

<i>Astelia hastata</i>	tank lily	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i> * pl.	red-hot poker
<i>Axonopus fissifolius</i> *	carpet grass	<i>Liriope muscari</i> * pl.	lilyturf
<i>Canna</i> cv. * pl.	Indian shot	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> * pl.	spiny-head mat-rush
<i>Carex flagellifera</i>	trip-me-up	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	meadow rice grass
<i>Carex inversa</i> (in lawn)	creeping lawn sedge	<i>Musa</i> cv. * pl.	banana
<i>Carex virgata</i> ** pl. (in garden)	swamp sedge	<i>Narcissus</i> sp./cv. * pl. (plants in lines; flowers not seen)	daffodil/jonquil
<i>Clivia miniata</i> * pl.	clivia	<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>	basket grass
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	tī, cabbage tree	<i>Phormium cookianum</i> ** pl.	mountain flax
<i>Cordyline ?pumilio</i> **	dwarf cabbage tree	<i>Phormium</i> cvs. ** pl.	flax
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> *	pampas grass	<i>Phormium tenax</i> +pl.	flax/harakeke
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> *	Indian doab	<i>Poa annua</i> *	annual meadow-grass
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> *	cocksfoot	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i> pl.?	nikau
<i>Dietes grandiflora</i> * +pl.	fairy iris	<i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i> *	danthonia
<i>Ehrharta erecta</i> *	veldt grass	<i>Strelizia reginae</i> * pl.	bird of paradise
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	knobby club sedge	<i>Sporobolus africanus</i> *	ratstail
<i>Gahnia lacera</i>	bamboo sedge	<i>Watsonia</i> cv. * pl.	watsonia
<i>Iris foetidissima</i> *	stinking iris	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> cv. Green Goddess * pl.	Green goddess arum lily
<i>Iris</i> cv. * pl. (garden)	iris		

Appendix 2. List of birds (* = exotic species)

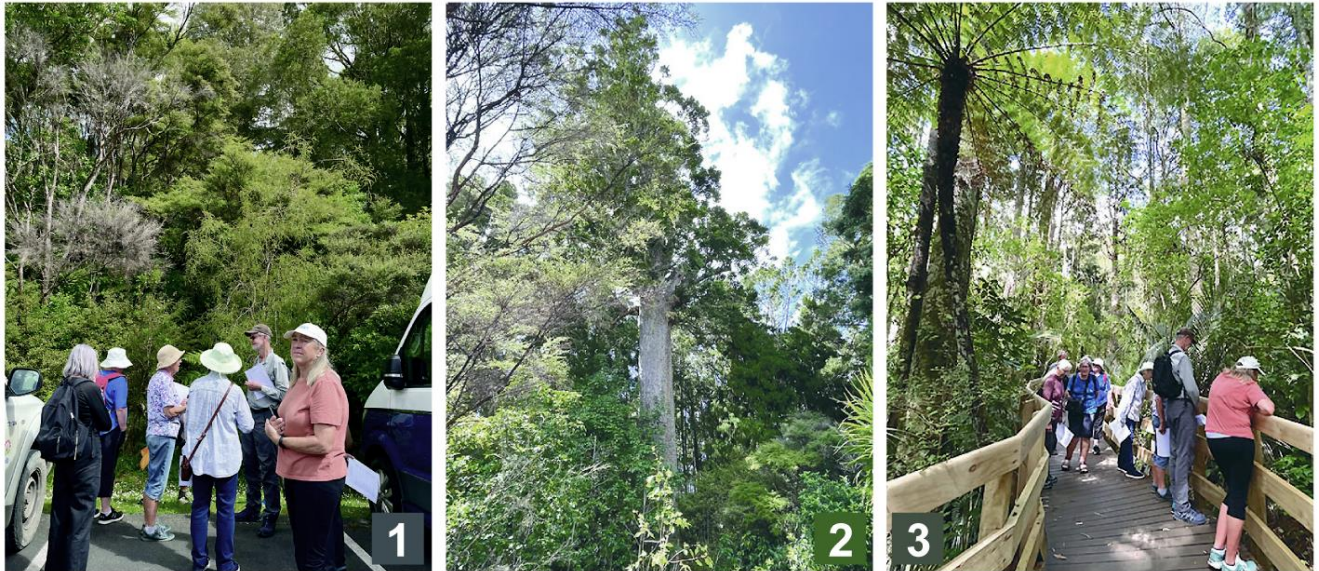
Blue penguin (footprints in sand by wharf)	NZ dotterel (1 pair)	Grey warbler / riroriro
Gannet / tākapu (close to island)	Black-backed gull	Song thrush *
Pied shag	NZ pigeon / kererū (Fig. 13, p.5)	Tui
Weka (×1, Leslie Holmes pers. comm.).	NZ kingfisher / kotare	House sparrow *
Variable oystercatcher (3 pairs)	Welcome swallow	Chaffinch *
Spur-winged plover	Silvereye / tauhou	Australian magpie *

