

## Vascular Plants on the Ridge Track from Kaitoke to Te Marua Lakes S26 901116 to 942142

Pat Enright 6/8/05 (5hrs) from Kaitoke end to grid ref. E2693545 N6013463  
Pat Enright, Olaf John 11/08/05 (4½hrs) Te Marua end to grid ref. E2691728 N6013036  
Pat Enright, Olaf John 13/08/05 (5hrs) Kaitoke to grid ref. E2691728 N6013036 and back  
Wellington Botanical Society 3/9/05 (6hrs) Te Marua to Kaitoke

b = only around Benge Creek  
unc = uncommon only 1 or 2 plants seen  
? = identity needs confirmation

This track climbs from the filtration plant access road at Kaitoke Waterworks (180m a.s.l.) to a high point of 432m and then drops to the southern entry point near Te Marua reservoirs at 140m. It traverses the long ridge between the Hutt River gorge and Kaitoke Stream (which flows into the Hutt River near the camping ground at Kaitoke) for a distance of about 6km). The whole area is managed by the Greater Wellington Council as the Kaitoke Regional Park and has a ranger station at the Kaitoke end of the track. The designated time to traverse the track is 3 hours one way.

Starting at the Kaitoke end you progress through rata/rimu/pukatea forest which ends abruptly at a sharp bend in the track where the track begins to climb up the ridge. Rather symbolically at this point is the only patch of the filmy fern *Hymenophyllum ferrugineum* (a lover of cool moist forest) that I saw on my initial trip up the track. Beech forest with scattered rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) and miro (*Stachypitys ferruginea*) with a ground cover of crown fern (*Blechnum discolor*) then predominate until the vegetation starts to reduce markedly in height and pole rata and beech take over. Matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*) is uncommon with one large tree at the first track junction and a juvenile further up the track being the only specimens seen. One or two seepage spots provide the habitat for some of the more moisture loving plants but in the main the area is well drained and dry. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), one of the very few weed species is evident in this area with scattered seedlings and collapsing old man gorse. Given time this weed should eventually disappear.

Further up where the ridge proper undulates along towards the southwest, tall beech forest once again is the dominant feature. Windfalls and slips provide light breaks and allow colonising species such as wineberry (*Aristotelia serrata*) to get a start. *Dracophyllum longifolium* has established a presence at E2693714 N6013523 but over the years seems to be getting senescent and crowded out although there is still evidence of regeneration and isolated plants scattered further along the track.

From the dracophyllum site the sequence of vegetation is as follows

1. Mature beech forest (mainly hard beech)
2. Wind blown ridge with some forest damage
3. Tussock Knob (high point (485m))
4. Broad flat ridge with mature beech
5. Storm damage in saddle
6. Even age stand of beech forest (70/80 years of age?)
7. Kanuka/kamahi/hard beech
8. Kamahi/olearia rani
9. Red beech/ kanuka
10. Silver/hard beech
11. Wet kanuka scrub with swamp coprosma
12. Beech forest
13. Dry poor kanuka/gorse (Upper valley Lookout track. *Lindsaea linearis* here))
14. Beech forest leading up to knoll at 432m. Some large hinau and other specimens here. Masses of white maire seedlings
15. Black/hard beech forest with wetter areas (*Juncus bulbosus* common in muddy patches)
16. Stunted kanuka shrubland
17. Beech forest (including mistletoe).
18. Track comes out onto extensive grassy flats before dropping to cross Benge Creek.

Hüperei or potato orchid (*Gastrodia cunninghamii*) is locally common around the beginning of the year in the beech forest just above Kaitoke. On the current survey, the epiphytic orchids were seen in abundance on the ridge proper and several species of sun orchid were in leaf. Two winter flowering species of orchid were noted (*Pterostylis trullifolia*, *P. alobula*) but only a single occurrence of each.

Species of note:

The red flowered mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*) is found in at least two places on the track. Banding on the host tree and others nearby protects the first one on the Kaitoke side just below the high point. It is not readily visible but may be more so when in flower. The other site seen is on the Te Marua side right beside the track a bit above head height and has not as yet been afforded any protection. Forest and Bird are keeping watch on the plant and it is being used by GWC to monitor possum impact/damage hence the lack of protection.

*Pittosporum cornifolium* is another species seen infrequently and then usually as a epiphyte in collospermum or astelia clumps where it can gain some protection from possums. There is a single small plant growing with a mass of white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*) and other seedlings below what must be a bird feeding station.

*Raukaua edgerleyi*

*Raukaua simplex* is another species infrequently seen and is represented here by a rather tatty (leaves munched by insects) 5ft specimen just off the track below Tussock Knob (downhill side).

There is not a big weed problem on the track. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is slowly being overtopped by native vegetation and will in time disappear from all but the more exposed areas. The sward forming rush (*Juncus bulbosus*) is really only a problem where there is sufficient mud and water to support its growth but a bit of treatment would not go amiss. Perhaps of more concern is the introduced blue green sedge *Carex flacca* which has formed a large patch and is spreading.

