

# Wellington Botanical Society

# NEWSLETTER October 2001

Last Issue: April 2001

ISSN 1171-9982

## 2001/2002 committee

At the 62nd Annual General Meeting on 20 August, the following were elected:

President:	Vicky Froude	233 9823
Vice-Presidents:	Chris Horne+	475 7025
	Vacancy	
Secretary:	Barbara Clark	233 8202
Treasurer:	Jane Humble	971 6970
Committee:	Penny Currier	473 9520
	Darryl Kee *	527 4093
	Julia White	938 5102
	Joyce Wilson	934 2437
	Jane Wright *	499 7774
Submissions Co-ordinator:	Barbara Mitcalfe	475 7149
Auditor:	Rodney Lewington	475 3145
Bulletin Editor:	John Sawyer	472 5821

+ Newsletter Editor

\* Co-opted

## Manawa Karioi Society Revegetation Programme

### WORK BEES

10.00 am every Wednesday  
and

2nd Sunday each month.

Lunch provided.

*Potted native seedlings  
welcome. Thank you.*

Contact:

Morgan Cox ph 383 5168 or  
Sally Bowman ph 934 7041

## BotSoc Bulletin

The 60th anniversary issue of the Bulletin, No. 48, is being readied for publication, so we are now accepting contributions for issue No.49. We already have two-thirds of the issue, so please contact John Sawyer if you would like to write an article. You can write about a particular Wellington species, rare or common, a particular place that is botanically interesting, perhaps including a species checklist, your experiences in cultivating native plants, a recent botanical discovery in the region, observations on the flowering or fruiting of native plants, or your observations of ecological interactions between species. Please send articles to:

John Sawyer, Editor, WBS Bulletin, Department of Conservation, PO Box 5086, Wellington. E-mail: jsawyer@doc.govt.nz

## Wellington Botanical Society

President:	Vicky Froude	233 9823 (h)	
Secretary:	Barbara Clark	233 8202 (h)	233 2222 (fax)
Treasurer:	Jane Humble	971 6970 (h)	
Address:	PO Box 10-412, Wellington 6036		
Bulletin Editor:	John Sawyer, DOC, PO Box 5086, Wellington		
Contributions for Newsletter (news, views, information) to:			
Chris Horne, 28 Kaihuia St, Northland, WN 5. Tel 475 7025			
Annual Subscription: ordinary \$22; country \$17; student \$12.			
Send your subscription to Treasurer, WBS, PO Box 10-412, WN.			
Please use the subscription form at the back of this Newsletter.			

## Meetings

Botanical Society meetings are normally held at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month at Victoria University, Wellington, Room K301, 3rd floor, New Kirk Building, Kelburn Parade.

From Kelburn Parade, climb steps towards Easterfield Building, then walk north to door into 3rd floor of New Kirk Building, where pedestrian overbridge joins it.

## Field Trips

Day trips to locations in the Wellington region are usually held on the first Saturday of each month. Extended excursions are normally held at New Year, Wellington Anniversary Weekend and Easter.

**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 15 November 2001**

# **PROGRAMME: NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2001**

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## **CLOTHING FOR FIELD TRIPS**

Sun hat, balaclava<sup>1</sup> or hat<sup>1</sup>, waterproof/windproof parka, long-sleeved cotton shirt, singlet<sup>1</sup>, bushshirt<sup>1</sup>, 1 or 2 jerseys<sup>1</sup>, waterproof/windproof overtrousers, nylon shorts, longjohns<sup>1</sup>, longs<sup>1</sup>, underclothes, swimming togs, 4pr socks<sup>1</sup>, hut shoes, boots, gaiters, mittens<sup>1</sup>, handkerchief.

## **DAY TRIP GEAR**

First aid kit, compass<sup>2</sup>, map<sup>2</sup>, insect repellent, whistle, matches in waterproof container, water purification tablets, water bottle, thermos, pocket knife, camera<sup>2</sup>, binoculars<sup>2</sup>, hand lens<sup>2</sup>, note book<sup>2</sup>, pen and pencil<sup>2</sup>, sunblock, sunglasses, large plastic survival bag to line pack.

## **OVERNIGHT TRIP GEAR AND FOOD**

In addition to all the day trip gear listed above, bring torch, spare bulb and batteries, candle, mug, plate, knife, fork, spoon, small towel, soap, tooth brush, tent, fly, poles and pegs, groundsheet, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, liner and stuff bag. Bring bread, butter/ margarine, biscuits, fresh fruit and scroggin. SCROGGIN = Sultanas, Chocolate or Carob, Raisins, Orange peel, Glucose<sup>3</sup>, Ginger, Including Nuts.

<sup>1</sup> = wool, polypropylene or polarfleece as applicable.

<sup>2</sup> Optional

<sup>3</sup> Dried apricots are recommended instead of glucose but would spoil the acronym!!

If you intend to join a trip, **PLEASE** phone the leader at least **TWO DAYS** beforehand. This will enable him/her to arrange for a copy of the species list for you, and to let you know of any changes and/or particular requirements. If you cannot ring so far in advance, you are still welcome to join on the day.

## **FITNESS AND EXPERIENCE**

Our field trips vary considerably in the level of fitness and tramping experience required. Although our main focus is botanical, our programme sometimes offers trips which, in the pursuit of our botanical aims, are more strenuous than others. Although leaders take care to minimise risks, everyone participates at their own risk. If you have any questions about whether you are fit enough for a particular trip, please contact the leader well beforehand.

## **REIMBURSEMENT OF DRIVERS**

If you travel on a trip in someone else's vehicle, please pay your share of the running costs to your driver. If a trip on the inter-island ferry is involved, please pay your driver your share of the ferry fare.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO MEETINGS**

You may find the following bus services useful. They stop on Kelburn Parade, about 100m from Lecture Theatre K301 in the New Kirk Building, Victoria University:

### **TO MEETINGS**

No. 23 Mairangi - 6.30 pm from Houghton Bay, 6.40 Zoo, 6.50 Courtenay Place, 6.57 Pastoral House, 7.02 University.

No. 23 Mairangi - 6.55 pm from Southgate, 7.05 Hospital, 7.15 Courtenay Place, 7.22 Pastoral House, 7.27 University.

No. 17 Karori Park - 7.07 pm from Bunny Street, 7.15 University.

No. 22 Southgate - 6.55 pm from Mairangi, 7.10 University.

No. 23 Houghton Bay - 7.25 pm from Mairangi, 7.40 University.

No. 17 Railway Station - 6.37 pm from Karori Park, 6.54 University.

Cable Car at 00, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 min past each hour from Lambton Quay terminus. Alight at Salamanca Station.

### **FROM MEETINGS**

No. 23 Southgate - 9.10 from University.

No. 23 Southgate - 10.10 from University.

Cable Car at approx. 01, 11, 21, 31, 41, 51 minutes past each hour from Salamanca Station. Last service 10.01 pm.

For further information ring Ridewell Enquiry Service 801-7000.

## **Help the Editor**

Compiling this newsletter takes several days. If you can help by word-processing your own material and sending it on disk, preferably in WordPerfect 5.1, it will be much appreciated.

**The following programme IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. If you wish to go on a field trip, PLEASE help with planning by giving the leader 2 days' notice before a day trip, MORE notice before weekend trips, and SEVERAL WEEKS' notice before the New Year's trip.**

### **Saturday 3 November: Field trip**

### **Boulder Hill KNE**

Botanise this Key Native Ecosystem near the high point of Belmont Regional Park. Includes *Meliccytus lanceolatus*, and numerous tree fern and ground fern species. Meet 9.00 am at clothing bins, bottom of Major Drive, Kelson, near SH2 traffic lights. Map R27. Ring leader, Pat Enright, 495 0966(h); 498 7924(w). Deputy: Peter Beveridge 237 8777.

### **Monday 19 November: Evening meeting**

### **1. Lichens – Lichen or Not? 2. Botanical research at Victoria University**

Speakers:

1. Nadia Ormiston, Joanne Bailey, Lauren Bailey and Katherine Bromley, Form II, St Mark's Church School, will report on their project which won one of the BotSoc special prizes of \$100 at the NIWA Wellington Science Fair.
2. Students who have received BotSoc Travel Grants to help with their field work, will report on their results.

### **Saturday 1–Sunday 2 December: Field trip**

### **Eastern Wairarapa**

Botanise Kaiwhata River mouth and Uruti Dune, the largest dune system in Eastern Wairarapa. Accommodation: TBA – contact Chris Horne 04 475 7025. Meet: 10 am corner Riversdale Rd and Homewood Rd. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Map T27 Te Wharau. Leader: Saturday – Aalbert Rebergen; leader: Sunday – TBA.

### **27 December 2001-8 January 2002: Field Trip**

### **Twizel, Lake Ohau, Huxley/Hopkins Valleys and more wonderful places**

See overleaf

## **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are now due. If you receive an invoice with this newsletter, we would welcome your continued membership. Prompt payment is a great help to BotSoc, and saves you money! There is \$5 discount for ordinary, country and student subscriptions paid before 30 November.

*Jane Humble  
Treasurer*

## **A northern rata under threat in Lower Hutt?**

Northern rata used to form a very substantial component of Wellington ecosystems but they were logged and burnt by the thousand. Possums find them very palatable and can browse them to death within two years. As of March 1999, northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta* in the Wellington Region has been the subject of a DOC restoration programme.

Several BotSocers are keeping an eye on a situation which has developed in Lower Hutt. Some months ago, HCC sold the Daly St property on which the tree stands, to a developer, who says the tree has to go. The tree is a handsome, healthy, multi-trunked specimen about 10 m high. The estimated cost of relocating the tree is ca. \$25,000, and HCC say they can't afford to move it. As of 16 October, Judy Robb, HCC Horticultural Manager, says the tree was made available for public sale without success. However, it now appears that HCC are in negotiations to keep the tree on site. Here's hoping!

