

The bush circuit started at the front of the church and we ambled slowly and botanically along the river bed. The canopy was dense, closely regrowth of straight tall totora *Podocarpus totora* pushing upwards to reach the light. We made an estimation of how old they were 80 – 100 years? Tall Matai trees were also seen. Under the canopy a variety of regenerating species dominated by *Coprosma rotundifolia*, *Melictyus micranthus*,



*Coprosma rhamnoides*

Birds were a highlight. We spotted bell birds, tui, wood pigeons, grey warblers, and fantail.

Obviously the native birds were doing a brilliant job of bringing in new species and regenerating the bush.

There was a large glade of young nikau plants but very few mature species.

A few larger Rimu were now spotted.

Of interest was the Putaputaweta with a Puriri moth still at home, and many traditional empty holes on it's trunk.

*Libertia* species and Paritaniwha, as well as a range of ferns and mosses covering the ground. A short distance along the track we encountered a steep bank covered in a mass of *Rhabdothamnus solandri*.

We started climbing slowly and the vegetation changed. At the lunch spot we sat on dry, dead fronds under a stand of tree ferns then climbed to a superb stand of kohekohe.



Seeds of *Libertia ixoides*



Habitat of Puriri Grub



Distinctive bark of Matai



Native Pigeon in Kohekohe