

Haloragis erecta
Hebe macrocarpa
Hedycarya arborea
Hydrocotyle moschata
Knightsia excelsa
Kunzea ericoides
Lagenophora lanata
Leionema nudum
Leptecophylla juniperina
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Lobelia anceps
Melicope ternata
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros diffusa
Metrosideros excelsa
Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros perforata
Mida salicifolia
Muehlenbeckia australis
Myrsine australis
Nertera dichondrifolia
Nestegis lanceolata
Olearia furfuracea
Olearia rani
Parsonsia heterophylla
Pimelea longifolia
Piper excelsum
Pittosporum cornifolium
Pittosporum crassifolium
Pittosporum eugenioides
Pomaderris amoena
Pomaderris kumeraho
Pseudopanax arboreus
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Pseudopanax crassifolius × *lessonii*

Pseudopanax lessonii
Ranunculus reflexus
Rubus australis
Rubus cissoides
Sophora chathamica
Toronia toru
Vitex lucens
Wahlenbergia violacea
Weinmannia silvicola

Monocotyledons

Acianthus sinclairii
Astelia banksii
Astelia solandri
Astelia trinervia
Carex dissita
Carex flagellifera
Carex lambertiana
Collosporum hastatum
Cordyline australis
Cordyline pumilio
Corunastylis pumila
Cyperus ustulatus
Cyrtostylis oblonga
Dianella nigra
Dichelachne crinita
Diplodium alobulum
Diplodium brumalium
Diplodium trullifolium
Earina mucronata
Ficinia nodosa
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia lacera
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa
Isolepis reticularis

Juncus planifolius
Lepidosperma australe
Libertia ixioides
Machaerina tenax
Machaerina teretifolia
Microlaena avenacea
Microlaena stipoides
Microtis unifolia
Morelotia affinis
Nematoceras trilobum (= *Corybas*)
Oplismenus hirtellus subsp. *imbecillis*
Orthoceras novaezeelandiae
Phormium tenax
Poa anceps
Pterostylis agathicola
Pterostylis banksii
Pterostylis graminea
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Schoenus apogon
Schoenus maschalinus
Schoenus tendo
Singularibas oblongus (= *Corybas*)
Stegostyla atradenia (= *Caladenia*)
Thelymitra aemula
Thelymitra carnea
Thelymitra aff. *ixioides*
Thelymitra longifolia
Thelymitra pauciflora
Thelymitra aff. *pauciflora* "darkie"
Thelymitra pulchella
Uncinia banksii
Uncinia uncinata
Uncinia zotovii

Matheson's Farm Bush, Mangawhai, 19 October 2013

Maureen Young



Fig. 1. Botanists at work in Matheson's Bush.
Photo: Joshua Salter, 19 Oct 2013.

Participants: *Bruce Calvert, Frances Duff, Bill Fletcher, Leigh Forsyth, Leslie Haines, John Lambert, John and Gale Matheson (leaders), John Millett, Carol and Gary McSweeney, Penny and Steve Palmer, Vivienne Paterson, Joshua Salter, Doug Sheppard, Vijay Soma, Alison Wesley, Angelina Young, Maureen Young.*

John and Gale Matheson, who farm on Lawrence Road, between Mangawhai and Kaiwaka, belong to the growing number of farmers who have fenced off bush remnants on their farms and are undertaking pest control. Fifteen years without grazing has ensured that a rich and varied ground cover is now replacing the bare, eaten-out understorey of the bush, and fortunately there are no problem weeds present. They were pleased to lead Bot Soccers through their patches of bush, and to show off the botanical treasures to be found there (Fig. 1).

The highlight of the day was, without doubt, the 16 trees of *Halocarpus kirkii*, or manoa, which grow on the property. This member of the Podocarpaceae has a northern distribution, being found from Te Pahi south to Coromandel and Port Waikato. However, like several other northern plants, it is not usually found between the Brynderwyns and the Waitakere Ranges. This makes this population, together with two other much smaller groups near Tomarata, of interest to botanists. It has amazingly dimorphic leaves, with juvenile leaves looking somewhat like large soft totara leaves, and almost terete leaves on the adult branches. The terms "juvenile" and "adult" are used advisedly, as both forms can be found on the same branch, or scattered willy-nilly over a tree. The trees are dioecious, and the hunt was on to find male and female cones. Josh, our gymnosperm enthusiast, managed to find an immature female cone.

The other highlight was the usual puzzle over the forms of *Alseuosmia* that grow in this catchment. In this case it became clear that there were two entities present. One had rather large, dark green, "oak" shaped leaves with red petioles. This fits comfortably into one of the forms that can be called *A. quercifolia*. The other was the small northern plant, *A. banksii*. Not only does one have to become conversant with the varied leaf shapes of this species (Fig. 2), but also the growth form. *A. banksii* does not, in my experience, have a small trunk with spreading branches, but rather, grows with spreading or trailing cane-like branches. It was noticed on this occasion that an exposed horizontal root had a second stem growing from it. Several red fruit were present. Logues Bush at Tomarata, c. 12 km as the tui flies, also hosts *A. banksii*.