*Barbara Mitcalfe*

## **Donation**

We thank Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation, for a generous donation of \$1000, which we have put towards the purchase of a new display board for use during Conservation Week, at Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day etc. If you know of any local event at which the display could be mounted, this may be able to be arranged.

We would welcome your donation or loan of photographs of plants and BotSocers for addition to the display. Help BotSoc to spread the word!

*Jane Humble, Treasurer*

## **Graham Petterson honoured**

We congratulate Graham who has been presented with the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's "Old Blue" award. This acknowledges his diligent work and generosity which has led to tens of thousands of native trees, shrubs and flaxes now thriving in Takaka, Palmerston North and Kapiti districts. His native plant nurseries have assisted Forest and Bird and local planting projects.

*Vicky Froude, President*

(Source: Forest & Bird No.301, August 2001)

## **Bequest**

We thank the estate of Patricia Margaret Lineham for a bequest of \$1000 to be used for the publication of the Bulletin.

*Jane Humble, Treasurer*

**27 December 2001-8 January 2002: Field Trip**

**Twizel, Lake Ohau, Huxley/Hopkins Valleys  
and more wonderful places**

Combined trip with Botanical Society of Otago

*Based at:* Twizel Area School, Twizel – Thurs 27 Dec to Wed 2 Jan.

Huxley Lodge, Lake Ohau – Wed 2 Jan to Mon 7 Jan (Huxley Lodge is 9 km up the Hopkins Valley, at the head of Lake Ohau)

*Twizel Area School* has a Home Economics Room which has stoves for cooking, some classrooms, for sleeping on the floor, and for communal activities, 2 showers, several loos, a small staffroom, a nearby swimming pool, **but no camping facilities**. Group cooking will be done at the school

*Parklands Alpine Tourist Park* is nearby. Camping space available, and limited backpacker and unit accommodation. Please do your own booking if you require this accommodation. Phone: 03 435 050.

*Huxley Lodge* has sleeping accommodation, in a cottage/hut/cabins/lofts for 45 people, an ablution block, kitchen with a wood stove and gas cooker, and meeting room(s). Plenty of camping space available on the flats nearby. Bring a torch!

*Accommodation Costs*

1. Twizel School	• Sleeping and use of facilities:	\$11/day	• Use of facilities only	\$6/day
2. Parklands	• Backpackers:	\$15/day	• Camping	\$9/day
3. Huxley Lodge	• Indoors:	\$11/day	• Camping	\$6/day

*Maps:* Lake Ohau H38, Omarama H39, Tasman H37, Burley Pass I38, Lake Tekapo I37.

*Recommended reading*

“Wild Plants of Mt Cook National Park”. Hugh Wilson.

“Wetlands Plants in NZ”. Peter Johnson & Pat Brooke.

Moir’s Guide Book – Northern Section.

**Food:** Bring your own bread, butter/marg, biscuits, scroggin, fresh fruit. In Twizel we will be near shops and cafes. At Huxley Lodge, you will need supplies for 5 days.

**Clothing:** Be prepared for cold weather as well as hot weather.

*Travel*

Wellington to Christchurch – by air, or by ferry to Picton, then train or bus to Christchurch.

Christchurch to Twizel – bus or shuttle. (Allow 2 days for travel)

Cars – North Islanders with spare seats, or those who would like an expenses-shared lift, ring Barbara Clark 04 233 8202, e-mail: kevin.clark@clear.net.nz

**MAKE YOUR FERRY/TRAIN/BUS/SHUTTLE OR FLIGHT BOOKINGS NOW!!!**

**REGISTRATION** Please complete the registration form below and send it to:

Julia White, 17 South Karori Road, Karori, Wellington 6005. Ph 04 938 5102, e-mail [juliawhite@paradise.net.nz](mailto:juliawhite@paradise.net.nz) with a cheque for \$100, as a deposit, made out to Wellington Botanical Society, to reach her on or before

**5 November 2001.**

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Area code \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: Area code \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Accommodation:**

*Twizel*

I would like to sleep at Twizel School @ \$11/a night for \_\_\_\_\_ nights

I will make my own accommodation arrangements at Parklands 03 435 0507.

(Plus \$6/day for use of Twizel School facilities). \_\_\_\_\_

*Huxley Lodge*

Inside: I would like to share a cottage/cabin/loft at \$11/night, for \_\_\_\_\_ nights.

Outside: I would like to camp in my own tent @ \$6/night, for \_\_\_\_\_ nights.

**Special Requirements:** Please indicate any special food, health or other requirements.

## EVENTS

1. Symposium: NZ seeds - their morphology, ecology and use as indicators. Lincoln University, Canterbury. **29 November**. A McGlinchy, Landcare Research, Box 69, Lincoln 8152. E-mail: mcglinchya@landcare.cri.nz Fax 03 325 2418.  
Associated events:
  - \* **28 November**, 3pm at Landcare Research: Celebration of the "Allan Herbarium" - naming of the herbarium in honour of HH Allan and his contribution to NZ botany.
  - \* **28 November**, 6pm at Canterbury Museum: Launch of "Seeds of NZ -Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons" by Colin Webb and Margaret Simpson.
  - \* **29 November**, 4.30pm at Lincoln University: General meeting of NZ Botanical Society.
2. Dobbie fern exhibition: "Ferns & Folk" - features the works of Herbert B Dobbie (1852-1940), fern enthusiast, whose book "NZ Ferns" was the fern bible for NZ botanists for nearly 70 years. Exhibition includes early illustrations and collections of ferns, family photographs, and the use of the fern as a decorative motif and emblem. Auckland Museum, **until August 2002**.

(From NZ Botanical Society Newsletter, No.65, 9/01)

3. Rimutaka Restoration Reserve - another opening! **10 March 2002\***. In 1994, NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust purchased 800ha of regenerating forest to the east of SH2, on the Featherston side of Rimutaka Summit. An adjoining 350ha block has now been purchased, thanks to the success of the Trust's 20th anniversary Celebration Appeal. This addition will be celebrated and the Trust's supporters in the Wellington region thanked for their donations.  
\* Full details will be given in the next issue of the Trust's "Canopy" newsletter, or you can contact Alec (Ben) Thorpe on 04 589 1887, or e-mail: kva.bent@xtra.co.nz

## PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. Mistletoes in Wellington. Your copy is enclosed with this newsletter.
- 1b. Footnotes, Issue 15 15/6/01. Articles include: New reserve at Seatoun; Goat sightings needed; new conservation awareness projects; new publications.  
*Dept. of Conservation, Box 5086, WN. Ph 04 475 2821.*
- 2a. Sophora (Fabaceae) in NZ: taxonomy, distribution and biogeography. PB Heenan, PJ de Lange, AD Wilton. 2000. NZ Journal of Botany 39: 17-53. 36p.
- 2b. *Pachystegia rufa* and allied rock daisies. B Molloy. 2001. Conservation Advisory Science Notes 336. 12p. \$3.50.
- 2c. Weed surveillance - how often to search? S Harris, J Brown, S Timmins. 2001. Science for Conservation 175. 27p. \$12.50.
- 2d. Viability and germination of seeds of *Carmichaelia* (Fabaceae) after prolonged storage. I Gruner, PB Heenan. 2001. NZ Journal of Botany 39: 125-131.
- 2e. Re-establishment of shrubby tororaro (*Muehlenbeckia astonii* Petrie), a nationally threatened plant. D Norton. 2001. Science & Research Internal Report 188. 21p.
- 2f. Evaluating methods for the protected natural areas programme. P Bellingham. 2001. Science & Research Internal Report 190. 32p. \$12.50.
- 2g. Protection and recovery of the pygmy button daisy 2001-2011. 2001. Threatened Species Recovery Plan 34. 36p. \$15.
- 2h. Tracking the fate of NZ's natural heritage. 2001. Factsheet. 4p.
- 2i. A new *Coprosma* (Rubiaceae) from the Surville Cliffs, North Cape, NZ. PJ de Lange, PB Heenan. 2001. NZ Journal of Botany. 39: 217-223.
- 2j. The Identity of *Olearia buchananii* (Asteraceae). RO Gardner, PJ de Lange. 2001. NZ Journal of Botany 39:209-221.
- 2k. Prospects for biological control of *Tradescantia fluminensis* Vell. (Commelinaceae). RJ Standish. 2001. DOC Science Internal Series 9:13p.
- 2l. Science Counts! - National Strategic Science & Research Portfolios, Programmes, Priority Actions - 2002/03 and beyond.
- 2m. Science Publications 2000. Catalogue of titles, authors, subjects.
- 2n. Making the Best Choices for Conservation. May 2001.  
*Science Publications, Dept.of Conservation, Box 10 420, WN. Ph 04 471 0726.*

3. Greening our Gulf Islands - a manual for native revegetation with special reference to Waiheke. Don Chapple, Rachael Ebbett, Ivan Kitson. 2nd revised edition. Jan 2001. \$9.90 incl. p&p. D Chapple, 10 Te Aroha Ave, Hekerua Bay, Waikeke Island. (We thank Sue Hall, Palmerston North, for presenting a copy to BotSoc. It is available to lend to members - please tell Barbara Clark, Secretary, if you would like to borrow it).
4. Nature Guide to the NZ forest. John Dawson, Rob Lucas. Bookshops.

