

## Native Vascular Plants of Great Barrier Island.

**List of all native vascular plants ever reported, and of those recognised by members of Wellington Botanical Society - 30 January to 7 February 2008.** Rodney Lewington<sup>1</sup>

An initial list of vascular plants recorded for Great Barrier Island was prepared prior to the visit of the Wellington Botanical Society in January 2008. That list was based on a variety of sources including Ewen Cameron's chapter in Armitage, D. (ed), *Great Barrier Island*<sup>2</sup>. 2004.

Subsequent to the visit my attention was brought to the list prepared by Ewen Cameron in the Auckland Botanical Society Journal of 2002<sup>3</sup>. Additions from that publication have been noted on the list that follows and are mentioned in the "New, doubtful and excluded records" section below.

I am grateful to Ewen Cameron for comments on a previous draft of these notes and the list that follows.

Those species recorded by the Wellington Botanical Society in January and February 2008 are noted against the areas visited. The main contributors to the Society's observations were Jonathan Anderson, Jo Fillery, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Bryan Halliday, Chris Hopkins, J.Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Neill Simpson and Owen Spearpoint.

Species names have been updated at January 2008 to those used in the NZ Plant Conservation Network database<sup>4</sup>, plus some other literature.

Abbreviations used in the list:

- GBI = Great Barrier Island.
- Pos. Ext.GBI = Possibly extinct on GBI.
- End. GBI = Endemic to GBI.
- Add. to E.C. 2002 = Species not included in the 2002 Ewen Cameron list. (excluding hybrids)
- \* Indicates rare on GBI.
- # Indicates that there is a note on the species in the "New, doubtful and excluded records" section.

### Areas visited by Wellington Botanical Society - January/February 2008

The following describes the areas identified in the plant list:

**31 Jan Phone Line and Old Lady Tracks.** (Collection Area 1 in the list)

Phone Line Track started from behind Shady Heights cabins at Orama and came out on Orama Road (Karaka Bay Road on some maps), then walked to the junction of Aotea Road and down to Port Fitzroy via the Old Lady Track (DoC Tk 1). Returned to Orama by the road.

**1 Feb Windy Canyon to Mt Hobson.** (Collection Area 2 in the list)

Mt Hobson (627 m), by Palmers Track (DoC Tk 10) via Windy Canyon and returned by the same route. Started and finished at the summit of the Aotea Road (Fitzroy Harataonga Road on some maps).

**2 Feb Kaitoke Springs and northern Tramline Track.** (Collection Area 3a in the list)

Started from the Tramline Track (DoC Tk 13) on Aotea Road and walked through to the Springs then out to the Whangaparapara Road at Kaitoke Swamp.

**2 Feb Kaitoke Springs and southern Tramline Track.** (Collection Area 3b in the list)

Started from Whangaparapara Road at Forest Road 20, walked to the Tramline Track, then east to the Springs and out to Whangaparapara Road at the Kaitoke Swamp.

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<sup>2</sup> Armitage, D. (ed), *Great Barrier Island*. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch, NZ. 2004

<sup>3</sup> Cameron 2002, In Cameron E., Preston –Jones H., Janes G. and Wilcox M. *Great Barrier Island*, Auckland Botanical Society Journal Vol. 57(1) June 2002: 83-84.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/>

**3 Feb** **Whangapoua estuary and dunes.** (Collection Area 4a in list)  
Started from the end of Mabeys Road and walked south along the dunes to the estuary exploring the dunes and swales on the way. Then north along the beach to the graves from the shipwrecked SS Wairarapa. (Tapuwai Point).

**3 Feb** **Burrill Route to Tataweka.** (Collection Area 4b in the list)  
Burrill Route (DoC Tk 23) from Mabeys Road to Tataweka (526m) and return by the same route.

**4 Feb** **Coopers Castle from Fitzroy/Orama road junction.** (Collection Area 5 in the list)  
Coopers Castle Track (DoC Tk 4) from the junction of Karaka Bay Road and Aotea Road (Fitzroy Harataonga Road on some maps). To Coopers Castle lookout (450 m) and returned by the same route.

