

Te Haahi-Goodwin & Te Matuku Historic Precinct Botanical Field Trip 23 Oct 2016

Philip Smith, Michael Coote & Kent Xie spent the day botanising in the Upper Te Matuku Bay reserves, guided by Craig Olsen.

Arriving by ferry to Orapiu, a quick visit was first made to Otakawhe Bay to look for previously recorded *Pimelea orthia*. Not found, presumed removed during recent 'landscaping'. *Pomaderris rugosa* found growing on the pathway to Pearl Bay, *Thelymitra* sp. (sun orchid) noted on rock outcrops adjacent to Otakahwe Lodge.

Stockyards to Cemetery Esplanade, walked late morning

Sophora chathamica comment from Michael:

“I think kowhai trees are growing along the coastal fringe at the stockyard reserve because of tidal seed deposit. Kowhai seedpods float in seawater and the seeds are resistant to saltwater exposure for extended periods. At spring high tides, kowhai seedpods could be deposited on land in the tidal fringe reed beds, and some of the seeds will germinate. Hence that marginal population at sea level.”

Mida salicifolia was of particular note:
[UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research]

“A hemi-parasite like other members of its family, *Mida salicifolia* parasitizes through its roots, where it steals some nutrients from its host (often the kauri tree, *Agathis australis*). However, the species is also capable of photosynthesizing and living independently.

Often this species is confused at a glance with small trees of *Nestegis* species (common names also being maire), but can be easily distinguished by looking at the leaf arrangement: *Mida salicifolia* has alternate leaves while *Nestegis* spp. have opposite leaves”

Also of note on the **esplanade**: a variety of maidenhair fern species (*Adiantum*), toropapa in quantity (*Alseuosmia quercifolia*) plus hounds tongue fern (*Microsorium pustulatum*) found growing on the ground rather than epiphytically.

In the **cemetery**: *Pomaderris amoena* & sundew (*Drosera auriculata*) colony on one grave plus an extremely dry undisturbed area beyond the cemetery which hosted large areas of kidney fern (*Cardiomanes reniforme*) amongst lichen along with *Earina mucronata*, a perching orchid normally epiphytic.

Esplanade:

Cordyline pumilio
Adiantum spp.
Mida salicifolia
Sophora chathamica
Microsorium pustulatum
Asplenium oblongifolium
Asplenium flaccidum
Alseuosmia quercifolia
Carmichaelia australis
Astelia trinerva
Pterostylis trullifolia
Corybas trilobus
Acianthus sinclairii

Cemetery:

Drosera auriculata
Cardiomanes reniforme
Earina mucronata
Pomaderris amoena
Thelymitra sp.

Te Haahi Goodwin walked mid afternoon

Sun orchids (*Thelymitra sp.*) found in bud on the dry open area of the paper road above the school site. Philip commented that the vegetation in this area had a gumland aesthetic.

Only a short part of D line was walked down off the ridgeline, a distinct ecotone change.

Paper Road:

Olearia furfuracea
Lycopodium deuterodensum
Thelymitra sp.
Pterostylis sp.
Nertera dichondrifolia
Gleichenia sp.
Lycopodiella cernuua
Lepidosperma australe

Bait line (D):

Hymenophyllum sp.
Pterostylis spp.
Brachyglottis kirkii var. angustior

Orapiu Road, returning to the car at the stockyards

A variety of species was noted on the roadside cuttings between the cemetery & the stockyards. The seed source for most was visually obvious above the cutting in Te Haahi Goodwin reserve. Onion orchid (*Microtis unifolia*) was abundant, in bud but no flowers open yet.

Roadside:

Lycopodium volubile
Microtis unifolia
Alseuosmia quercifolia
Thelymitra spp.
Gleichenia sp.
Blechnum sp.

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As guide rather than botanist I have written this report not so much in the 'stamp collector' style, where every species is noted, but rather to highlight comments of significance. A return visit has been suggested to find previously recorded hard beech within Te Haahi Goodwin Reserve as well as a guided walk through Te Matuku Bay Scenic Reserve.

Craig