The recce of Matheson's bush was done in March, after the long, dry summer, and at that time the kauri/tanekaha (*Agathis australis*/*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) patches had a thick ground cover of litter as a result of the trees' response to the stressful conditions, and the terrestrial orchid season was not yet underway. So a marked difference on the October trip was the presence of eleven species of terrestrial orchids, several of them flowering. They were: *Acianthus sinclairii*, *Caladenia* sp., *Diplodium trullifolium*, *Nematoceras macranthum*, *N. trilobum*, *Pterostylis*



Fig. 2: Some of the varied leaf shapes found on *Alseuosmia banksii*. Collected by Maureen Young, 19 October 2013.



Fig. 3. *Singularybas oblongus* in Matheson's Bush. Photo: Joshua Salter, 19 Oct 2013.

agathicola, *P. banksii*, *P. graminea*, *Simpliglottis cornuta*, *Singularybas oblongus* (Fig. 3), and *Thelymitra* species. Two perching orchids, *Earina mucronata* and *Drymoanthus adversus*, were also present.

An enjoyable day, accompanied by the almost constant calls of shining cuckoos, was spent appreciating the results of the dedication of members of the rural community. A full list of indigenous vascular plants seen is in the Appendix.

Appendix: List of Indigenous Vascular Plant Species in Matheson's Bush, Lawrence Road, Mangawhai; compiled by John Lambert & Maureen Young, 8 March 2013.

+ = additional species seen by Auckland Botanical Society on 19 October 2013.

Ferns & Lycophytes

Adiantum cunninghamii
Asplenium bulbiferum
Asplenium flaccidum
Asplenium gracillimum
Asplenium oblongifolium +
Asplenium polyodon
Blechnum chambersii
Blechnum filiforme
Blechnum fraseri
Blechnum novae-zelandiae
Cyathea dealbata
Cyathea medullaris
Deparia petersenii
Dicksonia squarrosa
Doodia australis
Huperzia varia
Hymenophyllum demissum
Hymenophyllum flabellatum +
Lastreopsis glabella
Lastreopsis hispida
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Lindsaea linearis +
Lindsaea trichomanes +
Loxogramme dictyopteris +
Lygodium articulatum
Microsorium pustulatum
Microsorium scandens
Paesia scaberula
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum neozelandicum
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia
Tmesipteris lanceolata

Gymnosperms

Agathis australis
Dacrycarpus dacrydioides
Dacrydium cupressinum
Halocarpus kirkii
Phyllocladus trichomanoides
Podocarpus cunninghamii
Podocarpus totara
Prumnopitys ferruginea

Dicotyledons

Acaena novae-zelandiae
Alectryon excelsus
Alseuosmia banksii
Alseuosmia quercifolia
Beilschmiedia tarairi
Beilschmiedia tawa
Callitriche muelleri
Carmichaelia australis
Carpodetus serratus
Centella uniflora
Clematis paniculata +
Coprosma arborea
Coprosma areolata
Coprosma grandifolia
Coprosma lucida
Coprosma rhamnoides
Coprosma robusta +
Coprosma spathulata
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Drosera auriculata +
Dysoxylum spectabile
Geniostoma ligustrifolium
Gonocarpus incana +
Griselinia lucida
Hydrocotyle elongata +
Hebe stricta
Hedycarya arborea
Knightia excelsa
Kunzea ericoides
Leptospermum scoparium
Leucopogon fasciculatus
Lobelia angulata
Melicope simplex
Melicytus macrophyllus
Melicytus micranthus
Melicytus ramiflorus
Metrosideros diffusa
Metrosideros fulgens
Metrosideros perforata
Myrsine australis
Nertera depressa +
Nertera dichondrifolia
Nestegis lanceolata

Olearia rani
Parsonsia sp.
Pseudopanax arboreus +
Pseudopanax crassifolius
Rubus australis +
Rubus cissoides
Schefflera digitata
Streblus heterophyllus
Veronica plebeian +
Vitex lucens

Monocotyledons

Acianthus sinclairii +
Astelia solandri
Caladenia sp. +
Carex dissita
Carex virgata +
Collospermum hastatum
Cordyline australis
Cordyline pumilio
Dianella nigra
Diplodiodium trullifolium +
Drymoanthus adversus +
Earina mucronata
Freycinetia banksii
Gahnia setifolia
Gahnia xanthocarpa +
Isolepis reticularis
Microlaena stipoides
Nematoceras macranthum +
Nematoceras trilobum +
Oplismenus hirtellus
Pterostylis agathicola +
Pterostylis banksii +
Pterostylis graminea +
Rhopalostylis sapida
Ripogonum scandens
Schoenus tendo
Simpliglottis cornuta +
Singularybas oblongus +
Thelymitra sp. +
Uncinia banksii
Uncinia uncinata
Uncinia zotovi