**5 Feb** **Whangaparapara locality.** (Collection Area 6 in the list)  
Mt Whangaparapara, Withey's Track, Old Mill Track, Pack Track and Mangati Bay. The area was explored by small parties. One group bush-bashed from Whangaparapara Peak to Old Mill Track (DoC Tk 18) on the shore line. Some walked north on Tramline Track to the waterfall.

**6 Feb** **Awana dunes, wetland and pa site.** (Collection Area 7a in the list)  
The wetlands and dunes adjacent to the DoC camp site were botanised. Most of the party then crossed the river at low tide, climbed to the pa site and explored the beach area to the north.

**6 Feb** **Harataonga Walkway.** (Collection Area 7b in the list)  
Walked from south to north with a few stops along the way.

**7 Feb** **Kaiarara Track and Kauri Dam** (Collection Area 8 in the list)  
From the gate on the Kaiarara Road to the conserved dam (DoC Tk 9) and then back by the same route. Several people went on to look for the upper dam. This is noted on some maps but was not found.

**30 Jan** **to**  
**8 Feb** **Orama - Nimaru Bay including BBQ Bay.** (Collection Area 9 in the list)  
A track going north from Orama to Nimaru Bay, with a side trip to BBQ Bay and about 100 metres along the ridge from the track towards Te Heruheru. The beach front at Nimaru Bay was also explored. The walk in this area was done by groups during the stay at Orama.

### **New, doubtful and excluded records.**

This section includes those taxa that are in the full list, from Page 5 onwards, but were not included in the list compiled by Ewen Cameron in the 2002 Auckland Botanical Society Journal 57(1).

Also noted are taxa reported by members of the Wellington Botanical Society and others but that have been excluded from the plant list. Mention is made of species where name changes and subsequent information make previous records uncertain.

#### **Asplenium obtusatum ssp. northlandicum.**

This fern is included in the Cameron 2002 list but is not common. An *Asplenium* was reported during the Wellington Botanical Society visit to Mangati Bay. Plants were in rock crevices in the wave splash zone facing south to the open sea. The plant was very probably *Asplenium obtusatum* ssp. *northlandicum*. On the plant list below it is noted as a possible sighting as no specimen was collected for examination.

#### **Blechnum minus**

*Blechnum minus* was included with *B. novae-zelandiae* in Cameron 2002.

It is recorded in Graeme Jane's 2002 lists for Kaitoki Springs and for Windy Canyon.

During the Wellington Botanical Society visit it was recorded from the Wangapoua dunes between one and two kilometres south of the Mabeys Road entrance to the Bay and some 200 metres inland from the beach. The site was of open manuka, with hangihangi and red matipo.

The same species was noticed elsewhere in the area.

#### **Brachyglottis kirkii**

The initial list used by members of the Wellington Botanical Society included *Brachyglottis kirkii* without mention of varieties. It is probable that the plants recorded were *B. kirkii* var. *kirkii*.

### **Carmichaelia arborea**

This species has been excluded from the list.

Its known distribution is restricted to the South Island. *C. grandiflora* (a synonym for *C. arborea*) is recorded in Graeme Jane's 1997 list for Mt Hobson.

### **Colensoa physaloides**

Recorded in Cameron 2002 list as being only on Arid (Rakitu) Island.

### **Coprosma macrocarpa x C. propinqua**

This hybrid was collected by Shelley Heiss-Dunlop from a patch of scrub at the first bend on the inland side of the Awama Estuary and subsequently identified by Ewen Cameron.

### **Dactylanthus taylorii**

This species is excluded from the list.

Cameron 2002 lists the species with a question mark. Ewen Cameron has subsequently advised that there was a specimen but it later proved to be a hoax and not from Great Barrier Island.

### **Einadia allanii (= *Chenopodium allanii*)**

This has been excluded from the list.

It was reported during the Wellington Botanical Society's visit but is probably *Einadia trigonos* ssp. *trigonos*. See NZ Plant Conservation Network data base entry under *Einadia allanii*, this refers Northland reports of *Einadia allanii* to *Einadia trigonos* ssp. *trigonos*.

### **Hebe macrocarpa p.p. = H. "Great Barrier Island"**

This taxa has been retained in the plant list although its status is doubtful.

