

There was some evidence of recent ringbarking of fivefinger trees by deer (both tooth and antler damage) and, indeed, there was a report in *The Press* in August 2010 of a stag seen swimming in Queen Charlotte Sound about 1 km from the shore. In one area, young five-fingers had been well browsed by deer. Rat and mustelid traps were noted, as well as wax-tags, which indicate the presence of possums by bite marks.

One matai with a trunk diameter of 113 cm was admired, as well as a colony of about twelve mature hard beech trees on the ridge, which were seeding well.

Grateful thanks are due to Arthur for getting us to and from the island in his boat.

DAY 5 WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016
PURIRI PRESERVATION QEII COVENANT REVISITED
Miles Giller

Several of us were disappointed that we had not been able to spend more time on the top ridgeline of Puriri Preservation Covenant on Day 3. Thus a small group of us defied a dodgy weather forecast and headed back up there two days later.

Our main route ascended up a dry rock-strewn gully (Fig. 9) with precious little understorey or groundcover apart from the scrambling fern *Blechnum filiforme*, albeit hemmed in on either side by intimidating tangles of kiekie



Figure 9 Puriri Preservation Covenant. A rubble-strewn gully provided the clearest route to the ridge top (photo Miles Giller).

(*Freycinetia banksii*). On reaching the top we were soon rewarded for our effort with several new finds including the filmy ferns *Hymenophyllum flabellatum*, *H. sanguinolentum*, *H. revolutum*, *H. rarum* and *Trichomanes endlicherianum*. The twisted and gnarled trunks of several southern rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*) provided habitat for large sprawls of kidney fern and a delightful goblin-forest setting for a quick lunch.

Fortuitously we then came upon a cleared track, enabling us to cover a respectable distance in the increasingly gloomy conditions. The gradual onset of rain (and the promise of fresh fish for our evening meal) eventually lured us back downhill towards the shelter of the house. Despite some seriously dense head-high kiekie (Fig. 10) our distinctly ungainly descent was still botanically fruitful, revealing the epiphytes *Drymoanthus adversus* and *Astelia microsperma*, *Coprosma grandifolia* plus several akeake trees (*Dodonaea*



Figure 10 Puriri Preservation Covenant. Fruit of kiekie (*Freycinetia banksii*) (photo Miles Giller).

viscosa) growing on a dry spur. We felt that the altitudinal sequence, the range of disturbance patterns and the highly localised impact of goats could provide opportunity for other novelties, and would love to return with more time to explore this and other corners of the covenant.

On the basis of our observations on Day 3 and Day 5, a covenant species list was compiled (Table 2, p. 80).

DAY 6 THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2016

RETURN TO PICTON

We were relieved that the overnight strong wind and rain had subsided by morning. This made our boat trip back to Picton much smoother. The poisoned wilding pine trees on some of the areas we passed stood out in stark contrast to those areas where there had been no such control.

Thank you to Jonet Ward, Arthur Adcock and the other owners of the Puriri Preservation property for allowing our group to visit and stay in the house at Puriri Bay. We had a most enjoyable trip.

Table 1 Species list for the southeastern side of Blumine Island

Ferns & Lycopods	Monocot herbs
<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	<i>Astelia solandri</i>
<i>Adiantum fulvum</i>	<i>Deyeuxia avenoides</i>
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	<i>Dianella nigra</i>
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	<i>Earina mucronata</i>
<i>Asplenium hookeri</i>	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	<i>Gahnia pauciflora</i>
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	<i>Lachnagrostis</i> sp.
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	<i>Phormium cookianum</i>
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	<i>Poa anceps</i>
<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	<i>Trisetum antarcticum</i>
<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>
<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	<i>Gastrodia</i> sp.
<i>Hymenophyllum revolutum</i>	
<i>Lastreopsis velutina</i>	Dicot herbs
<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	<i>Crassula</i> sp.
<i>Lindsaea trichomanoides</i>	<i>Dichondra repens</i>
<i>Lycopodium volubile</i>	<i>Disphyma australe</i>
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle moschata</i>
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	<i>Linum monogynum</i>
<i>Pellaea rotundifolia</i>	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>