

<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,

Juliet Richmond, Anna Rugis, John Rugis, Ian Smith, Lydia Smith, Claire Stevens, Alison Wesley, Mike Wilcox (co-leader), Maureen Young.

Our group gathered near the Memorial Steps, beneath a large pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) that was planted in the 1870s presumably by John Logan Campbell himself (Fig. 1). From this meeting place we could see some of the recent slips (Fig. 2) across the flanks of Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill) resulting from the 27 January 2023 downpour.

We crossed the paddock southeast of Huia Lodge, where sheep had grazed a forage crop of *Brassica* 'Pallaton Rashmo' (*Brassica oleracea* × *B. sativus*) down to the ground. (Fig. 3). Creeping plants of *Dichondra micrantha*, *Hydrocotyle moschata* var. *parvifolia*, *H. tripartita* and *Oxalis exilis* were colonising the bare volcanic soil amongst the nibbled *Brassica* stems. Larger herbs such as inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*) and annual nettle (*Urtica urens*) were also beginning to establish themselves here.

Our first official stop was the 'hill rock forest', a small stand of wild karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) and olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *europaea*) with one large māhoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*), growing over an outcrop of basalt boulders at the northern toe of the maunga (Figs. 4, 5). Ferns here included: rosy maidenhair (*Adiantum hispidulum*), necklace fern (*Asplenium flabellifolium*), hanging spleenwort (*A. flaccidum*), rasp fern (*Doodia australis*), button fern (*Pellaea rotundifolia*) and leather-leaf fern (*Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia*). It was nice to see seedlings of māhoe amongst the boulders below the parent tree. On rocks at the margin of this copse of trees the lichen *Pseudocyphellaria neglecta* was abundant, but looking shrivelled. Within the hollow trunk of the māhoe were delicate mushrooms of porcelain slime-cap (*Oudemansiella australis*). Nearby, a cavity in the base of a Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') similarly contained fresh fruiting poplar mushroom (*Cyclocybe parasitica*).

Moving onwards, our group crossed over to the 1947 kauri (*Agathis australis*) plantation. Strong regeneration of native trees has been occurring here since the area was cordoned off from pedestrians to keep out kauri dieback disease (Fig. 6). The regenerating native trees here included tōtara (*Podocarpus totara*), tarairi (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*), coastal karamū (*Coprosma macrocarpa* subsp. *minor*), karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), kawakawa (*Piper excelsum*), karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*), pūriri (*Vitex lucens*), and nīkau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*) – all of which would have been brought in by birds, mostly from cultivated trees elsewhere in the park. Weeds establishing amongst the native



Fig. 2. Large recent slips on the northern slope of Maungakiekie. Photo: Philip Moll.



Fig. 3: Creeping herbs establishing on bare soil, where a fodder crop of *Brassica* 'Pallaton Rashmo' had recently been grazed out. Photo: Philip Moll



Fig. 4: Wild/planted olive trees on the margin of the 'hill rock forest'. Photo: Josh Salter.

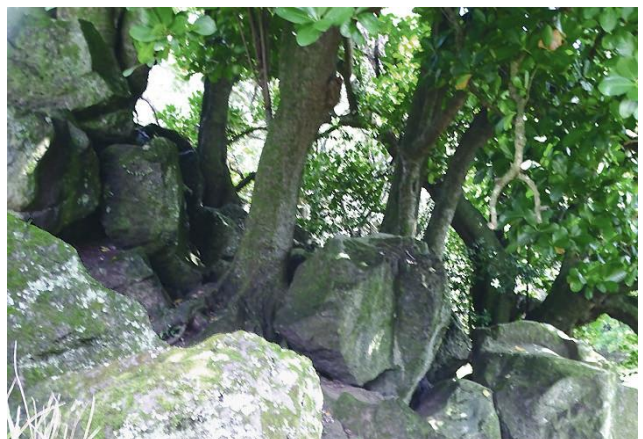


Fig. 5: Large karaka growing through basalt boulders in the 'hill rock forest'. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 6: Regenerating trees and *Tradescantia* within the 1947 kauri plantation. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 7: *Eucalyptus quadrangulata* (RH row of three), in the Eucalypt arboretum. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 8: Rock wall, Green Lane West, with *Stereocaulon ramulosum* and *Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia*. Photo: Philip Moll.

plants were also mainly bird-dispersed species: monkey apple (*Syzygium smithii*), windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), bangalow palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), Morton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), the latter probably dispersed by a human. *Tradescantia fluminensis* has become rampant within this stand of trees. Large numbers of the biocontrol Chrysomelid beetle (*Neolema ogloblini*) were seen amongst the *Tradescantia*, but no larvae were found, and damage to the host plant here was minimal. It was interesting to see the difference between the cordoned and open areas below the kauri plantation, the open areas having only scattered seedlings of coastal karamū and some *Carex inversa* and *Oplismenus hirtellus*. Presumably, trampling, and periodic mowing here are suppressing the vigorous regeneration that can be seen in the cordoned area.

