

Some treasures of Hukutaia

Tecomanthe speciosa: a rare climber from the Three Kings Islands.

Pisonia brunoniana: the bird catching tree, with its sticky seed capsules.

Kaikomako: the fire making tree, used by early Maori to generate fire.

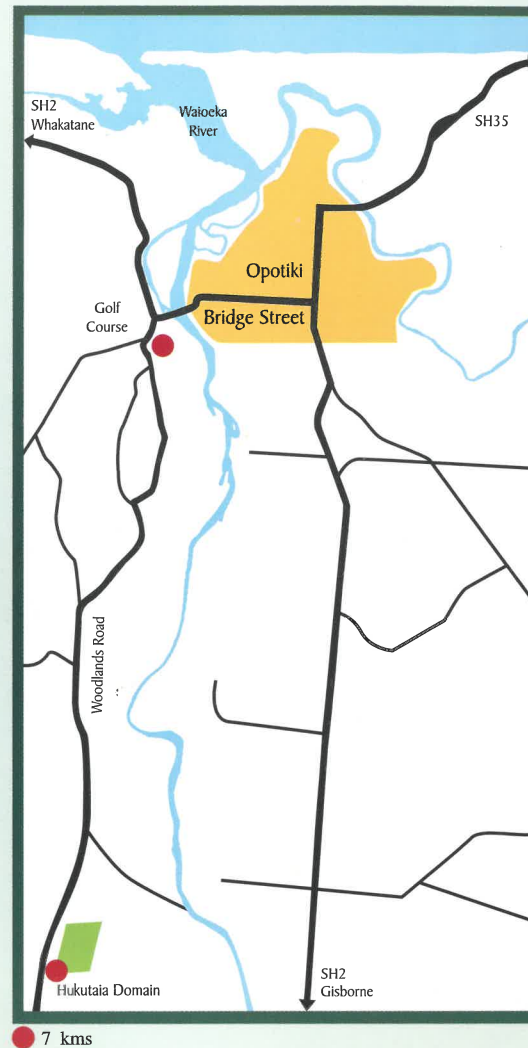
Mangeao: one of the toughest woods, used for wheel spokes and swingle trees in the days of horse teams.

King Ferns: magnificent with their fronds up to 3 metres in length.

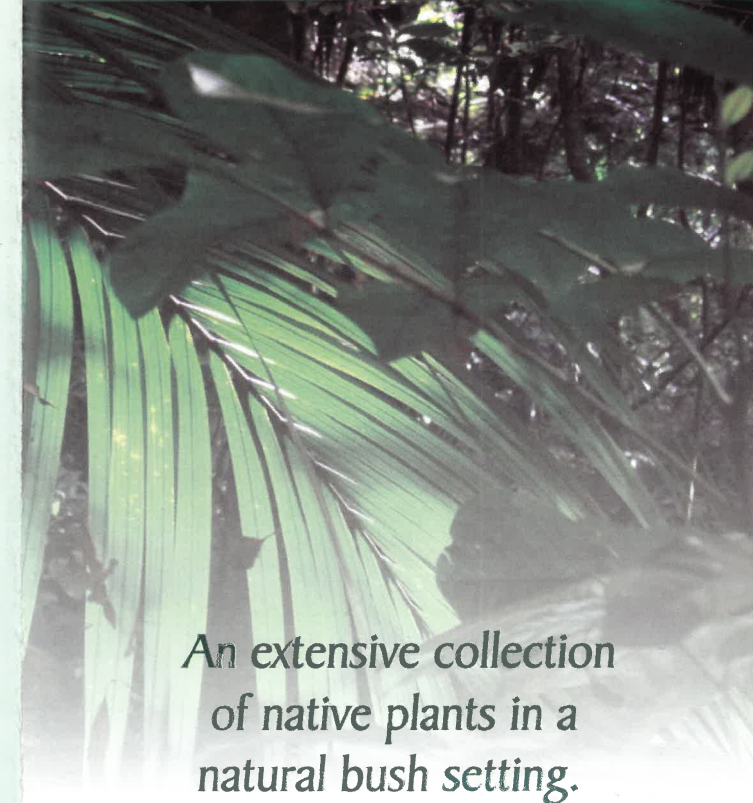
Tree Ferns: seven of the eight species are present at Hukutaia.

Poor Knights Lily: with brilliant flower heads throughout the summer.

How to get there...



Hukutaia Domain, Opotiki



8km from Opotiki on the Woodlands Road



Please Remember: Hukutaia Domain is an important botanical resource. Removal of plant materials not permitted.

Hukutaia Domain Care Group

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Hukutaia Domain...

Hukutaia Domain is 4.5 hectares of native bush remnant, featuring ancient Puriri trees, mighty Tawa, and many varieties of ferns, mosses and fungi. It provides a glimpse of how the local area looked before cultivation of the land changed the landscape.

Hukutaia is also a collection of native plants and trees, gathered from all parts of New Zealand and its off-shore islands. There are an estimated 1500 different varieties in amongst the 7000 specimens, many of them labelled.



History...

The Domain was set aside as a Reserve in 1918, mainly to protect Taketakerau, the magnificent ancient Puriri tree.

From 1930 to 1970 Norman Potts, a keen local amateur botanist, travelled throughout New Zealand to collect plants which he then established at Hukutaia. His work was continued by Marc Heginbotham through the 1970s to 1990.

Today Hukutaia is cared for by the volunteers of the Hukutaia Domain Care Group, along with the Opotiki District Council.

- There are a number of short easy walks at Hukutaia Domain.
- Rest areas with picnic tables are available for your enjoyment.
- Public toilets are provided.

Taketakerau (The Burial Tree)

At the heart of Hukutaia stands Taketakerau, the burial tree. This giant Puriri tree, estimated to be over 2000 years old, was used by the Upokorehe hapu as a place to store the bones of their distinguished dead.

The tree was highly tapu and any interference with the site was a deadly affront of the atua (ancestral gods), bringing death to the offenders. When a storm damaged the tree and exposed the bones in the early days of European settlement, the bones were removed by the local iwi for reburial elsewhere.



The hollow in the Burial Tree where bones of the dead used to be kept by the early Maori.