Pest control for possums is maintained by bait stations around the mistletoe site at the Kaitoke end and regular 1080 drops over the area. There is a fair amount of browse which is probably attributable to goats and/or deer.

### Gymnosperm trees and shrubs

Dacrydium dacrydioides	kahikatea (unc)
Dacrydium cupressinum	rimu
Podocarpus hallii	Hall's totara
Prumnopitys taxifolia	matai
Stachypitys ferruginea	miro

### Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Alseuosmia pusilla	toropapa
Aristotelia serrata	makomako, wineberry
Beilschmiedia tawa	tawa
Brachyglottis repanda	rangiora
Carpodetus serratus	putaputawētā
Coprosma colensoi	
Coprosma foetidissima	hūpiro, stinkwood
Coprosma grandifolia	kānono
Coprosma lucida	karamū
Coprosma microcarpa	
Coprosma rhamnoides	
Coprosma robusta	karamū
Coprosma rotundifolia	
Coprosma tenuicaulis	
Coprosma unnamed sp. (t) (unc).	swamp coprosma
Coprosma propinqua x C. robusta (unc)	
b Coriaria arborea	tree tutu
Dracophyllum longifolium	neinei
Elaeocarpus dentatus	hīnau
Elaeocarpus hookerianus (juveniles)	pokaka
b Fuchsia excorticata	kotukutuku, tree fuchsia
Gaultheria antipoda	koropuka
Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. ligustrifolium	hangehange
Griselinia littoralis	pāpāuma, broadleaf
Griselinia lucida	puka, broadleaf
Hebe stricta var. atkinsonii	koromiko
Hedycarya arborea	porokaiwhiri, pigeonwood
Knightia excelsa	rewarewa
Kunzea ericoides	kānuka
Laurelia novaezealandiae	pukatea
Lophomyrtus bullata (unc)	ramarama
Leptecophylla juniperina	mingimingi
Leptospermum scoparium	mānuka
Leucopogon fasciculatus	mingimingi
b Macropiper excelsum subsp. excelsum	kawakawa
Melicytus ramiflorus	māhoe
Metrosideros robusta	rāta, northern rata
Myrsine australis	māpou, red matipo
Myrsine salicina	toro
Nestegis cunninghamii	black maire
Nestegis lanceolata	white maire
Nothofagus fusca	tawhairaunui, red beech
Nothofagus menziesii	tawhai, silver beech
Nothofagus solandri var. solandri	tawhairauriki, black beech
Nothofagus truncata	tawhairaunui, hard beech
Nothofagus solandri x N. truncata (unc)	
Olearia rani	heketara
Ozothamnus leptophyllus	tauhinu
Pennantia corymbosa (unc)	kaikōmako

Peraxilla tetrapetala (unc) (939135 DOC record,E2690389 N6012720)	pirita, mistletoe
Pittosporum cornifolium (unc 30cm seedling on ground E2691420 N6012899)	
Pittosporum tenuifolium (unc seedlings)	
Pseudopanax arboreus	whauwhaupaku, five finger
Pseudopanax crassifolius	horoeka, lancewood
Pseudowintera axillaris	horopito
Raukaua anomalus	
Raukaua edgerleyi (unc)	
Raukaua simplex (unc juvenile)	
Schefflera digitata	patē
Weinmannia racemosa subsp. racemosa	kāmahi

### Monocotyledonous lianes

Freycinetia banksii	kiekie
Ripogonum scandens	kareao, supplejack

### Dicotyledonous lianes and related trailing plants

Clematis paniculata (in flower 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 05)	puawānanga
Metrosideros diffusa	rata
Metrosideros fulgens (flowers 6 Aug.)	rata
Metrosideros perforata	aka
Muehlenbeckia australis	
? Parsonsia capsularis (no flowers)	
Parsonsia heterophylla	akakaikiore, N. Z. jasmine
Rubus australis (unc)	swamp lawyer
Rubus cissoides var. cissoides	tatarāmoa

### Psilopods, Lycopods and Quillworts

Huperzia varia	whiri-o-Raukatauri
Lycopodium scariosum	
Lycopodium volubile	waewaekoukou
Tmesipteris elongata	
Tmesipteris tannensis	

### Ferns

Asplenium bulbiferum	manamana, hen and chickens fern
Asplenium flaccidum ss	makawe, hanging spleenwort
Asplenium oblongifolium	huruhuru whenua, shining spleenwort
Asplenium polyodon	sickle spleenwort
Blechnum chambersii	nini
Blechnum discolor	piupiu
Blechnum filiforme	pānako
Blechnum fluviatile	kiwakiwa
Blechnum novae-zelandiae	kiokio
Blechnum procerum	
? Blechnum novaezelandiae x B. procerum (one large patch)	
Ctenopteris heterophylla	comb fern
Cyathea dealbata	ponga, silver fern
Cyathea medullaris	mamaku
Cyathea smithii	kātote
Dicksonia squarrosa	whekī
Grammitis billardierei	
Grammitis ciliata	
Histiopteris incisa	mätä
Hymenophyllum bivalve	mauku