## **SYNOPSIS OF SUBMISSIONS**

### **WCC “NEXT YEAR - NEXT DECADE”(= DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN)**

**May:** Natural Environment Overview, Weeds: **Noted** the statement that “vigorous pest and weed management” will strengthen biodiversity, but **commented** that trackside and pathside, Wellington remains woefully weedy; even disregarding gazetted pest plants and garden-escape plants for the moment, an endless suite of common, unsightly weeds infest the city and suburbs have the potential to infest areas of ecological significance such as the Town Belt, reserves, Otari-Wilton’s Bush and Karori Wildlife Sanctuary; **regretted** that Wellingtonians seem to have become innured to their presence; **suggested** that community groups might become involved in planting previously weedy areas in appropriate native species which will be low- or no-maintenance; **supported** Council’s intention to partially fund the Marine Education Centre on the basis that it has already proved its educative worth; **noted** with approval that the landscaping is to feature exclusively Wellington indigenous coastal plants; **complimented** Council on its programme to control rabbits and goats in Long Gully, Te Kopahou and South Karori; **expressed** the hope that it will be extended to include other areas in the vicinity with high natural values; **supported** the continuation of Community Environmental Grants, having seen the benefits evident in the community;

### **WGTM REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN, “TOWARDS A GREATER WGTM”**

**May:** Re Riparian Management, **welcomed** the statement that “the increasing emphasis on biodiversity will require native species to be considered, where appropriate and cost-effective”; **referred** to a fact sheet soon to be published by DOC on indigenous plants suitable for the region’s wet sites, including streambanks; **expressed** the hope that this would stimulate a change to using indigenous plants instead of inappropriate exotics such as willows; **suggested** that estimating the costs of any such change should be balanced against the costs of removing inappropriate exotic species and also the huge loss to biodiversity which has resulted from using exotics for riparian management over decades; **questioned** why Regional Council’s Akura Nursery stocks less than 30% native plants; **emphasised** that the need to prevent further loss of indigenous biodiversity is a compelling reason to use a range of native plants for farm gardens, hedges, plantations, shelter belts, riparian strips, copses and streamside plantings; **suggested** that Council’s land managers take this message out to the farming community.

### **HUTT CITY COUNCIL DRAFT AMENITY HORTICULTURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**May: Opposed** the proposed inclusion of Percy Scenic Reserve as an “Amenity Horticultural Reserve” because it has an internationally significant, scientific collection of alpine and endangered, indigenous NZ plants, a significant, indigenous forest remnant, and only a very minor component of exotic/bedding plants, totally insufficient to warrant an “Amenity Horticulture” classification; **proposed** removing the reserve’s few beds of exotic plants and using the space for the native plants which will have to be relocated during Transit NZ’s upgrade of SH2, e.g. the *Melicytus* collection; similarly, **proposed** that Jubilee Park be withdrawn from the Amenity Horticulture category because of its high, indigenous ecological values; **requested** that separate management plans be drawn up for Percy Scenic Reserve and Jubilee Park and circulated for public comment; **specified** that the plans should focus on the unique scientific values of the former and the significant ecological values of the latter; finally **requested** that adequate funding be allocated in the Annual Plan to the protection of these significant natural assets. (**Note, August 19:** Both reserves have now been withdrawn from the Amenity classification).

### **TO PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL: IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AT 43 THE TRACK, KAREHANA BAY**

**May: Submitted** that because the bush reserve is fragmented, narrow, and subject to intensified edge effect, the two proposed areas which the Lennan family are intending to vest in it would greatly benefit the reserve’s viability, provide much improved access, and would have no detrimental effects.

### **WGTM REGIONAL COUNCIL: PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2001 - 2021**

**May: Supported** combining animal and plant pest control in one document; **recommended** the Purpose Statement be strengthened; **cautioned** that the proposed 20-year term with 5-year reviews will demand high-quality monitoring in order to counteract the possibility of complacency; **strongly supported** the decision to make roading authorities responsible for roadside pests; **welcomed** the inclusion of a section on Key Native Ecosystems in the document and the decision that these areas are to be under Site-Led Management. **suggested** that a list of all KNEs in the region be included in the document and publicised to encourage community groups to become involved in their protection; **recommended** that KNE buffer areas also be subject to Site-Led Management, a precautionary strategy which in the long run should be cost-effective; **noted** that some of the species which we recommended be added to the Boundary Control category last year have been included in the list identified for KNE management; **asked** that others from our list be added, e.g. acanthus, *Hedera helix* ivy, agapanthus, water buttercup *Ranunculus trichophyllus* (infesting Lake Kohangatera), creeping buttercup, crack and grey willow, yellow flag iris and Undaria; **recommended** that a special case

be made for the inclusion of Undaria in the strategy, and that it be managed under a site-led regime; **recommended** that Rudd, Catfish and Koi carp be reclassified as a containment target until eradication tools are available, and that Gambusia be included in containment; **warned** that inspection and surveillance of nurseries, plant shops and other places of sale is vital because too many plants which are deleterious to native ecosystems are on sale; an example which has come to our notice in recent times on the Kapiti Coast in particular, is boobialla, Tasmanian “ngaio”, *Myoporum insulare*, which has been planted extensively in some local restoration projects; **expressed** a preference for performance targets to be yearly, and this information to be made public to encourage community groups to help Council keep track of pest-plant occurrences and perhaps be prepared to help with eradication or control; **welcomed** the inclusion of Banana Passionfruit and Climbing Asparagus in the strategy.

#### **WGTV REGIONAL COUNCIL: TRANSIT NZ UPGRADE OF SH 2, DOWSE TO PETONE**

**May: Queried** whether the proposed mitigation will succeed in preventing actual or potential adverse environmental effects upon the natural and physical resources of Percy Scenic Reserve; **did not oppose** the notice of requirement or the resource consent application on the understanding that Transit will ensure that experienced professional horticulturalists handle the uplifting and relocation of any plants and that all due care is given so that there is no detriment to any of the plants which are to be relocated.

**(At the hearing on 4 October:** Quoted from statements by 6 well-known botanists (all members of BotSoc) about the uniqueness and local, national and international significance of the collections at Percy Scenic Reserve; subsequently, **have been advised** by HCC that we shall be included in discussions when landscaping/plantings details are being finalised.

#### **WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN**

**May:** Re Land Management, in particular Riparian Management, **expressed** the need for a change from the current practice of using exotics such as willows instead of native plants; **argued** that any costs, financial or otherwise, likely to result from making significantly greater use of indigenous plants should be balanced against the costs of removing inappropriate exotic species such as willows, which especially when layered, collect flood debris over time, then break during a flood, to release a wall of water and debris; (Source: Dr Ian Atkinson, Ecologist, Environmental Research Associates of NZ); also **noted** the huge loss to indigenous biodiversity which has resulted from using exotic species over decades; **questioned** the policy whereby Regional Council’s Akura Nursery stocks only 28.6% natives, since there are NZ native plants appropriate for any NZ site, and for millenia, NZ native plants have been holding the land against the ravages of erosion and flooding, while less than two hundred years of often short-sighted farming and forestry practices have altered the balance of nature, particularly the absorptive capacity of the soil, to such an extent that catastrophes like slips and flooding happen more frequently; **concluded** that locally-sourced native species suited to the local conditions, will help not only to control erosion and flooding but also to conserve our natural heritage; **added** that they may take a little longer to establish but the result is worth waiting for.

#### **WCC:DRAFT SOUTH COAST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**July. Accepted** an apology from Council for their failure to re-convene the WCC Wellington South Coast Community Advisory Committee or its proposed successor which was to implement the South Coast Landuse Management Guidelines; **noted** that Council has now formally acknowledged the disappointment and frustration which this caused the many volunteer groups involved; **reaffirmed** our position on the many South Coast issues which have arisen over the years; **suggested** that a guiding principle in the Plan be that nothing should compromise the likelihood or success of an eventual South Coast Regional Park; **recommended** that Council re-use the following aims for managing the Wellington South Coast from Owhiro Bay to Karori Stream, these aims being those adopted in the Landuse Management Guidelines To Heal The Wellington South Coast):

\*To protect and enhance the indigenous and distinctively Wellington character of the Wellington South Coast

\*To recognise its regional and national significance

\*To protect its indigenous biodiversity

\*To manage land and the effects of land uses on marine ecosystems in a manner that is ecologically sustainable

\*To respect authorised land uses while respecting and enhancing conservation, recreation and cultural values

\*To minimise environmental impacts

\*To reduce conflicts among the many uses and values of the area

**asked** that the third one be amended to read, “To protect its indigenous biodiversity, history and heritage”, and that a final one be added which reads, “To avoid ‘suburbanising’ the coast”; **regretted** Council’s decision to include the Owhiro Bay to Karori Stream section in the current management plan, which was made without reference to the Community Advisory Committee because it was never reconvened; **explained** that the area proposed to be covered by the management plan is diverse in its terrain, tenure, condition and type of usage, with subtidal and intertidal coast, and parts of the adjoining land which have high natural character which the plan should aim to protect and enhance; **recommended** that the Plan provide for the section from Owhiro Bay to Karori Stream mouth to be managed as a Conservation Site; **explained** that the section from Owhiro Bay to Point Dorset is in general more modified, but because of the long-term, accelerating, loss of Wellington’s coastal ecosystems, ecological considerations should have priority, even in these areas of higher public use; **referred** to the Plant Conservation Strategy 1996, to substantiate this; **requested** for significant funding to be allocated to accelerate the long-term restoration of South Coast ecosystems, and that the Land Use Management Guidelines be implemented as a matter of urgency, and the results monitored by Council in partnership with the re-convened South Coast Community Advisory Committee or a similarly constituted body, this

request made on the basis of an earlier commitment from Council 5 1/2 years ago; **requested** that the coast road be closed to all vehicles except emergency, management and enforcement vehicles; **requested** that the Harrison-Grierson report commissioned by Council in 1998 be ratified and its recommendations implemented immediately; meanwhile **requested** that the road be closed for 5 days per week, the open days being weekdays, and that areas of land on the seaward side of the road which are not yet gazetted Recreation Reserve, be so gazetted; **requested** that the ecological restoration of the south coast to the west of the quarry gate be planned and monitored by an appropriately qualified entity; **requested** that the former quarry land be gazetted Recreation Reserve and added to Te Kopahou Reserve; **requested** that there be some grooming and appropriate planting of the quarry faces; **supported** Council's general policy on baches; **corrected** the plant list; **strongly disputed** the statement that to focus purely on native vegetation is not appropriate to the whole length of the coastline, quoting Council's own policies; **asked** for the addition of a comprehensive bibliography, historical material and photographs;

#### **WCC, PLANNING THE OUTER GREEN BELT**

**July. Submitted** an extensive, detailed list of suggestions for potential acquisitions of land (mostly in the north and west), in order to protect and wherever possible restore, areas of indigenous vegetation, and public access; **requested** that plant and animal pest control be maintained on all parts of the OGB.

