



# NEWSLETTER

## December 2001

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### BotSoc Website

Please note our address: [www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz](http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz)

If you would like to receive your copy of the Newsletter by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Penny Currier: [pennyc@clear.net.nz](mailto:pennyc@clear.net.nz)

*Penny Currier and Julia White*

### HH Allan Mere Award

We are delighted to report that Neill Simpson has received the 2001 HH Allan Mere Award. Neill was nominated jointly by the Botanical Society of Otago and Canterbury Botanical Society, with a supporting letter from Wellington Botanical Society. We will print the citation in the next Newsletter.

*Victoria Froude  
President*

### 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 385 4462 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](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz)

### Wellington Botanical Society

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**Contributions for Newsletter (news, views, information) to:**

Chris Horne, 28 Kaihuia St, Northland, WN 5. Tel 475 7025

**Annual Subscription:** ordinary \$27; country \$22; student \$17.

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 February 2002**

# PROGRAMME: JANUARY–MAY 2002

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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 19–Monday 21 January (Wellington Anniversary Weekend): Field Trip South Wairarapa**

Saturday: Botanise a 2ha QE II Open Space Covenant: kahikatea/tawa swamp bush on the property of Eileen Brindle and David Stone, Fire No. 2678, Te Rata Road, off Whakatomotomo Road, Pirinoa.

Sunday, Monday: To be advised.

Maps S27 Lake Wairarapa and S28 Palliser.

Accommodation: TBA: Shearers' quarters, woolshed, or Department of Conservation house, Te Kopi, Aorangi Forest Park.

Potluck dinners Saturday and Sunday nights.

Catch 7.05am train on Hutt line from Wellington to Upper Hutt Station. Ring leader if you wish to be met.

Meet 9am at Dorset Square Native Reserve, cnr SH2 and Moore St (which becomes Western Lake Rd), Featherston. The reserve contains a wide range of planted hebes, *Olearia virgata*, *Hoheria angustifolia*, etc. Get there early and have a look! Ring leader: Chris Horne 475 7025; deputy-leader: Julia White 938 5102.

**Saturday 2 February: Workbee/Field Trip Te Marua Bush, Upper Hutt**

BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and revegetation work in this important totara/maire remnant in Kaitoke Regional Park. With the aid of a grant from Wellington Regional Council, we have been able to hire a contractor to speed the task of weed control, but our biennial workbees must continue so that we keep ahead of reinvasion by weeds, particularly around the plantings. So please come to help with this important work, then botanise the forest.

Bring: gloves, kneeler, weed bag, and your favourite weed-extractor tools such as trowel, hand fork, loppers, pinch bar, grubber, pruning saw. NOTE: spades are no use in the bouldery soil.

Meet 9am at Upper Hutt Station carpark, or 9.30am, at Te Marua Bush, 250m north of Te Marua Store, and 50m off SH2 along the road to Te Marua Lakes, and the stock car circuit, Kaitoke Regional Park. Co-leaders: Glenys Sheppard, 526 7450; Sue Millar, 526 7440.

**Monday 18 February: Evening Meeting Ecological Sites in Porirua City**

Dr Paul Blaschke will describe the work involved in Porirua City Council's recently completed inventory of ecological sites. The project included desktop and field survey and assessment of 171 sites, and recommendations for managing and monitoring them. The work was done for PCC by ecologists and planners from Boffa Miskell, using many species lists done by BotSoccers, and their own field work and other information.

**Saturday 2 March: Field Trip Boulder Hill KNE**

Botanise Wellington Regional Council's Key Native Ecosystem near the high point of Belmont Regional Park. See *Melicytus lanceolatus*, *Raukaua edgerleyi* and numerous tree fern and ground fern species, and panoramic views from the summit. Meet 9am opposite recycling bins near SH2 traffic lights, at bottom of Major Drive, Kelson, Lower Hutt. Map R27. Ring leader, Pat Enright, 495 0966(h); 498 7924(w); deputy-leader, Peter Beveridge, 237 8777.

**Monday 18 March: Evening Meeting Botany in Pakistan**

Cathy Jones, Technical Support Officer, South Marlborough – Threatened Plants, Nelson Conservancy, DOC, will describe three trips to Pakistan. She will show us plants from the Deosai Plateau at the west end of the Himalaya (4000m+ ASL), and the Hunza Valley from Khunjerab National Park in the far north to Gilgit, near which the Hunza River joins the mighty Indus River. Kathy will also include slides of the stunning scenery of this dry mountain area—a big contrast to the wetter regions of the eastern Himalaya in India and Nepal.