Bayley and Kellow 2006<sup>5</sup>, page 202-203 discuss the difficulty of discriminating between the traditionally recognised var. *macrocarpa* and var. *latisepala*. They point out that chromosome numbers and morphological characters are not consistent.

Graeme Jane's 1997 list for Medlands Hill has a *Hebe macrocarpa* pp recorded as a synonym of *Hebe pubescens* ssp. *rehuarum*.

### **Hierochloe redolens**

The species has been retained on the plant list. It was noted in Cameron 2002 as presumed extinct on Great Barrier Island.

During the Wellington Botanical Society's visit Neill Simpson reported this from the coastal track at Whangaparapara. He subsequently remarked that this species was coastal and, from his recollection, not uncommon. No specimens and no more detailed location were collected.

### **Hoheria sexstylosa**

This taxa is included under *H. populnea* agg. in the plant list below. It may well be a misidentification.

This species was recorded in Graeme Jane's 1997 list from Port Fitzroy (Lookout Rock) as *Hoheria sexstylosa*.

### **Petalochilus pusillus**

*Petalochilus pusillus* is included with *Petalochilus bartlettii* in the list.

It was listed in Ewen Cameron 2002 as a new name for a *Caledenia*.

### **Pimelea prostrata**

This species has been included in the plant list under this name. It is recorded in Graeme Jane's 1997 list for Cape Barrier. It was recorded by Cameron 2002 as *Pimelea* aff. *urvilleanus*.

The Wellington Botanical Society reported this from Awana dunes.

<sup>5</sup> Bayley M.J. and Kellow A.V. *An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand Hebes* Te Papa Press, Wellington 2006.

### **Polystichum richardii**

This fern is included in Cameron 2002 list. Subsequently the taxa has been divided into several species.

The likely species to be found on Great Barrier Island are *Polystichum neozelandicum* ssp. *neozelandicum* and *Polystichum wawranum*. Neither of these was seen by the members of the Wellington Botanical Society.

Graeme Jane lists *Polystichum neozelandicum* ssp. *neozelandicum* for Cape Barrier and for Medlands Hill, both in 1997.

### **Pomaderris phylicifolia var. ericifolia**

Cameron 2002 lists *Pomaderis* aff. *phylicifolia*.

Previous lists had the name *P. phylicifolia* var. *ericifolia*. It was record by the Wellington Botanical Society under this name.

The NZ Plant Conservation Network database has *Pomaderris phylicifolia* var. *ericifolia* as a synonym of *Pomaderris amoena*. Some further study is apparently required.

The species name *Pomaderris phylicifolia* var. *ericifolia* has been used in the plant list that follows.

### **Raukaua anomalus**

Recorded in Graeme Jane's 1997 list for Mt Hobson, the 1998 list for the lower slopes of Mt Hobson, the 1997 list from Port Fitzroy, the 2002 list for Kaitoki Springs and for Rosalie Bay-Medlands in 1997.

It was noted by the Wellington Botanical Society on the track to Coopers Castle from the Fitzroy/Orama road junction.

### **Senecio hispidulus**

This species has been included in the plant list.

It is noted in Graeme Jane's 1995 list for the Whangapoua wetland and dunes.

It was reported by the Wellington Botanical Society from the Harataonga Walkway.

This species was mistakenly omitted from Cameron 2002.

### **Spergularia media**

This species has been included in the plant list.

It is recorded in Graeme Jane's 2002 list for Rosalie Island.

It was listed by Cameron 2002 under its old name, *Spergularia marginata*.

### **Stellaria decipiens**

This species has not been included in the list.

It is not in the Cameron 2002 published list. It is in Graeme Jane's Species List as *Stellaria decipiens* agg. Graeme Jane notes that this aggregate includes *S. parviflora* and *S. minuta*. The NZ Plant Conservation Network regards all three taxa as separate species.

### **Tmesipteris elongata**

The subspecies recorded in Cameron 2002 list have been dropped from the plant list below.

*Tmesipteris elongata* ssp. *robusta* and *Tmesipteris elongata* ssp. *elongata* are regarded as synonyms of *Tmesipteris elongata* in both the NZ Plant Conservation Network and Landcare Research databases.