

Christmas picnic in Schlaepfer Park, near Pukekohe, 8 December 2018

Sam Sutherland

Participants: Tricia Aspin, Paul Asquith, Robin Asquith-Sanchez, Jan Butcher, Ewen Cameron, Helen Cogle, Janeen Collings, Rhys Gardner, Leslie Haines, Peter Hutton, Helen Preston Jones, CJ and Carol Ralph, Juliet Richmond, Bernie Salmon, Jenni Shanks, Claire Stevens, Sam Sutherland, Cheryl Taylor, Alison Wesley and Maureen Young.

The Auckland Botanical Society met for a shared Christmas Picnic on Saturday 8 December 2018. Tides conspired against the original plan to visit Motukorea (Browns Island) and so arrangements were made to visit Schlaepfer Park in Pukekohe. We will try to visit Motukorea in 2019 instead.

Schlaepfer Park is a scout camp which has a long history of use by the scouts since as early as 1949. Five hectares of the park were donated to the Scouts in 1964 by Mr A. Schlaepfer and Mr H. N. Svendsen. An additional five hectares adjacent to the park was purchased in 1995 using funding from the ASB Bank Community Trust.

Ian Robinson, the warden of the park, and his little dog greeted us at the scout's hall. We celebrated the end of the year with a shared lunch beneath a puriri tree with tables adorned with pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) flowers and cute little table posies that Jan had created. The picnic was a low-waste event and we were fortunate to eat from antique plates Jan had kindly provided. It was a beautiful day for a picnic and it felt as if summer was finally here (Figs. 1 & 2).

Following lunch we explored some of the adjacent tracks through the bush (Fig. 3). Judging by the open understorey this area is clearly used by the scouts and we were fascinated by the pine cones hanging from trees although we couldn't quite work out what they were for! There was even a "bush cathedral" tucked into the interior of the forest which is used for weddings and ceremonies.

It is a splendid example of mixed podocarp broadleaf forest with a tall canopy of tarairi (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*), tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*), rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*), kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*) and totara (*Podocarpus totara*) and puriri (*Vitex lucens*) trunks filled with puriri moth caterpillar holes. There were also some pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*) down near the stream. Some planting appears to have been undertaken on the edge of the bush, for



Fig. 1. Picnicking beneath a puriri tree. All photos by Janeen Collings on the day.



Fig. 2. Juliet Richmond, Helen Cogle, Carol Ralph and Maureen Young relaxing.



Fig. 3. Species lists at the ready to identify the *Diplazium australe* in the foreground.



Fig. 4. Canopy of tall puriri with abundant nikau in the understorey.

example, karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*), as well as some planting in the interior, evidenced by a puka (*Meryta sinclairii*) (see Appendix for a species list).

The bush has been fenced since 1965, and cohorts of similarly aged nikau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*, Fig. 4) were common in the understorey. Possum control appears to have been undertaken for a long time, as kohekohe looked healthy. Few weeds were seen and these were largely on the bush edge, although a few elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus ×reflexa*) seedlings were found within the interior of the bush.

Some botanical highlights included finding mangeao (*Litsea calicaris*) seedlings, although no adults were seen, and spying bamboo orchid (*Earina mucronata*) in flower hanging from a puriri tree. We also admired the distinctive hammermark bark of

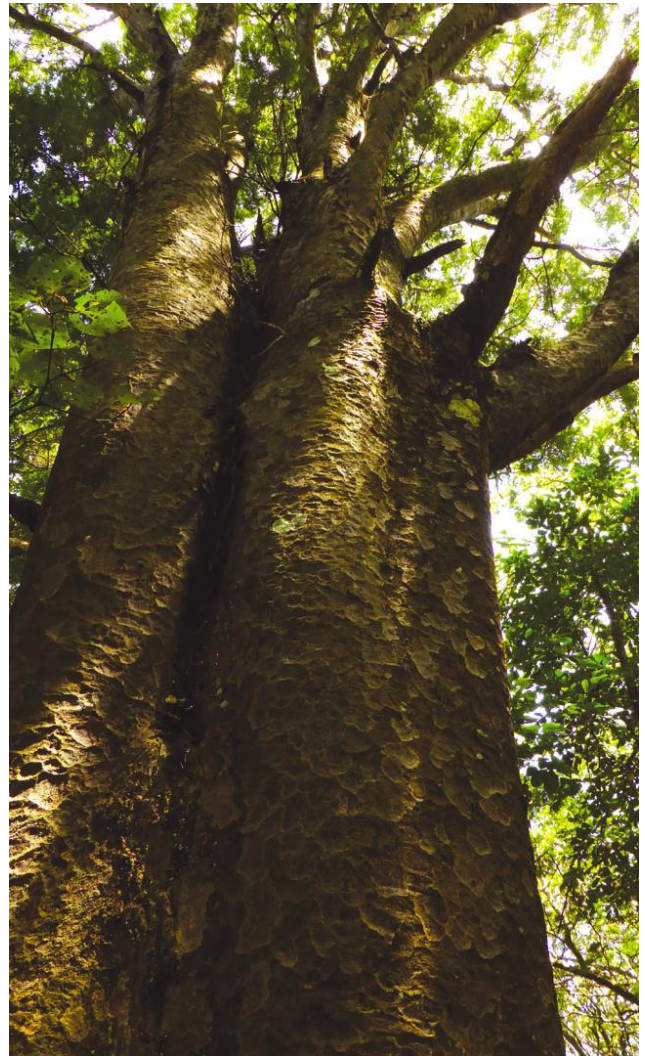


Fig. 5. Hammer-marked bark of matai.

matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*, Fig. 5) and discussed the differences between the rata (*Metrosideros* species) vines.