Christmas pot-luck picnic at the Warkworth & Districts Museum and Parry Kauri Park, 3 December 2022

Maureen Young

Participants: Ewen Cameron, Jenny Chamberlain, Helen Cogle, Geoff & Bev Davidson, Neil Davies, Frances Duff, Leslie Haines, Kristy Hall & baby Evelyn, John Millett, Peter Moosberger, Helen Preston Jones, Juliet Richmond, Doug Shaw, Bec Stanley, Cheryl Taylor, Alison Wesley, Maureen Young (leader) (Fig. 1).

Summer decided to put in a long-awaited appearance for our Auckland Botanical Society (ABS) annual Christmas luncheon, this time at Warkworth. The local museum fitted our criteria of having a good kitchen and somewhere comfortable to eat, in this case at picnic tables under the roofed veranda, and that other necessity, some interesting botany nearby, as the museum is situated in the grounds of Parry Kauri Park.



Figs. 1– 3: 1. Maureen, our field trip leader, informing the group of the vegetation history at Parry Kauri Park. All photos (except Fig. 9) taken by Bec Stanley on the day of the field trip. 2. The Simpson kauri, the slightly smaller of the two original kauri at the Park, viewed from the carpark. 3. The recent Council-upgraded part of the boardwalk, half-completed, is sturdily built to wheelchair standard, giving access to wonderful views of the forest.

The 8.5 ha park was bought in 1967 by interested locals under the name of the Kauri Bushmen's Association (KBA) and was gifted to the Rodney County Council. A local farmer, Harry Parry, as well as giving a very generous donation to the fund, loaned the rest of the money needed to clinch the deal, and subsequently the park was given his name. It is now administered by the Auckland Council, which has just completed work on a viewing platform to keep people from walking on the roots of the two large kauri trees, and on replacing part of the old walkway that was built by the Kauri Bushmen. The KBA has also carried out weed work, animal pest control and planting for at least 40 years. Some early plantings were of species that don't naturally grow in the park, such as the large

pohutukawa trees (*Metrosideros excelsa*) lining the driveway; these have been left in place, as have the increasing numbers of *Pomaderris hamiltonii*, the originals having been planted by Dr W.M. Hamilton, after whom the species was named. However, several inappropriate species have been removed, and the policy now is to plant only those found in the park, largely to replace the gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) that is invading the upper slopes.

After a quick visit to an old concrete tank now converted into a garden shed, to view the numerous cave wetas (*Gymnoplectron* sp.) making the damp walls their home, our members checked out a bank behind the whim and the wagon bearing a large kauri log. This bank previously grew short,



Figs. 4 & 5: 4. A dense stand of kauri rickers, over 20 m tall, race to the sky. 5. The old track continues near the eastern boundary where the forest is younger.



Figs. 6–8: 6. The old track weaving through some wonderful kauri regeneration. 7. Looking for interesting ground plants, including *Lindsaea trichomanoides*, at the top of the steps. 8. At the viewing platform with Maureen looking back from the gully.

gumland-like vegetation, with *Lycopodium volubile*, *Lycopodiella cernua* and the horned orchid, *Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae* present. While the two lycopods are still there in decreasing numbers, the orchid hasn't been seen for many years, due to the encroachment of taller vegetation. Unfortunately, the blue-flowered South African *Aristea ecklonii* has spread from the museum garden and is now proving to be a pest, which the KBA is dealing with.