#### **HUTT CITY COUNCIL, DRAFT BUSH RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**August:** Re Fire Prevention Policies: **asked** that consideration be given to planting fire-resistant *native* species such as flax, in Bush Reserves, rather than exotics; Pest Plant Control: **asked** that weeds as well as Pest Plants be controlled in order to preserve the natural values; Policies: **recommended** the Plan state how often the pest control programme will be reviewed, thus assisting accountability; Ecological Monitoring: **recommended** that because Bush Reserves are valuable, indigenous ecosystems adding to the Hutt Valley's natural values and to its amenity, they be regularly monitored in perpetuity for ecosystem health, according to criteria which should be set out in the management plan, and the results recorded.

#### **WCC RE NEED FOR PEST CONTROL IN WAIPAPA CATCHMENT, WELLINGTON SOUTH COAST**

**September.** (This was in the form of a letter, following the Botsoc trip on Sunday 2 September). **Advised** that we saw many goats and extensive pig rooting in the catchment and found that the only specimen known to us in the Waipapa catchment, of the rare, original, Wellington lacebark tag-named *Hoheria* "Tararua" which is regionally endangered, has been browsed almost to death; **acknowledged** that last summer's drought conditions may also have weakened the tree, which was infested with galls; **described** severe browsing of *Clematis afoliata*, another species of conservation concern in the catchment; **warned** that although the vegetation in general is regenerating, palatable species are being selectively eliminated, altering the composition of the ecosystem; **referred** to the need to implement the recommendations on pages 36, 37 and 38 of ERANZ's "Ecological Survey of the Wellington South Coast" presented to Council in October 1996, regarding removing goats, monitoring threatened plants, controlling gorse, and targeting possum control; **asked** that Council maintain and monitor a continuing programme of animal and plant pest control in the Waipapa catchment, a refugium for several species of threatened status, and that Council monitor the bach sites to check occurrences of weed species.

#### **WCC DRAFT MAKARA AND OWHARIU RURAL COMMUNITY PLANS**

**September: Outlined** the high ecological values of the greater Makara and Owhariu areas as recorded in the 1984 Inventory of Biological Resources; **supported** every effort Council may make to educate and encourage landowners to retain and protect such sites from further degradation; re subdivision, **strongly opposed** any relaxation of restrictions on subdivision; re riparian plantings, **recommended** Council encourage landowners to use native plants streamside; re sustainability and biodiversity, **asserted** that ecosystem health, resilience and biodiversity underpin economic, social and ecological considerations; **suggested** that rates relief could be an effective means of encouraging landowners to take appropriate, continuing action on sustainability; **opposed** any relaxation of restrictions on development of ridgelines; **explained** the ecological significance of Makara Estuary and the Foreshore Reserve; **supported** Council's efforts to secure right of way for public access over the western section of the heritage Old Maori Track traversed, not only because of its heritage values but also because it will give access to areas of regenerating indigenous vegetation and extend walking routes around the city;

#### **HUTT CITY COUNCIL, DRAFT ESPLANADE/FORESHORE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**September:** Re Development Policy, **opposed** any development on the reserves, or alienation of any part of the reserves, except for construction of structures and facilities which are essential for public safety, use, and enjoyment of Open Space values; re Active and Passive Recreation, **supported** the policies because they enable public access to unstructured, no-cost recreation space, especially important for those not able or not wanting to participate in structured activities; re Conservation of flora and fauna, **supported** the policies in general, with the reservation that, in our opinion, there are **no esplanade or foreshore sites where native plantings are inappropriate**; congratulated HCC for having creatively utilised such sites and other sites such as traffic islands for establishing insurance populations of threatened native plants.

#### **WCC WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: WELLINGTON WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT**

**October;** **asserted** that all plantings in the waterfront development be solely NZ indigenous species, because NZ has a rich and varied indigenous flora of plants appropriate for *any* NZ setting and occasion, the waterfront should be recognisably "Our Place"; **suggested** that ti kouka, *Cordyline australis*, closely planted in groves, would be the ideal species to feature throughout; it is an indigenous, coastal species occurring naturally in the Cook Strait Ecological

District; its toughness in exposed, stand-alone situations is legendary; it is extremely long lived and can attain a stature of 20 metres; it needs no maintenance; it is a NZ icon, prominent in history, legend and landscape; its distinctive form makes a significant, indigenous statement; it provides plentiful bird food, thus enhancing biodiversity; it is easily propagated and normally available in large numbers; **referred** to the recently published "*Dancing Leaves: the story of New Zealand's cabbage tree, ti kouka*" by Dr Philip Simpson; also **suggested** karaka and/or papauma, *Griselinia littoralis*, and wharangi, *Melicope ternata*; **strongly supported** the concept of *Open Green Space* for Chaffers Park and **opposed** any buildings except those necessary for public safety and convenience; **suggested** any landscaping be natural-looking, rock, shrub and tussock assemblages of typically-Wellington, indigenous, coastal plants, to replicate a Wellington coastal ecosystem as it was before it was invaded by exotics; **suggested** there is no need for an "instant" park, or for "instant" avenues of trees because people can all enjoy and learn from observing young, less costly plants as they grow year by year amid the bustle of life in the city, and because the resultant cost-savings could thereby be substantial.

#### **WCC: PROPOSED STREET PLANTINGS IN MURCHISON ST, OWHIRO BAY**

**June.** (Note: This was a letter rather than a submission). **Supported** the Southern Environmental Association's stand in opposition to the plan to plant e.g. Norfolk pine, *Araucaria heterophylla*, and *Pinus pineaster*; **agreed** that the site is extremely exposed and **acknowledged** that this was a street planting not a restoration planting, however **expressed** the opinion that the exotic species selected were not appropriate, especially since they were only metres from an ecological restoration project; **requested** a site visit; **suggested** cabbage trees, *Cordyline australis*, ti kouka, and *Corynocarpus laevigatus*, karaka, would be a totally appropriate choice on all counts, for the whole area; **substantiated** this by listing many facts in favour of ti kouka; (Note: (1) See below in the synopsis of our submission on the waterfront development, for these facts. (2) We received a very favourable reception and Council decided to plant ti kouka and karaka).

Barbara Mitcalfe

## **SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR—URGENT !!!**

1. Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review. View draft reviewed plan at DOC Head Office, WN, any DOC Conservancy Office, or at [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) or buy from the address below for \$15 (hard copy) or \$10 (CD version) incl p&p. Submissions to Department of Conservation, PBag, CH. e-mail: [AorakiReview@doc.govt.nz](mailto:AorakiReview@doc.govt.nz) by **4.30pm 19 December**.

### **TRIP REPORT**

#### **3 March 2000: Te Marua Bush workbee**

We re-weeded *Tradescantia* from the forest floor at the northeast end of the bush. The site was last weeded, by BotSoc and Conservation Corps, then replanted by BotSoccers, in December 2000.

We regret that the list of participants is not available.

### **QE II National Trust – New Open Space Covenants**

Recently the Trust has registered the following covenants :

- Cootes Rd, Matahiwi, Wairarapa. 4.2ha. Three wetlands – lowland swamp and lakes. Breeding site – dabchicks and many other endemic birds.
- Waiohunga Rd, off Otaki Gorge Rd. 1.8ha. Forest remnant – semi-coastal/lowland secondary hardwood.
- Otaki Gorge Rd, opposite stone walls. 25.35ha. Forest remnant – lowland secondary riparian hardwoods.

### **Conservation Information Centre**

#### **Government Buildings, Lambton Quay**

Land managed for conservation covers one-third of the country and provides an immense range of opportunities for botanising. Come to us for:

Track and hut information • hut tickets and annual hut passes •  
Kapiti Island Nature Reserve visitor permits • conservation publications

**Open: Mon – Fri 9 am – 4.30 pm • Sat/Sun 10 am – 3 pm**

**Tel: 04 4727356 • Fax: 04 4712075 • PO Box 5086, Wellington**



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

### **BotSoc Songbook**

Copies are still available. Donations of \$6 or more (plus \$1 p&p) will be welcome to cover the cost of production. Please send your donation to:

Chris Horne,  
28 Kaihuia St,  
Wellington 5.  
Thank you!

# President's Annual Report August 2001

It has been another busy year for the Society. I would like to thank all those members who have contributed in so many ways to the running of the Society as well as towards the study of botany and the protection and management of important botanical features and areas.

## Trips

There has been a successful trip programme, with good attendances as follows:

2000

September: Ngawihi rare annuals (18)

October: Queen Elizabeth Park (27)

November: Waikanae reserves (27)

December: Atiwhakatu - Lowes Bush (15)

2001

January: Horowhenua (32)

February: Makara Foreshore Reserve (27)

March: Te Marua Bush Workbee

April: Paengaroa/Mangaweka/Whitiau/Castlecliff

May: Tapu Te Ranga Marae (7)

June: Wainuiomata Water Catchment (18)

July: Galbraiths Gully and "Jasmine Grove" Reserve (21)  
: Te Marua Workbee (11)

August: Maara Roa (17)

Thank you to all the trip leaders for your assistance.

## Speakers

The evening meetings have been addressed by excellent speakers as follows:

2000

August: Dr Patrick Brownsey - NZ pteridophyte flora

September: Shannel Courtney - rare and threatened plants of NW Nelson and Marlborough

October: Susan Timmins - weeds and need for surveillance

November: Fanie Venter - *Dracophyllum*

2001

February: Dr Phil Garnock-Jones - Taxonomy of *Hebe*

April: Debra Wotton - Mana Island lizard seed dispersal

March: members' evening

May: Dr Ian Atkinson - AP Druce Memorial Lecture

June: Dr Geoff Park - Evolution of the scenic reserve

July: Vivienne Nicholls - Campbell Island megaherbs

Thank you to these people who prepared presentations and delivered them to one of our monthly Monday evening meetings, and prepared a summary for our newsletter. Thank you to Victoria University for providing the venue.

