratia Native Plant Nursery, 16 July 2016

Sinead Spedding and Geoff Davidson

Participants: Joe Blair, Brendan Callaghan, Bruce Calvent, John Cambert, Ewen Cameron, John Cleland, Bev and Geoff (leader) Davidson, Rhys Gardner, Jacqui Geux, Ben Goodwin, Sharon Graham, Leslie Haines, Peter Hutton, Wendy John, Richard and Anna Mairs, Christine Major, Philip Moll, Vivienne Patterson, Colleen Pilcher, Juliet Richmond, Ian and Lynda Smith, Jason Sokolich, Vijay Soma, Sinead Spedding, Adrienne Stanton, Claire Stevens, Liz Walker, Alison Wesley, David Wilson, Phillip Wrigley, Maureen Young.

A good group of around 30 people arrived at Oratia Native Plant nursery on Saturday the 16th of July 2016. After a quick briefing we all made our way to the Oratia Reserve off Kellys Road, a reserve owned by Auckland University for research purposes, located on the edge of the Waitakere Ranges. Thomas and Ogden (1983) give a good introduction to the reserve and a comprehensive species list of the area was published by Grace et al. (2005).

Upon arrival, we gathered under a large *Halocarpus kirkii* and had our first peek at *Pterostylis trullifolia* (tutukiwi). We were then on a Geoffrey mission (similar to what I have read from the previous visit to this site) to find its scarce relative *Monoao colensoi*, that had been noted to be present and outstanding in previous visits to the same area. It seems as though Geoff may have been out of luck yet again, as we did not come across this species. On our walk down the boggy bush we came across many interesting plants such as *Coprosma spathulata* (giving us a good opportunity to memorise one of the small-leaved coprosmas), *Gahnia xanthocarpa*, *Astelia trinervia*, lots of climbing rata (*Metrosideros* sp.), large magnificent *Laurelia novae-zealandia* (pukatea) with good patches of *Blechnum fraseri* (small 'tree fern') covering parts of the forest floor. On our way up to the ridge (heading WSW) we were avoiding stepping on the *Cardiomanes reniforme* (kidney fern), *Schizaea bifida* (comb fern) and both the *Ramariopsis kunzei* (white coral/ coral fungus, Fig. 1) and the *Nidula niveotomentosa* (woolly birdsnest fungus, Fig. 2).

Once at the top of the ridge we walked along, coming across a flowering *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *angustifolia* (kohurangi or Kirk's tree daisy). We then were led further through kauri understory until we came across the most amazing field of *Pterostylis trullifolia* (Fig. 3). I am sure none of us was expecting such a large patch, as, 'oh, ohhhh wow' was a common phrase when people approached this unexpected gem in the trip. It had all the photographers scrambling for the best shot (Fig. 4).



Fig. 1. *Ramariopsis kunzei* (coral fungus) on a log. Photo: Jason Sokolich. All photos taken on 16 July 2016.



Fig. 2. *Nidula niveotomentosa* with its "eggs". Photo: Wendy John.

Toronia toru, *Corokia buddleioides*, *Gahnia pauciflora*, and *Schizaea dichotoma* (fan fern) were frequent along this ridge of tall ricker kauri (Fig. 5).

We then returned to Oratia Native Plant Nursery, where we were provided with pumpkin soup and mulled wine by Bev.



Fig. 3. *Pterostylis trullifolia*, growing in a patch of the moss *Leucobryum javense*. Photo: Bev Davidson.



Fig. 4. The large area of *Pterostylis trullifolia* under siege from photographers. Photo: Jacqui Geux.

Geoff and his team at Oratia nursery had set up a range of plants that share the same genus, so we could look at the differences in species variation resulting from their different natural ranges, i.e. offshore island, mainland, montane, coastal, etc. We had *Myrsine*, *Melicytus*, *Leptinella*, *Gunnera* species and more, available for revising/studying.

After lunch we took a walk led by Jeff McCauley AKA "young Jeff" (Fig. 6). This started with views of *Streblus banksii*, and led to sights of *Todea barbara* and many more interesting natives such

as *Piper excelsum* subsp. *psittacorum* (offshore island kawakawa).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Geoff and Bev Davidson for organising this trip; thanks especially to Bev for the warm soup on a cold day and for the warming mulled wine too. In addition, a big thanks to Geoff and young Jeff for leading us around the property of Oratia Native Plants, as well as all the people who attended, making it a fun day. A thanks to those who made suggestions for the article; they were greatly appreciated.



Fig. 5. Enjoying the diversity up on the kauri-dominated ridge. Photo: Jacqui Geux.



Fig. 6. The planted forest tour around the fringes of the Oratia Nursery led by Jeff McCauley (in distance), with Geoff Davidson bringing up the rear. Photo: Jacqui Geux.

References

- Grace, A.; Jones, S.; McCauley, J. 2005: Field Trip: University Reserve, Kellys Road, Oratia 16/4/05. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 60: 25-28.
- Thomas, G.M.; Oden, J. 1983: The scientific reserves of Auckland University. 1. General introduction to their history, vegetation, climate and soils. *Tane* 29: 143-161.