**Friday 29–Sunday 31 March (Easter): Field Trip Rimutaka Range**

Botanise silver beech forest on Mt Matthews (941m), the mossy route of the old Five-Mile Track, lower reaches of Turere Stream to see *Raukaua edgerleyi*.....

Accommodation: A DOC hut, or Tararua Tramping Club's Waeranga Hut

Pot-luck dinners Friday and Saturday.

Ring co-leaders: Jane Humble 971 6970, Lynne Pomare 934 1187.

Saturday 6 April: Note – no field trip, because of proximity to Easter.

**Monday 15 April: Evening Meeting Members' Slides**

Speakers: anyone with slides or photographs taken on field trips over the past year! Have *you* got some which you would like to share with other BotSoccers? If so, please bring them, and help to make this a memorable meeting.

programme cont. overleaf.

## Saturday 4 May: Field Trip

Botanise Phill and Joyce Waddington's 22ha Open Space Covenant comprising beech forest, podocarps, wetland and regenerating forest. Hear from Phill and Joyce the story of this splendid forest; see swamp maire, orchids, ferns, and numerous other species, pest control measures and boundary control problems. Map R27 and street map. Catch 8.05am train on Hutt line from Wellington to Pomare Station. Ring *deputy-leader* if you wish to be met there. Meet 9am at 17 Horoeke St, Stokes Valley. Leaders Phill and Joyce Waddington, 934 5201; RING *deputy-leader* Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149 if you plan to come.

## QEII Trust Covenant, Stokes Valley

## EVENTS

1. **Rimutaka Restoration Reserve** - another opening! **9 March**. In 1994, NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust purchased 800ha of regenerating forest 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. Contact Alec (Ben) Thorpe on 04 589 1887, or e-mail: kva.bent@xtra.co.nz
2. **Wild plants of Pakistan's northern areas**. Leader: Cathy Jones. Fully escorted 21 day visit to the spectacular mountains of the Hunza. Trek in the Naltar Valley and to Fairy Meadows in the shadow of 8125m Nanga Parbat. Jeep safari across the Deosai Plateau in Deosai National Park during the peak of the spring flower season. Depart NZ **early June 2002**. US\$1700 per person twin share. Contact: Silk Road Adventures NZ Ltd, 0800 349 739; www.silkroad.co.nz; e-mail Rubicon.Travel@xtra.co.nz

## GRANT APPLICATIONS SOUGHT

1. Wellington City Council Community Grants. The closing date has been changed to **31 January**. Obtain application forms from Barbara Franklin, Grants Co-ordinator, Wellington City Council, ph 499 4444.

## SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR!!!

1. Wellington's Outer Green Belt - have your say about its future. Document from, and submissions to: Outer Green Belt Submissions, Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN, fax 801 3129, e-mail: david.clelland@wcc.govt.nz by **25 January**.
2. Te Urewera National Park Management Plan – Draft. View draft at DOC Conservancy offices, and at: www.doc.govt.nz Document from, and submissions to: Freepost DOC, Dept of Conservation, Box 668, Gisborne, or: chart@doc.govt.nz by **25 January** – NOTE: extension of deadline.

Fifteen submissions were summarised in the last newsletter and since then we have not submitted on any issues. Barbara Mitcalfe.

### Conservation Information Centre

Government Buildings, Lambton Quay

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

Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am – 4.30 pm • Sat: 10 am–3 pm • Sun: closed