After leaving the kauri plantation, we followed the medicinal aroma of *Eucalyptus* to the bottom end of the Eucalypt arboretum, a stand of 90-year-old gums consisting of 43 species. The 13 February cyclone had downed a big gully gum (*Eucalyptus smithii*), but other species had stood strongly. We all became acquainted with white-topped box (*Eucalyptus quadrangulata*) and were able to find a few of its unusual dentate leaves on the ground below the tree (Fig. 7). This species is showing promise in Marlborough for use as durable roundwood posts in vineyards. Fruiting wine glass fungus (*Podoscypha petalodes*) was noted from the base of a white mahogany (*Eucalyptus acmenoides*) at the top end of the arboretum.

After the Eucalypt arboretum, our group walked down Pohutukawa Drive, enjoying the open shade provided by the nearly-century-old pōhutukawa and Norfolk Island pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) that



Fig. 9: Rock wall, Green Lane West, with large colonies of *Earina mucronata*. Photo: Josh Salter.



Fig. 10: Rock wall, *Psilotum nudum* growing in shade under karo. Photo: Josh Salter.

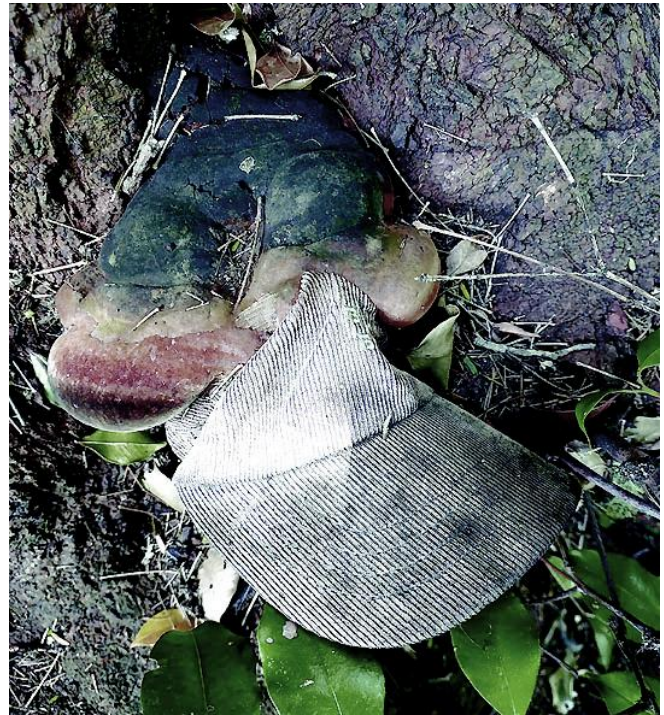


Fig. 11: Robust bracket fungus (*Fomitiporia robusta*) growing over a discarded baseball cap, Puriri Drive. Photo: Bev Davidson.

line the road. Seedlings of the latter species were plentiful in the area, mostly growing in piles of wood chips. Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) was found on new leaves of stunted under-planted pōhutukawa.

We then crossed Green Lane West into the Puriri Drive sector of the park for our lunch stop beside a mixed 1927 native tree plantation. Here we saw promising regeneration of native trees (taraire, pūriri, karaka, kohekohe (*Didymocheton spectabilis* [formerly *Dysoxylon spectabile*]), nīkau), but some weeds (tree privet, bangalow palm) as well. A gap with a large stump was noted – this was the remains of a kohekohe tree that had to be removed in 2021 because it had been severely defoliated by possums.

The Green Lane West rock wall was of considerable interest for its abundance of lichens, with *Cladia gorgonea*, *Cladonia darwinii*, and *Stereocaulon ramulosum* prominent on top of the

wall, and *Parmotrema reticulatum* on the side. Also common were *Earina mucronata* and *Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia* (Figs. 8, 9).

Next, we took note of the several spreading specimens of wonder tree (*Idesia polycarpa*) near the Cornwall Park Admin and Works depot and noted a few seedlings around the base of the trees. Then followed a close inspection of an American green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) with spectacular growth on its trunk of the colourful yellow foliose lichen *Crocodia poculifera*. We then checked out and re-found a known clump of *Psilotum nudum* in the open on a wall adjoining the Showgrounds, and found several others thriving in the shade below a karo hedge (Fig. 10).

We ended our walk by coming up Puriri Drive and checking out the known *Fomitiporia robusta* bracket fungus on *Syzygium smithii* which was growing over a discarded baseball cap (Fig. 11). The cap was first noticed here on 8 January 2022.