## Society Rules

The society updated its rules after many years. This included revising the Society objectives and membership categories, and updating various procedural matters to reflect current practice. Thank you especially to Peter Beveridge for steering the process and to others who contributed ideas and feedback.

## Te Marua Bush

There were two workbees this year. I would like to thank Wellington Regional Council for the grant for the years 2001-2003 which will be used for plant pest control work (especially *Tradescantia*) and for paying Upper Hutt Branch, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, for potting mix used to raise seedlings used for the restoration work.

## Awards

Congratulations to John Dawson who received the Alliance Francaise Dunmore Medal for the study of botany of New Caledonia and to Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne and Gary James who received Conservation Week Awards.

## Restoration

This year the NZ Ecological Restoration Network (NZERN) was formed. This recognises the increasing amount of work in ecological restoration throughout New Zealand. Many Society members were involved in practical sessions to help set up the network in Wellington. This included sessions on pest plants, waterways, seeds/propagation/planting as well as a celebratory day at Tapu Te Ranga Marae.

There are numerous restoration projects continuing throughout the region, many involving BotSoccers.

## Thank you

Thank you to the committee for all their help during this year including those who are leaving the committee (Arnold Dench, Peter Beveridge and Robyn Smith). Thank you especially to Barbara Clark who agreed to become secretary soon after the last AGM. Thank you to Julia White who began the secretary role but had to retire.

Thank you to Barbara Mitcalfe for the large amount of work co-ordinating submissions on plans and policies affecting botanical values. Thank you to Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe for compiling the newsletter three times a year, and Julia White for help with typing. The newsletter is extremely comprehensive and a credit to the Society. Thank you to Jeremy Rolfe for newsletter and bulletin layout; NZPrint for their prompt, quality printing; Desiree Wilkinson for preparing the address labels; members who help with newsletter distribution.

Finally, thank you to Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation, for their assistance and in particular for their \$1000 donation recognising the Society's contribution to botany, especially in the Wellington Region.

*Victoria Froude  
President*

# TRIP REPORT

## Easter 13-16 April 2001: Manawatu/Rangitikei/Wanganui

### Fri 13th

The forecast wasn't good, but a group of 9 from Wellington weren't deterred. We joined a group from Palmerston North to explore Round Bush Scenic Reserve just north of Foxton. This reserve is an oasis, being surrounded by dairy farms virtually bereft of any vegetation besides grass. Climbing up an old sand dune which recently had pine trees on it felled, we looked over an extensive flax and cabbage tree swamp with a dense pukatea swamp forest behind it. The dune has since been planted with tree lucerne and mahoe. Viv Nicholls, DOC Palmerston North, gave us a detailed history of the area and then we descended into the bush and slowly made our way across it. Unfortunately as with all wetlands surrounded by farms, this forest is slowly drying out but is an impressive remnant worth visiting. After lunch we went north to Tangimoana with our guide Jill Rapson from Massey University. Jill describes these beach dunes as the best of the last remaining areas which still bear native vegetation in Manawatu. Over the past few years, volunteers have eliminated pines planted by the regional council to stabilise the dunes. *Eleocharis neozelandica* is declining in the wet areas, but *Selliera rotundifolia*, *Gunnera arenaria* and *Schoenus nitens* are thriving. We also saw *Pimelea arenaria*, *Coprosma acerosa*, *Desmoshoenus spiralis*. "Pimelea Turakina" has been planted and appears to be reproducing around some of the parent plants. Unfortunately the rain began so we walked back to the cars via the beach and saw the turbulent Rangitikei River mouth and also saw a few fish being landed by the many fishers stationed along the beach. Luckily this was the only time it rained during the weekend. Our accommodation

for the weekend was the Girl Guide camp at Whanganui and was perfect for our needs.

### Saturday 14th:

We met Tony Silbery at Paengaroa Scenic Reserve and after crossing the swing bridge descended into the reserve. The temperature dropped about 10 degrees so we were happy to have been warned by Colin Ogle to wear warm clothes. This reserve lives up to its reputation as having one of the most diverse collections of divaricating plants in the country. Without having to move very far we spent several hours with Tony gamely trying to educate us on their I.D. My personal highlight was seeing *Brachyglottis sciadophila* creeping along the ground in the shade - contrary to how I thought it would grow. I also thought the *Coprosma obconica* looked a bit different from the South island versions. In the afternoon we went south to Mangaweka to meet the legendary Henry Dorian, who having grown a little tired of waiting for us to arrive had gone up to the Reserve to exercise his dogs. It was a good test of our resolve to see the elusive *Dactylanthus taylorii*. Henry was a great host and we followed him up the hill to the sites of "elephant poo" where we amused him by doing the classic "head down, bum up" BotSoc pose. Chris got the first sniff of the only intact flower and then the rest of us followed suit. The scent is very difficult to categorise but has some citrus influence? Henry reflected on the irony of preserving this patch of bush where many years ago while working for the Forest Service he had cleared a portion of it.

PS: Viv Nicholls reports that the largest snowfall in recent years toppled many big trees in the reserve.

### Sunday 15th:

Jim Campbell and Colin Ogle escorted us to Whaitiau Scientific Reserve south of Whanganui. This reserve is where *Sebaea ovata* can be found and we got a detailed description of the problems of its survival. *Sebaea* has been in decline for several years with factors such as 4WD vehicles, weed invasion, rabbits and cattle possibly contributing. Not only are the number of *Sebaea* in decline, but the size of the plants is diminishing too. Jim had the soil analysed and found only 4 ppm of nitrogen present at Whaitiau, so is experimenting with seeding and fertilising man-made scrapes. We wandered around part of the rest of the reserve and also saw a naturally occurring hybrid of *Coprosma acerosa* and *C. propinqua*, and the brown form of *Carex testacea*. In the afternoon we hunted for "Pimelea Turakina" along Castlecliff Beach Reserve in Whanganui. Colin Ogle had previously found one plant there and after much cliff climbing by the group, Colin re-discovered the plant on a slip. We counted about 20 plants in that one small area. These are vulnerable if the cliff slipped again. There are huge numbers of exotic plants in the reserve with obvious plantings of *Gladiolus*, *Freesia*, *Gazania*, *Lampranthus*, *Acacia*..... the list goes on. I would like to thank the following people for their expertise and guidance on the trips and for giving up part of their holiday weekend: Viv Nicholls, Jill Rapson, Tony Silbery, Henry Dorian, Jim Campbell and Colin Ogle.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Ted Abraham & Hau, Margaret Aitken, Jim Campbell, Vina Cottam, Henry Dorian, Pat Enright, Chris Horne, Barbara Latch, Cath Mathews, Barbara Mitcalfe, Viv Nicholls, Colin Ogle, Jill Rapson, Tony Silbery, Robyn Smith, Julia Stace, Julia White.

# TRIP REPORT

## 10 June 2001: Wainuiomata Catchment

### President's note

*This quota-limited trip was full several months ahead of time. After seven people rang, I stopped adding names to the waiting list. This was a mistake, because those who withdrew from the trip did so at short notice. Few people on the waiting list were able to come at short notice. Several people did not turn up on the day. As they did not ring the leader or anyone else on the trip, the trip waited for 20 minutes in case they were running late. If we had not waited, they could not have joined us because the gates to the catchment would have been locked after we entered. As a result we were 4 down on our allocation of 20.*

*This late notice or no notice at all was not fair to BotSocers who were keen to visit this special place but missed out. It is also not fair to the trip leader. In future, please be considerate of other members, especially on trips to popular locations where numbers are limited.*

In phase one of the public access strategy to the Wainuiomata Catchment, Wellington Regional Council (WRC) is allowing only one group of 20 (plus Council guides) into the catchment each month. Nominated groups were invited to apply in late 2000 for a trip. BotSoc's allocated time slot was Sunday 10 June.

The forecast for the day was not promising although thankfully the rain mostly held off until the end of the trip.

We visited part of the finest podocarp/northern rata forest in the Wellington region. It is truly magnificent. I personally spent much more time gazing skyward than is usual on a BotSoc trip. We had several bryophyte people who made up for my skyward-gazing tendencies.

WRC rangers led, and brought up the rear, of the party. After an introduction at the water treatment plant, we walked along a 4WD track through regenerating scrub and forest

before reaching the podocarp/northern rata forest. While some of us were keen to follow the road up the hill to see other plant communities and species, we were not allowed to do so.

Pat Enright recorded the species seen, adding about 6 to the list updated by Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne on a Tararua Tramping Club trip there on 17 December 2000.

We thank Wellington Regional Council for beginning to open this magnificent forest to carefully managed public access and to the WRC rangers who guided us.

### *Participants:*

Kent Atkinson, Peter Beveridge (deputy), Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Barry Dent, Pat Enright, Sue Freitag, Vicky Froude (leader), Isobel Gabites, Mary Gray, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Richmond, Julia Stace, Janice Swanwick, Paula Warren, plus Yvonne O'Hara from the Wainuiomata News.

*Vicky Froude*

# TRIP REPORT

## 5 May 2001: Threatened species plantings, Tapu Te Ranga Marae

Anxious days of hoping for rain culminated at last in substantial showers as kaumatua Bruce Stewart came out to greet and encourage us. DOC biodiversity officer Rob Stone arrived with plants grown on by DOC's Jeremy Rolfe from seed and/or cuttings collected by Dean Baigent-Mercer last Spring from Wellington South Coast locations: *Clematis afoliata*, *Acaena pallida* and *Rubus squarrosus*. We set to work to find

spaces on the slope above the carpark which had already been planted in a wide range of rare native species last year, e.g. Chathams Is. and Surville Cliffs endemics, all clearly named with strong aluminium tags.

