

Hāpuakōrari and Ruapae

Tararua Forest Park

*Masterton and South Wairarapa Tramping Clubs
(unscheduled)*

12-14 January 2025



Mangatainoka River













Hāpuakōrari



The beautiful Ruamahanga lakelet lies at the foot of Haukura Ridge, on a terrace above the river. A tiny island within it supports the idea that this is the mythical Hāpuakōrari, for Wairarapa Māori fleeing eastward across the Tararuas are said to have taken refuge from pursuers on an island in the sacred lake.

In 2003, Joseph Potangaroa of Wairarapa's Rangitāne iwi and seven other Wairarapa Māori made a pilgrimage to the Ruamahanga lakelet. Awed by the beauty of their sacred lake and its giant rimu, they waded in silence to the island, where they mihi-ed and made koha to the lake, the taniwha and their tūpuna. He said, 'I came away feeling that this is Aotearoa at its primal best.'





Hotel Hāpuakōrari





Uropetala carovei

Blechnum discolor







Sticherus cunninghamii



Euphrasia cuneata



Haukura Ridge from the
climb to Ruapae



Anaphalioides bellidioides



Brachglottis sp.



Haukura Ridge, East Peak and Dundas
Ridge from Ruapae



The Hines-Kareti-Massey-Conical
Knob-Ngamaia ridge, from Ruapae

A line from Ngapuketurua (on the flattish ridge in the centre) to Mt Dundas formed the eastern boundary of the Horowhenua Block, which stretched westward to the coast near Lake Horowhenua. The convoluted history of the block, told in a 700-page Waitangi Tribunal report, was driven by the provincial government's desire to acquire land for settlers and underlain by disagreement—sometimes violent—between Muaūpoko and Ngāti Raukawa.

By 1900 only a quarter of the original Horowhenua Block remained with Muaūpoko. The Waitangi Tribunal report describes the process—particularly in relation to the fertile lowlands on which the subsistence of the Muaūpoko people depended—as having 'plunged a cohesive tribe with a secure land base into a vortex of litigation leaving them divided and debt-ridden'.





Olearia arborescens



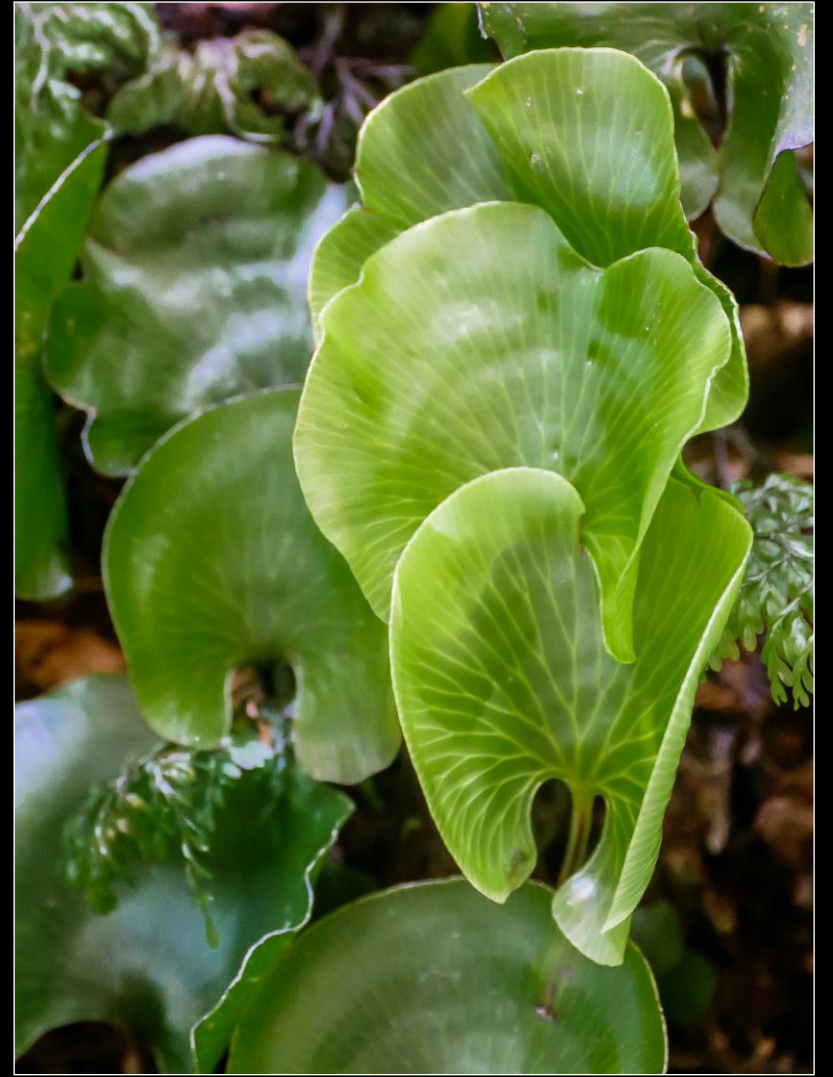
Herepai Hut was beautifully renovated by the Greater Wellington Backcountry Trust in 2022.

Bruce Abraham regularly travels down from Coopers Beach in the far north to tramp in the Tararuas. He's heading towards Dundas, then wherever the spirit moves him.





Blechnum novae-zelandiae



Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum



Fuscospora fusca



Pterophylla racemosa



Pittosporum eugeniodes



Cyathea medullaris



Astelia sp.