Hymenophyllum demissum	“
Hymenophyllum dilatatum	“
Hymenophyllum ferrugineum (unc)	“
Hymenophyllum flabellatum	“
Hymenophyllum multifidum	“
Hymenophyllum rarum	“
Hymenophyllum revolutum	“
Hymenophyllum sanguinolentum	“
Hymenophyllum scabrum	“
Hypolepis ambigua	
Hypolepis lactea (unc)	
Lastreopsis glabella	
Lastreopsis hispida	
Leptopteris hymenophylloides	hereheru, single crepe fern
Lindsaea linearis (unc)	
Lindsaea trichomanoides	
Microsorium pustulatum	kōwaowao, hound's tongue
Microsorium scandens (unc)	
Paesia scaberula	mätätä
Pneumatopteris pennigera	pakauroharoha, gully fern
Polystichum vestitum (unc)	pūnui, prickly shield fern
Pteridium esculentum	rarahu, bracken
Pteris macilenta	
Pyrrosia eleagnifolia	ota, leather-leaf fern
Rumohra adiantiformis	
Sticherus cunninghamii (unc)	umbrella fern
Trichomanes reniforme	raurenga, kidney fern
Trichomanes venosum	

### Orchids

Bulbophyllum pygmeum (unc)	
Earina autumnalis	raupeka
Earina mucronata	peka a waka
Gastrodia cunninghamii	hūpereī
? Microtis unifolia	
? Nematoceras oblonga (budding 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug.)	
Nematoceras sp.	
Pterostylis alobula (unc) (flowering 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug.)	
Pterostylis trullifolia (flowering 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug.)	
? Thelymitra hatchii	
? Thelymitra longifolia (strap leaves)	
Winika cunninghamii	

### Grasses

Chionochloa cheesemanii	
Cortaderia fulvida	toetoe
Microlaena avenacea	patīti, bush rice grass
Rytidosperma gracile	

### Sedges

Carex geminata	
Eleocharis gracilis	
Gahnia pauciflora	
Gahnia setifolia	
Gahnia xanthocarpa	
Isolepis reticularis	
Schoenus maschalinus	
Uncinia banksii	
Uncinia rupestris (incl. U angustifolia)	

Uncinia uncinata  
Uncinia zotovii

watu, hook grass

#### Rushes and allied plants

Juncus edgariae  
Juncus planifolius  
Luzula picta var. picta

wiwi

#### Remaining Monocotyledonous plants

Astelia fragrans (unc)  
Astelia solandri (flowering Aug 13<sup>th</sup>)  
Collospermum hastatum  
Collospermum microspermum  
Dianella nigra  
Libertia grandiflora  
? Phormium tenax (unc)

köwharawhara  
kahakaha  
tūrutu, blueberry  
mikoikoi

#### Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

Euchiton audax  
Euchiton gymnocephalus  
? Lagenifera pumila (no flowers but fits vegetatively)  
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum  
Senecio minimus (unc)

cudweed  
cudweed

#### Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

Acaena anserinifolia  
Cardamine sp. (*C. debilis* agg.) ("Narrow Petal" of Pritchard 1957)  
Centella uniflora  
Drosera peltata  
Epilobium rotundifolium  
Gonocarpus micranthus  
Hydrocotyle moschata  
Leptostigma setulosa  
Nertera depressa  
Oxalis exilis  
Plantago raoulii  
Pratia angulata  
Ranunculus reflexus  
Stellaria parviflora

piripiri, bidibidi  
pänakenake  
native chickweed

## Adventives

### Dicotyledonous trees and shrubs

Leycesteria formosa (unc)  
Ulex europaeus

Himalayan honeysuckle  
gorse

### Grasses

Agrostis capillaris

browntop

### Sedges

Carex flacca

### Rushes and allied plants

Juncus articulatus  
Juncus bulbosus  
Juncus effusus  
Juncus tenuis

### Daisy-like herbs (Composites)

Bellis perennis  
? Cirsium arvense (too juvenile as yet)  
Hypochoeris radicata

daisy  
California thistle  
cat's ear

### Dicotyledonous herbs other than Composites

Callitriche stagnalis  
Centaurium erythraea  
Digitalis purpurea  
Lotus pedunculatus  
Plantago lanceolata  
Prunella vulgaris  
Ranunculus repens  
Solanum nigrum

starwort  
centaury  
foxglove  
lotus  
narrow leaved plantain  
selfheal  
creeping buttercup  
nightshade

## **Indigenous Birds**

*Anthornis melanura*

*Gerygone igata*

*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

*Mohoua albigularis*

*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*

*Porphyrio porphyrio*

*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*

*Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis*

*Zosterops lateralis*

riroriro, grey warbler

korimako, bellbird

kererū, native pigeon

popokatea, whitehead

miromiro, North Island tomtit

pukeko, swamp hen

tūi

pīwakawaka, North Island fantail

tauhou, waxeye

## **Introduced birds**

*Platycercus eximius*

*Fringilla coelebs*

*Turdus merula*

eastern rosella

chaffinch

blackbird