Participants: Morgan Cox, Peter Hills, Chris Horne (Deputy leader), Barbara Mitcalfe (Leader), Julia Stace, Carol Stewart, Rob Stone, Janice Swanwick, Liz Walker.

## Protecting indigenous ecosystems

The Department of Conservation has recently added 14.857ha to Lake Papaitonga Scenic Reserve by acquiring three gullies which provide the principal water source for the lake and its associated raupo, flax, kahikatea wetland.

## Correction

In my report on the Hokino Dunes, Sunday 21 January of the Anniversary Trip, I inadvertently typed *Ranunculus gracilipes*, (a South Island species), for *R. glabrifolius*. Apologies – did anyone notice, anyway??

*Barbara Mitcalfe.*

## TRIP REPORT

### 7 July 2001: Galbraiths Gully and “Jasmine Grove” Scenic Reserve, Lower Hutt

This was a joint BotSoc/Korokoro Environmental Group (KEG) trip, to help KEG, and Hutt City Council, with the preparation of a management plan for Galbraiths Gully. Kate Malcolm, a member of BotSoc and KEG, provided species lists for 3 nearby reserves, to give us an idea of species we might find in Galbraiths Gully, and Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe did a quick “recce” beforehand.

Galbraiths Gully is a delight – an interesting plant community and an enjoyable tramp. In 2 hours, we added 22 species to the preliminary list, including gully tree fern, *Cyathea cunninghamii*, *C. smithii*,

*Hymenophyllum demissum*, *H. flexuosum* and *Trichomanes endlicherianum*.

After lunch in Te Whiti Grove Park, we had 2 hours botanising along the gully track and upper track in “Jasmine Grove” Scenic Reserve. This important kohekohe remnant is in the catchment of Percy Stream which flows through Percy Scenic Reserve. Among the 20 species we added to the preliminary list were the ferns, *Blechnum membranaceum*, *Cyathea smithii*, *Hymenophyllum flexuosum* and *Lastreopsis velutina*, the epiphytic orchids, *Earina autumnalis* and *E. mucronata*, and the sedge, *Uncinia scabra*.

These two remnants on the Western Hutt Hills gave us a wonderful day out, and the feeling that further investigation of them is needed. We wish Korokoro Environmental Group all the best in their work to care for them.

#### *Participants:*

Penny Currier, Nick Gale\*, Sally Gale\*, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne (leader), Rodney Lewington, Barry Malcolm\*, Kate Malcolm\*, Jim Mansell\*, Ruth Mansell\*, Dallas Mildenhall\*, Esme Mildenhall\*, Barbara Mitcalfe (deputy), Darea Sherratt, John Stanley\*, Paul Thomas\*, John Vannisselroy\*.

(\* = local residents).

## TRIP REPORT

### 28 July 2001: Te Marua Bush - Planting

Te Marua Bush is a small, valley-floor remnant of predominantly totara, matai and maire, at the north end of the Upper Hutt Valley. This is the third consecutive year that planting has been done here as a joint project between BotSoc and Upper Hutt Forest and Bird, who have grown the plants and overseen their releasing during summer. Wellington Regional Council Rangers have provided valuable help with planting, pest animal control and pest plant removal.

When Te Marua Bush was fenced 10–12 years ago, a large area of grass, broom, blackberry and other weeds was enclosed at the south end, as was a smaller, weedy patch at the northeast corner.

In 1991, children from Plateau School held an Arbor Day planting in the northeast area, at which John Banks, Ian Atkinson and others participated. Trees from this planting are now a good size and are suppressing some of the grass, and the three more recent planting sessions have filled in the gaps here.

The larger, southern planting area

has had gaps from losses caused by heavy, late frost in 2000, drought in 2001, and severe frosts in June 2001. The gaps have been filled with more of the larger-growing species. Species planted included those that grow in Te Marua Bush, or were grown from seed or seedlings sourced from the Upper Hutt Valley, mostly the Te Marua Area. All the maire and matai plants used were removed from Te Marua Bush as tiny seedlings, grown on to a good size, then planted back.

In 1999, two planting sessions were held - one with the Conservation Corps in June, and one with BotSoc on 4 August. Approximately 266 Forest and Bird-raised plants were planted, also a smaller number grown by BotSocers from seeds and seedlings from Te Marua Bush.

On 3 June 2000 a BotSoc and Forest and Bird workbee planted 106 plants.

On 8 August 2001, 141 plants were planted by BotSoc, Forest and Bird and a WRC Ranger. This was a great effort, as always, especially

because the bouldery “soil” makes a spade useless, and crowbar and pick essential! Because of the lack of reasonable soil, some slow-release fertiliser was put in with each plant to help it establish. The weather helped by staying dry during planting, then providing a good watering as soon as we stopped.

In the last 3 years, ca. 540 plants have been planted in an effort to extend and consolidate this small but valuable remnant. Other workbees during this time have removed assorted weeds. A most welcome, recent grant from WRC has paid for a competent operator to do an initial clearance of invasive vines and woody weeds. A further grant will be made available for spraying *Tradescantia* this spring.

#### *Participants:*

Helen Druce, Steve Edwards, Aaron Hanning, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, Cath Mathews, Sue Millar, Barbara Mitcalfe, Glennis Sheppard, Allan Sheppard, Julia White.

*Sue Millar and Glennis Sheppard*

# TRIP REPORT

## 4 August 2001: Cannons Creek Covenant, Friends of Maara Roa Project.

Seventeen Botsoccers and Friends of Maara Roa Project botanised in the Cannons Creek Covenant, adding to and amending the preliminary species list. Cannons Creek Covenant (11.3ha) and nearby Tapaku Covenant (29.2ha) are in the catchment of Cannons Creek, on the north side of Belmont Regional Park. They were gazetted in 1991.

The entrance to the catchment, off Warspite Ave, Cannons Creek, is through Porirua City's Cannons Creek Lakes Reserve. Most of the catchment is part of the Regional Park though the area is farmed by Landcorp which retired the lower part of the catchment about 15 years ago. Most of the former pasture had reverted to gorse.

Cannons Creek Covenant on the east side of the valley includes a highly modified forest remnant – tawa\kohekohe and tawa-kahikatea\kohekohe. This has been surrounded and invaded by gorse, encouraged by several fires. Takapu Covenant on the west side of the valley, was in pasture 20 years ago. Since then there has been secondary regeneration in the stream bed and

tributary gullies – mainly mahoe and tree ferns. These were fenced when the covenant was created. Since retirement of the surrounding farmland, gorse has covered the ridges and encircled the regenerating natives. In both covenants, tall gorse that has survived fires is now giving way to regenerating natives.

Friends of Maara Roa is an incorporated society formed in mid-2000. The "Friends" are collaborating with Wellington Regional Council (WRC) in preparing a management plan for the catchment. The hope is to persuade Landcorp to pass ownership of the bulk of the catchment, incorporating the covenants, for a nominal sum to either WRC or the Department of Conservation as a reserve. There is some urgency, as the route of the proposed Transmission Gully Motorway passes across the head of the catchment and through part of Takapu Covenant.

Botanically the trip was most productive and useful. The single specimen of totara was confirmed as *Podocarpus totara*, not Hall's totara. The list of dicot trees and shrubs was expanded to include karaka and kohuhu, making a total of 36 species

of dicot trees/shrubs, and 9 dicot lianes. Also found were *Coprosma propinqua* × *C. robusta* and *Muehlenbeckia australis* × *M. complexa*.

Tree species that we hope to find include rimu, matai, miro, kamahi and maire.

The list of ferns was expanded from 22 to 32. Notable are tree ferns in the heads of gullies, including *Cyathea cunninghamii*, *C. dealbata*, *C. medullaris*, *C. smithii* and *Dicksonia squarrosa*.

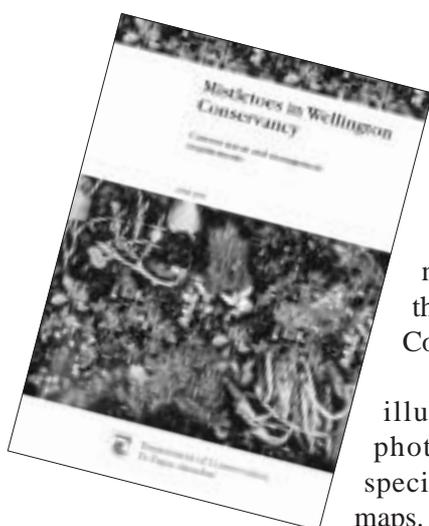
The party increased the number of dicot herbs from 1 to 7 and adventives herbs from 20 to 29. Six grasses, rushes and sedges were also added to the list.

Friends of Maara Roa are very grateful to BotSoc for helping them to produce this species list.

### Participants:

Margaret Aitken, Neil Bellingham, Rae Collins, Penny Currier, Sue Hall, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Ross Jackson, Darryl Kee, Nick Lambrechtson, Cath Mathews, Barbara Mitcalfe, Craig Robertson, Mary Robertson, Richard Robertson, Peter Saxton.

## Native mistletoes in Wellington



The Department of Conservation has published a fact sheet (free) and a booklet (price \$20) describing the eight native mistletoe species that occur in Wellington Conservancy.

The booklet includes illustrations and photographs of each species, and distribution maps. It describes threats to mistletoes and conservation management activities required for their protection. The species included are beech mistletoes (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*, *P. colensoi* and *Alepis flavida*), lowland leafy

mistletoes (*Ileostylus micranthus* and *Tupeia antarctica*) and the three leafless mistletoes (*Korthalsella clavata*, *K. lindsayi* and *K. salicornioides*).

The booklet will be used to raise awareness of mistletoe conservation and to improve understanding of mistletoe ecology and biogeography. The fact sheet is being sent to people interested in learning more about native mistletoes. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter.