The larger of the two giant kauri trees is named to commemorate the Rev. Robert McKinney, the first of the settlers to own the property, and the slightly smaller tree is named after a later farmer, Mr Alf Simpson (Fig. 2), who initiated the gifting of the land to the Rodney Council as a reserve. Although the trees have each lost a large limb to storms and consequently have bled gum from the damage, they otherwise have healthy crowns and are in good condition. The newly laid part of the track, sturdily built to wheelchair standard, has a composite tread made out of recycled plastic (Fig. 3). It passes through a fine stand of tall young kauri reaching for the sky as they compete for light (Fig. 4). An almost complete ground-cover of young nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) is evidence of the role kereru have played in restoring the vegetation once sheep were removed from grazing the understorey.

The old track continues from where the new Council track ends, and loops around near the edge of the reserve (Fig. 5). The vegetation varies, with mainly either a taraire (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*) or kauri canopy (Fig. 6), but in places puriri (*Vitex lucens*), totara (*Podocarpus totara*) and kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) are prominent. Patches of *Carex zotovii* and *Lindsaea trichomanoides* were



Fig. 9. 'Sea holly (*Eryngium vesiculosum*) at Cape Campbell' on the ex-President's wall. Painting by Cathy Jones, presented to Ewen Cameron for two 10-year stints as President of ABS. Photo: Cheryl Taylor, Dec 2022.

noted, and a deep gully bears swathes of parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*) on the sides of the creek, after which steep stairs (Fig. 7) lead up to a viewing platform built by funds donated to the park (Fig. 8). On the last stretch before reconnecting with the new track, it was time to search for what remained of the winter-flowering orchids. It was possible to differentiate between the remnants of the two greenhoods that are “hooked on kauri” – *Pterostylis agathicola* and *P. brumalis*. Still visible were an odd leaf or two of the gnat orchid (*Cyrtostylis oblonga*), and sharp eyes spotted the cryptic, hairy stem of *Caladenia chlorostyla*.

During the walk a kereru was seen, and a kaka screech was heard. A week previously the many calls of shining cuckoos announced their presence in numbers. Thirty or more years ago, a local man, Jim Stubbs, collected a paper-bag full of kauri snails (*Paryphanta busbyi*) from “up north” and released them into the bush, and these have multiplied - on one occasion a pair were found fornicating between two sheets of corrugated iron that had been discarded at the back of the museum. Warkworth is the southern native limit of this species, being known from at least 4 localities near the town. On two

recent occasions a forest gecko (*Mokopirirakau granulatus*) was seen on the boardwalk, and the odd stick insect (*Clitarchus hookeri* ?) has been spotted on trees – a sign that the continuing pest control is having a positive effect.

With the walk completed, it was time for our celebratory luncheon. This was followed by a ceremony conducted by our new president Bec Stanley, who presented our departing president, Ewen Cameron, with a large, beautiful, and much-admired painting by our South Island friend and life member, Cathy Jones. This painting (Fig. 9) of the sea holly (*Eryngium vesiculosum*) and the lighthouse at Cape Campbell (ABS visited this spot in January 2008 during one of our South Island trips) was to celebrate Ewen’s two terms of ten years each, as our much-respected leader.

When time came to return home, a few people visited the nearby Wilson Cement Works ruins and stopped to view the lime-loving exotic herb, *Blackstonia perfoliata* growing on the roadside. [See also an article on this species by the author, on p. 41 of this issue – eds.].

Appendix: Species list of indigenous vascular plants of Parry Kauri Park.