We followed the track down to the waterfall where we admired the glossy foliage of *Asplenium lamprophyllum* lining the track edges. The distinctive 'deep-heat' smell of the bruised base of the stipe of this fern is unmistakable. We were thrilled to see a large eel swimming in the pool at the base of the waterfall. Overall, a lovely summer's day spent sharing food with both old and new friends and exploring a new area of bush.

Birds seen or heard: kereru, Eastern rosella, welcome swallow, house sparrow, grey warbler, song thrush, blackbird, fantail, yellowhammer, chaffinch, tui and skylark.

Appendix. Vascular plants of Schlaepfer Park, recorded in 2010 and 2018.

JS = Recorded by Jenni Shanks in 2010; ABS = Recorded by Auckland Botanical Society on 8 Dec 2018.
pl. = planted; * = wild exotic species

Plant Group	2010	2018			
Ferns & Lycopods					
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	JS		<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	JS		<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	JS	
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Coprosma arborea</i>		ABS
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Asplenium lamprophyllum</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	JS	
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Coprosma rhamnoides</i>		ABS
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Coprosma spathulata</i>	JS	
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> *	JS	ABS
<i>Blechnum membranaceum</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Blechnum novae-zelandiae</i>	JS		<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>		ABS
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Elaeagnus × reflexa</i> *		ABS
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Erythranthe moschata</i> *	JS	
<i>Deparia petersenii</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Geranium robertianum</i> *		ABS
<i>Diplazium australe</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	JS	
<i>Doodia australis</i>	JS		<i>Halbragis erecta</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Hymenophyllum flexuosum</i>	JS		<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Hoheria populnea</i>		ABS
<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	JS		<i>Kunzea robusta</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> *	JS	
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> *	JS	ABS
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	JS		<i>Litsea calicaris</i>		ABS
<i>Pteris macilenta</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Melicope simplex</i>	JS	
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	JS		<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Pyrrosia elaeagnifolia</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Meryta sinclairii</i> (pl.)		ABS
<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i> *	JS	ABS	<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	JS	
<i>Tmesipteris lanceolata</i>	JS		<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>		ABS
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	JS		<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	JS	ABS
Conifers			<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Myrsine australis</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Oxalis incarnata</i> *		ABS
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Parsonia heterophylla</i>	JS	
<i>Phyllocladus trichomanoides</i>	JS		<i>Passiflora tetraptera</i>	JS	
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	JS		<i>Peperomia urvilleana</i>		ABS
<i>Prunopitys taxifolia</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Phytolacca octandra</i> *	JS	
Dicots			<i>Piper excelsum</i>	JS	ABS
<i>Ageratina riparia</i> *	JS		<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i> (pl.)	JS	ABS
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	JS	
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i> *		ABS	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> (pl.?)		ABS
<i>Beilschmiedia tarairi</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Prunus</i> sp. (seedling) *	JS	
			<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	JS	
			<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i> (pl.?)		ABS
			<i>Ranunculus repens</i> *		ABS

<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> *	JS		<i>Carex solandri</i>	ABS
<i>Salix</i> sp. *	JS		<i>Carex uncinata</i>	JS ABS
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Carex virgata</i>	JS
<i>Solanum mauritianum</i> *	JS	ABS	<i>Cenchrus clandestinus</i> *	JS
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	JS ABS
<i>Syzygium smithii</i> *	JS		<i>Crocasmia</i> × <i>crocosmiiflora</i> *	JS ABS
<i>Vitex lucens</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Earina mucronata</i>	ABS
Monocots			<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	JS
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> *	JS		<i>Freycinetia banksia</i>	JS ABS
<i>Astelia hastata</i>	JS		<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	JS ABS
<i>Astelia solandri</i>	JS	ABS	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	ABS
<i>Carex banksiana</i>		ABS	<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>	JS ABS
<i>Carex dissita</i>	JS		? <i>Phyllostachys nigra</i> *	JS
<i>Carex subviridis</i>	? JS	ABS	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	JS ABS
<i>Carex divulsa</i> *		ABS	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	JS ABS
<i>Carex geminata</i>	JS		<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i> *	JS
<i>Carex ochrosaccus</i>		ABS		

Awaawaroa Bay Village, Waiheke Island

Mike Wilcox

The Auckland Botanical Society (ABS) held an excursion to Awaawaroa Bay, Waiheke Island, on 16 February 2019 (Fig. 1).

We were hosted and guided by *Rob Morton* and *Hanne Sorensen* of Gulf Trees (a commercial nursery business at the Awaawaroa Village which they founded with others in 1994), and we were accompanied by several other residents from Waiheke Island: *Susan Barker*, *Rob Brennan* (Gulf

News), *Magdalena Fazzolari*, *Manu Irianni*, *Tony King-Turner*, *Peter Lumsden*, *Flynn Washington*. Those attending from ABS were *Yumiko Baba*, *Colleen Brewer*, *Warren Brewer*, *Ewen Cameron*, *Frances Duff*, *Beth Gibbs*, *Paula Godfrey*, *Shelley Heiss-Dunlop*, *Cam Kilgour*, *John Millett*, *Wendy John*, *Helen Preston Jones*, *Dhahara Ranatunga*, *Joshua Salter*, *Lydia Smith*, *Adrienne Stanton*, *Samantha Sutherland*, *Cheryl Taylor*, *Mike Wilcox* and *Maureen Young*.



Fig. 1. Location of Awaawaroa Bay Village, Waiheke island (short arrow). Topo50 map modified by Joshua Salter.