For more information contact:

John Sawyer  
Biodiversity Conservation Officer  
Wellington Conservancy  
Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 5086  
Wellington  
Tel: 04 470 8427  
E-mail: jsawyer@doc.govt.nz

# TRIP REPORT

## 2 September 2001: Waipapa Stream, Wellington South Coast

Nine BotSoccers met at the Owhiro Bay gate on a gloriously sunny morning. The trip comprised:

- a brisk walk along the coast road to Waipapa Stream mouth;
- a brisk climb up Red Rocks Track to the escarpment;
- a foray into a small “bush” remnant in the upper reaches of lower True Left branch of Waipapa Stream;
- a descent to the main Waipapa Stream forks;
- a walk up and then down the stream to its mouth;
- a brisk walk back to the Owhiro Bay gates.

The vegetation of the small “bush” remnant in the upper reaches of the lower True Left branch of Waipapa Stream was surprisingly diverse given its size and location. There was a good range of fern species including *Asplenium appendiculatum*, *A. hookerianum*, *A. bulbiferum*, *A. bulbiferum* × *hookerianum*, *Pellaea rotundifolia*, *Adiantum cunninghamii* and *Lastreopsis velutina*. This area also contained our first sighting of *Scandia*

*geniculata*—a fine dicot liane with aniseed-scented leaves. The remnant contains kaikomako, karaka, kanuka and mahoe trees of reasonable size.

Above Waipapa Stream forks, we explored an area of low *Coprosma propinqua*-tauhinu scrub with extensive areas of leafless clematis, *Clematis afoliata*, and leafless lawyer, *Rubus squarrosus*. Care was needed identifying these two largely leafless species—one has prickles and one has none. The frayed stem ends of the Clematis showed that the goats we had seen were damaging these rare plants.

After lunch we went upstream to find the rare Wellington lacebark *Hoheria* “Tararua” that Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne saw 9 years ago. We found only one tree and that had been almost completely defoliated. It seemed that the combined effects of browsing goats and possums, last summer’s drought and a gall infection had been too much. The species is regionally endangered. The poor condition of this tree has been reported to the Department of Conservation and

Wellington City Council (as landowner). We saw a few seedlings near the creek bed.

We then began the largely in-creek trip to the coast. Barbara and Chris noted how much the vegetation had grown since their last visit. Interesting streamside plants include *Fuchsia perscandens*, *Sophora microphylla* in flower, and a large *Griselinia lucida*.

Travel in the stream was slippery in places, leading to several wettings. Barbara Clark slipped climbing a bank and badly gashed her knee. While it was being bandaged, a newly born goat was put down. Prevention is better than cure!

When we reached the coast road, a brisk southerly wind was blowing, so we hastened back to the cars to warm-up and thaw our toes. Thank you to everyone for a great trip.

### *Participants:*

Barbara Clark, Vicky Froude (leader), Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Richmond, Annabel Riley, Joyce Wilson.

Vicky Froude

## Matiu matters

The 21st year’s planting by Lower Hutt Forest and Bird put in a total of 5499 locally sourced native trees, 2000 fewer than last year. Dry soil conditions in May delayed the first planting to June. An irrigation system moved from the Lighthouse Paddock into the Workshop Paddock gives confidence that this season there will not be the losses suffered in 2000. Planting by groups of 40 or more people were done in July, August and September. Last year’s losses in the Workshop Paddock were replaced, flax areas augmented on the eastern face, and the lower Lighthouse Paddock replanted. Hardy “pioneer” species were planted in these areas while “successionals” were planted among the well-grown ngaios, *Hebe stricta*, and taupatas in Dick’s Paddock on the western face. We are pleased that the reforestation programme has now encircled the whole island. In 1-2 years there will be no remaining open, grassed sites to plant. The task will then be the interplanting of successionals, a much slower task. The Department of Conservation engaged contract planters to work on the steeper faces. Their plantings have been mainly flax and taupata. *Aciphylla squarrosa* and *Lepidium oleraceum* have been planted on Mokopuna.

Stan Butcher

## Recording impacts of record drought

The great drought of summer 2000-2001 continued into autumn and winter making it one of the driest periods on record. In many places, plants, native and introduced, wild and cultivated, have died or been damaged. It was one of those extreme events, with ecological effects that are likely to persist long after the rains return. Often the evidence is noted but seldom recorded.

I’d like to remedy this by asking you to send any observations you have made, to a central repository. In the interim, until such a repository is established, I am willing to act in this capacity. I will archive and make available any notes and observations that you wish to place on record. Please do this either by e-mail (wardlep@landcare.cri.nz) or by writing to me at Landcare Research, Box 69, Lincoln.

Peter Wardle

## Percy Scenic Reserve News

Despite the extremes of weather, I am surprised that many more plants didn't succumb. We lost many rangiora, silver fern and mamaku during the drought, however I was delighted to see mahoe recovering with a flush of new leaves on its bare branches. I kept hearing on the radio during May and June that the drought had broken, but this really has only happened in the last month. The frost killed 40 two-year-old Poor Knights lilies which I had grown from seed, and several whau as well as young kohekohe and macropiper. The *Sebaea ovata* that germinated in February have been growing on well. Approximately eighty have been growing on in a heated glasshouse and are on the verge of flowering. Another eighty have been



Frost, Percy Scenic Reserve. Photo: Robyn Smith.

growing on in the shadehouse and as expected are a lot smaller than the glasshouse plants. A further 20 plants have been left under the misting system in the propagation house with no fertiliser. These plants are very small and are comparable to those in the wild. Seed will be collected off all the plants and will be grown for DOC/Whanganui for restoration projects. Dave King, DOC/Gisborne, rang recently to update me on *Carmichaelia williamsii* cuttings which were sent several years ago. These are now planted on Whanga-o-Keno Island, off East Cape, in a joint restoration project with local iwi. Over the past 2 months 55 *Celmisia* "Mangaweka" and 45 *Olearia gardneri* have gone to Viv Nicholls at DOC Palmerston North for restoration planting. This year only ten *Celmisia* germinated so it was good to get so many growing last year. Following the phenomenal germination of *O. gardneri* from Mataroa this year, 700 are being grown on for various sites in and around Taihape. If only we could get that many to germinate from the Wairarapa trees. Sixty *Carex litorosa* sourced from Waikanae Estuary have been collected by Richard Gill for planting up the Kapiti coast, and 12 have stayed at the reserve as a seed source for the future. The Resource Consent hearings on the proposed upgrade of State Highway 2, which affect the Reserve, were held early in October.

Robyn Smith

Percy Scenic Reserve

## Queen Elizabeth Park Remnant Bush Revegetation Plan

Wellington Botanical Society recently visited the remnant bush near MacKays Crossing, Queen Elizabeth Park. Additions were made to Colin Ogle's plant list. An introduced sedge, *Carex ovalis*, was found and eradicated. A revegetation plan for this area is being prepared to be implemented in stages. It will include:

- Removal of existing exotic vegetation on the edge and within the remnant
- Site preparation
- Selection and propagation of suitable species
- Planting
- Aftercare and maintenance
- Monitoring and management

Consultation with the groups and individuals involved will be an integral part of the process. Their input will help us to set realistic and achievable revegetation goals.

Other important issues such as fire, tracks, wind damage and protection, and domestic stock and pets will also be considered.

Information collected as part of this project will be utilised for future revegetation work in other parts of the Park and for other similar sites.

For further information contact Nola Urquhart, Ranger, Queen Elizabeth Park, ph 04 292 8625.

Nola Urquhart,  
Ranger

**Help raise funds for Botsoc's Jubilee Award Fund –  
bring named seedlings/cuttings for sale at each evening meeting**

## Some kindred groups

This is the first of a series of descriptions of voluntary organisations working in conservation in the Wellington region.

### **Friends of Nga Hoa o Maara Roa - The Long Garden Inc.**

#### *Objectives:*

- Enhance and restore the native forest in Cannons Creek catchment.
- Guard and develop it for public ownership and enjoyment.
- Protect its indigenous flora and fauna.
- Provide a venue for educational activities.
- Co-operate with the city and regional council and other bodies.

Subscriptions: \$25/waged, \$20/unwaged, \$10/student, \$30/family.

Contact: Friends of Maara Roa, Box 53 029, Porirua.

### **Friends of Mana Island Inc.**

#### *Objectives:*

- Assist the Department of Conservation and the community to complete the ecological restoration of Mana.
- Record and display the history of Mana.

Subscriptions: \$20/adult, school, library, \$5/full-time student, \$30/family, \$50/corporate.

Contact: Friends of Mana Island Inc, Box 54 101, Mana.

### **Matiu Charitable Trust**

#### *Objectives:*

- Nurture the islands of Te Whanganui a Tara, Matiu, Makaro and Mokopuna.
- Act as the contact point for people to become involved in the protection and restoration of the flora and fauna of the islands, and study of their historical and cultural significance.

Subscriptions: \$10/individual, \$25/educational group, children under 10 free, \$100/life.

Contact: Matiu/Somes Island Charitable Trust, c/o Wellington Tenths Trust, Box 536, Wellington

### **Nga Uruora Kapiti Project Inc.**

#### *Objectives:*

- Create a virtually unbroken network of bird-safe native forest between Waikanae and Porirua, on public and private land.
- Restore 85ha of the coastal escarpment between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay.

Subscriptions: \$20/Standard member, \$10/unwaged, \$5/school student, \$100/financial supporter.

Contact: Nga Uruora Kapiti Project Inc, Box 1, Paekakariki. E-mail: nukapiti@hotmail.com Ph 021 149 9995.

### **NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust Inc.**

#### *Objectives:*

- Encourage and undertake the restoration of degraded or destroyed indigenous forests.

Donations welcome - no membership subscription system.

Contacts: office - NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, Box 80 007, Green Bay, Auckland.