The list was compiled by ME Young, from 1989 onwards. A good number of these plants have not been seen in the park for a number of years, due to changes as the vegetation matures. Two ferns were added to the list on the day (ABS). pl = planted

Lycophytes

Lycopodiella cernua
Lycopodium volubile

Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum fraseri
Blechnum membranaceum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Cyathea smithii
Deparia petersenii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Diplazium australe
Doodia australis
Histiopteris incisa
Hymenophyllum demissum

Hymenophyllum flabellatum
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum
Hiya distans
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida
Lastreopsis microsor
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lindsaea trichomanoides (ABS)
Loxogramme dictyopteris
Microsorium pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Pteridium esculentum
Pteris macilenta
Pteris tremula
Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia
Schizaea dichotoma
Tmesipteris elongata
Tmesipteris lanceolata
Trichomanes elongatum
Trichomanes venosum (ABS)

Gymnosperms

Agathis australis
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Libocedrus plumosa (pl)
Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Podocarpus laetus (pl)
Podocarpus totara
Prumnopitys ferruginea

Dicotyledons

Alectryon excelsus
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa
Brachyglottis repanda
Callitriche muelleri
Carpodetus serratus
Centella uniflora
Clematis paniculata
Coprosma arborea
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma autumnalis
Coprosma rhamnoides

<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	<i>Caladenia chlorostyla</i>
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	<i>Carex dissita</i>
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	<i>Mida salicifolia</i>	<i>Carex uncinata</i>
<i>Didymocheton spectabilis</i> (<i>Dysoxylum spectabilis</i>)	<i>Myrsine australis</i>	<i>Carex zotovii</i>
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> (pl)	<i>Myrsine salicina</i>	<i>Chiloglottis cornuta</i>
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	<i>Nertera dichondrifolia</i>	<i>Cordyline australis</i>
<i>Elatostema rugosum</i>	<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	<i>Cordyline banksii</i>
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i>	<i>Olearia rani</i>	<i>Corybas trilobus</i>
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	<i>Parsonsia capsularis</i>	<i>Cyrtostylis oblonga</i>
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	<i>Piper excelsum</i>	<i>Dianella nigra</i>
<i>Hebe stricta</i> (pl)	<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i> (naturalised)	<i>Drymoanthus adversus</i>
<i>Hoheria populnea</i> (pl & naturalised)	<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i> (pl and some natural)	<i>Earina autumnalis</i>
<i>Hydrocotyle dissecta</i>	<i>Pomaderris hamiltonii</i> (pl & naturalised)	<i>Earina mucronata</i>
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>
<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	<i>Rubus australis</i>	<i>Microtis unifolia</i>
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>
<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	<i>Sophora chathamica</i> (pl)	<i>Orthoceras novaezeelandiae</i>
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i>	<i>Pterostylis agathicola</i>
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	<i>Vitex lucens</i>	<i>Pterostylis alobula</i>
<i>Melicope simplex</i>	<i>Weinmannia sylvicola</i>	<i>Pterostylis brumalis</i>
<i>Melicytus macrophyllus</i>		<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>
<i>Melicytus micranthus</i>		<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>		<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> (pl)		
<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>		
<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>		

Monocots

Acanthus sinclairii
Astelia hastata
Astelia solandri

A summer visit to Cornwall Park, Auckland

Ben Goodwin, Mike Wilcox, Beth Gibbs, Marley Ford



Fig. 1. Gathering by large pōhutukawa tree. Bistro and Huia Lodge Discovery Centre in background. Photo: Philip Moll. All photos taken during the field trip.

The trip on 18 February 2023 coincided with the publication of our new book, *Nature in the City* (Auckland Botanical Society Bulletin no.35) and made a welcome outing following the devastating floods from recent storms (Anniversary Weekend downpour on 27 January and tropical cyclone Gabrielle on 13 February).

Attending: Jenny Andrew, Yumiko Baba, Jessica Beever, Duncan Benzie, Maureen Burke, Heather Chao, Amanda Charlton, Bev Davidson, Geoff Davidson, Frances Duff, Graham Falla, Marley Ford (co-leader), Beth Gibbs (co-leader), Ben Goodwin (co-leader), Leslie Haines, Jane Henrys, Robert Hoare, Mei Nee Lee, Joshua Salter, Philip Moll, Hamish Ogle, Sharon Osman, Helen Preston Jones,