Wellington region - Alec (Ben) Thorpe, ph 04 589 1887, e-mail: kva.bent@xtra.co.nz

### **Friends of the Wellington Town Belt**

#### *Objectives:*

- Uphold the ideals of the Town Belt as a special place to be preserved for future generations.
- Promote the preservation of the remaining land and encourage, where appropriate, the reinstatement or addition of land to the Town Belt.
- Oppose any misappropriations or misuse by the Crown or its agencies, the Council, corporations, groups or individual citizens.

Subscriptions: \$20/waged & organisations, \$10/unwaged.

Contact: Friends of the Wellington Town Belt, Box 24-016, Manners St, WN.

### **Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust Inc.**

#### *Objectives:*

- Establish and maintain a secure native wildlife sanctuary in the Karori Reservoir valley, Wellington.
- Restore the area as closely as possible to its presume pre-human state, but allowing for construction of specific habitats to enhance its diversity and conservation values.
- Do education and research into all matters pertaining to the conservation and restoration of NZ's natural heritage, and to restore representative examples.
- Provide facilities for recreation and tourism.

Subscriptions: \$35/individual, \$45/family or couple.

Contact: Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust, Box 9267, WN. Ph 04 920 9200, fax 920 920 9000, e-mail kwst@sanctuary.org.nz

### **Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society**

#### *Objectives:*

- Protect NZ's native forests, threatened species, marine heritage, and environment.
- Organise grassroots conservation projects.
- Promote public debate.
- Lobby decision-makers.

Subscriptions: \$47/single, family, or non-profit group, \$35/senior citizen or senior family, \$30/student, school, library, \$675/life, \$275/corporate.

Contact: Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Box 631, WN. Ph 04 385 7374, fax 04 385 7373.

## Conservation Week Awards 2001

The following text is based on the citations read by the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Sandra Lee, at the ceremony at Parliament on 13 August.

We congratulate BotSoc's nominee Gary James, and the Forest and Bird Home Nursery Scheme, on receiving an award in the volunteer category. In the citation, initiator and co-ordinator's foresight has seen great work achieved by this dedicated group. The long-term vision is a restored ecosystem representative of all species including major canopy trees. Seeds of native plants, including endangered species, are all locally sourced, propagated and grown on by the 20 local home nurseries in the scheme, for projects such as Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, Manawa Karioi and Makara Peak. In the 10 years of operation from Gary's home, 70 species have been propagated, producing 70,000 plants. It was a pleasure to see BotSoccers Gary James and Julia White receiving their well-deserved award.

We also congratulate BotSoccer Stan Butcher, another winner in the volunteer category, who has been involved in conservation for decades. He has made an outstanding contribution to conservation, as a youth, a teacher and principal, and especially as a retiree. In 1981 he joined a planting group on Matiu/Somes Island and since then has continued to work there fortnightly with Forest and Bird.

He also works fortnightly at Pauatahanui Inlet Wildlife Reserve. Stan is a member of the Trust Board and Executive of Bushy Park, contributing 4-5 days per month. He received his award for his long-term commitment to ecological restoration, environmental education projects with Hutt City Council, and work with the Department of Conservation on community awareness.

Finally we congratulate BotSoccers Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne who have made an outstanding contribution to conservation independently and together. Over many years they have worked tirelessly for Wellington Botanical Society, leading field trips, and producing hundreds of submissions advocating indigenous plant conservation. Botanising together, they have done vegetation surveys throughout the region, and have co-authored 129 plant checklists. Barbara's work with the Society, the Department of Conservation, and Wellington Regional Council, has been outstanding in the preservation of our unique flora. Chris has contributed hundreds of hours over the years, preparing the Society's newsletter three times per year. Their combined energy and drive has been an inspiration to many people who are involved in conservation in the region.

*Vicky Froude  
President*

## Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award

Wellington Botanical Society invites applications for an Award of up to \$1000 to encourage and assist applicants to further knowledge of the New Zealand indigenous flora, and to commemorate the 50th Jubilee of the Society.

### Purpose of the Award

The Award is open to anyone working in New Zealand and will be granted for: field work; artistic endeavour; publication; research; propagation or cultivation of NZ native plants for educational purposes and/or other studies which promote the better understanding of the NZ indigenous flora and vegetation.

The interpretation of these conditions will be flexible, except that the main criterion will be the furtherance of knowledge or promotion of the intrinsic value of the indigenous NZ flora and vegetation.

The Award may be used to defray costs such as travel, accommodation, materials or publication.

### Applications for the Award

Applications should be made in typescript to: Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10-412, Wellington, by 30 November 2001.

There is no prescribed application form, but the following must be provided:

- the applicant's name, postal address, telephone number, any relevant position held;
- a summary statement of the applicant's accomplishments in the field of botany (no more than one page);
- an outline and timetable for the proposed project for which the Award is sought;
- a proposed budget for the project.

### Selection

The award will be made to one or more applicants selected by a subcommittee nominated by the general committee of Wellington Botanical Society. Award(s) will be made, and applicants informed of the results in writing, by 15 January 2002.

Successful applicants will be required to provide, at an agreed time, a short report on what they have achieved and an account of their expenditure of Award funds.

The names of Award recipients, the value of the Award(s), and a synopsis of the project(s) will be published in the Annual Report of Wellington Botanical Society.

*Barbara Clark,  
Secretary*



## **OBITUARY**

### **Albert Kingsley Brown, 1909–2001**

Kingsley died at the age of 92 on 24 September 2001. He grew up in Auckland and in 1933 completed his accountancy examinations. From 1933-39 he worked

as a book-keeper at Westfield Freezing Works. Then followed war service from 1939-45. After capture on Crete in 1941, Kingsley was placed in Stalag 383 in Bavaria, where not only did he survive, but managed to take correspondence courses from the Bodleian Library University of Oxford, the Red Cross providing the courier service. Despite difficult circumstances, Kingsley completed his B.Com.NZ, studied economics with distinction, and passed his final examinations for the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. He managed to keep fit by walking round camp and skating on skates received in a Red Cross parcel. In 1949 he was awarded a rehabilitation bursary to study Public Administration at the London School of Economics.

On returning to NZ in 1947, he joined the Public Service and worked in Treasury. His first BotSoc trip was in 1962, from South Makara Road to Te Ika a Maru Bay. Two years later BotSoc began to benefit from his professional training and disciplined experiences, when he became Treasurer, a role he held for 25 years, during which he wisely and carefully managed our funds.

Kingsley contributed to our Society in many ways.

He looked after the projector and transported members to meetings. However the most significant development was his becoming a very good, keen botanist. Always very fit and thoroughly prepared and equipped, he was a mainstay of the "BotSoc Irregulars", who tramped up challenging mountains and screes, over passes, rivers and wild landscape with gorges and cliffs, seeing rare plants throughout this country in their diverse habitats. Hebes and Celmisias were his special interest. Tony Druce's trip books record that from 1962–89 Kingsley went on 62 trips led by Tony, Mildred went on 37, and daughters Margaret and Valerie on 2 each. This is in addition to trips he himself led and those led by other BotSocers. This very impressive number shows his enthusiasm and enjoyment of the company and tough lifestyle of fellow botanical explorers.

In 1972 Kingsley trekked in Nepal with a BotSoc party. After returning, there was more time for his absorbing interest in all the living organisms which he observed on trips. He was also a skilled photographer, regularly contributing to Members' Evenings. The greatest of his presentations was in 1997, when at the age of 88 he addressed the Society on "The Alpine Plants of NW Nelson", showing highlights of his many remarkable, botanical expeditions.

Thank you Kingsley for sharing so much of your long life with us.

*Helen Druce*

### **Audrey Eagle honoured**

Congratulations to BotSoc Audrey, who was made a well-deserved Companion of the NZ Order of Merit, for her services to botanical art.

Audrey has been doing colour paintings of NZ native trees and shrubs for 49 years. Her first series of 228 botanical paintings was published as "Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of NZ" in 1975. The second series, published in 1982 included 405 botanical paintings. They are meticulous in their precise detail and accuracy, using skills refined in her training and work as an electrical engineering artist.

Illustrations of rare species and those of more numerous occurrence make the second series of particular significance to professional and amateur botanists alike. Noted botanist Tony Druce of the Botany Division of the former DSIR, to whom the second series is dedicated, was a key figure in contributing to the taxonomic and distribution data.

Both books were awarded prizes (3rd in 1976, and 2nd in 1983), in the then Watties Book of the Year Award. In 1986 "Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of NZ" Vols. I and II, a revised edition of the 1975 and 1982 books, was

published. It is one of the most-thumbed reference books in the University of Otago Botany Department Library, and the most in demand on Botanical Society summer trips.

Now Audrey is putting the finishing touches to the 160 new illustrations for what was to have been her third book. These illustrations are now going to be incorporated into two newly designed books, which will include updated versions of her two original books. The result will be illustrations of about 790 plants, with all species of a genus together.

Once the artwork and writing are completed, financial assistance will be needed to cover the cost of preparing 560 plates for publication. Hopefully, having CNZM after her name will speed the progress of an eagerly awaited botanical companion. The books are expected to be on sale in 2003. Allison Knight, Newsletter editor, Botanical Society of Otago. Source: NZ Botanical Society Newsletter No. 65 September 2001.

## Wellington Botanical Society membership form

Our membership year is 1 July – 30 June. Dues received after 1 May will be credited the following year.

I wish to join the Society

My name is ..... (please print clearly)

My address is .....

.....

.....

Telephone (.....)..... (home) (.....) ..... (work)

I enclose my subscription:  ordinary \$27  group/family (living at one address) \$30

(tick one)  country \$22

student \$17

Subscription \$.....

I wish to make a donation to the WBS Jubilee Award Fund,  
to help support research on NZ native plants.

Donation \$.....

I enclose a cheque payable to:

WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY for

TOTAL \$.....

Please send this form and your cheque to:

The Treasurer  
Wellington Botanical Society  
PO Box 10-412  
WELLINGTON 6036

Thank you.



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My address is .....

.....

.....

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The Treasurer  
Wellington Botanical Society  
PO Box 10-412  
WELLINGTON 6036

Thank you.