General enquiries tel: 04 472 7356



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!*



# PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. *Pterostylis micromega*, an endangered orchid, in the Chatham Islands. BPJ Molloy. 2001. DOC Science Internal Series 11: 10p.
- 1b. DOC Science Internal Series 1–12. 2001. 256p. This is the first compendium of DSIS papers. (Ed- some are on botanical topics).
- 1c. Early detection of new invasive weeds on islands. S Timmins, H Braithwaite. 2001. Poster 35.
- 1d. Application of biogeography to protection of Chatham Island endemic vascular plants. JWD Sawyer. 2001. Poster 36.
- 1e. Ecological Restoration of Mana Island. CM Miskelly, C Ryder. 2001. Poster 38.
- 1f. Islands of information: weeds in NZ. C Buddenhagen, C Howell. 2001. Poster 43.
- 1g. Picking the places to pull plants. S Timmins. 2001. Poster 45.
- 1h. Mistletoe conservation in Wellington. JWD Sawyer, A Rebergen. 2001. Poster 49.
- 1i. Coastal dune vegetation in Wellington. JWD Sawyer, R Milne. 2001. Poster 50.
- 1j. *Pachystegia rufa*, and allied rock daisies: rarity and threats. B Molloy. 2001. DOC Science Internal Series 17. 12p. \$7.50 incl GST.
- 1k. Management of introduced conifers in the Beebys Ridge area of Mt Richmond Forest Park. NJ Ledgard. 2001. DOC Science Internal Series 20. 13p. \$7.50 incl GST.
- 1l. Conscience No.42. includes articles on Biosecurity in DOC; conservation and the maintenance of the evolutionary process; *Sebaea ovata* – our endangered yellow gentian.
- 1m. Celebrating the conservation community – E whakanui ana i te Hapori Atawhai - A tribute to volunteers.
- 1n. Turf communities of Lake Whangape and some potential management techniques. PD Champion, SM Beadel, TM Dugdale. 2001. Science for Conservation 186. 54p. \$35.
- 1o. Protecting habitats on private land: perspectives from Northland, NZ. P Davis, C Cocklin. 2001. Science for Conservation 181. 69p. \$30.
- 1p. A new, dodecaploid species of *Uncinia* (Cyperaceae) from ultramafic rocks, Surville Cliffs, Northland. PB Heenan, PJ de Lange. 2001. NZ Journal of Botany 39: 373-380.
- 1q. The biology of Australian weeds 38. *Lonicera japonica* Thunb. (Japanese honeysuckle). 2001. Plant Protection Quarterly 16(3) 90–100. DOC Science Publications, Box 10 420, WN; ph 04 471 0726, fax 04 471 3279; e-mail science.publications@doc.govt.nz
2. Kermadec Islands Flora – Special Edition. WR Sykes, CJ West, JE Beever, AJ Fife. A compilation of recently published papers. 2000. 258p., spiral bound. \$59.95. Manaaki Whenua Press, c/o Landcare Research, Box 40, Lincoln 8152. E-mail mwpress@landcare.cri.nz Fax 03 325 2127
3. NZ plants and their story. Proceedings of the Royal Institute of Horticulture Conference, 1-3 October 1999. Edited by Mike Oates FRIH. 19 papers on native plants covering topics such as:
  - the increasing use and management of native plants in gardens, parks and public spaces
  - revegetation and restoration of natural areas
  - latest research on native plants
  - trends and fashions in gardening and the role of natives
  - cultivating natives in the home garden\$38 incl p&p. Send cheque payable to RNZIH Wellington Branch to Denis Hicks, 19 Waddington Drive, Lower Hutt.
4. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. \$72 incl p&p. 2001. Manuka Press, Box 12 179, CH. Ph 03 351 2152, fax 03 351 2158, sales@manukapress.co.nz www.manukapress.co.nz
5. Natural history publications catalogue. Reed Publishing (NZ) Ltd, 39 Rawene Road, PB 34 901, Birkenhead, AK. Ph 09 480 4950, fax 09 480 4999, e-mail: info@reed.co.nz
6. 2002 weekly diaries: NZ Alpines; NZ Mosses; NZ Natives; NZ Lichens; NZ Ferns; NZ Liverworts. Each diary is illustrated with 52 colour photographs. Comb-bound, stands upright on a desk. \$15 each incl GST & postage. Micro-Optics Press, Box 320, Nelson.
7. Campbell Island 1955/56; 1958–60. George Poppleton. Includes descriptions of the flora and fauna. 250p, 52 photos + drawings. \$43.95 incl. p&p. Jenn Falconer, 17 Volga St, Melrose St, WN. Ph 04 973 3533, e-mail: jenifa@paradiise.net.nz
8. Possum-free Miramar Peninsula – proposed Key Native Ecosystem Management Area (KNEMA). Possum Control Proposal Report No. 01/04. Pest Animal Section, Biosecurity Dept, Wellington Regional Council, Box 40-847, Upper Hutt.

# TRIP REPORT

## 6 October 2001: Dobsons/Tauherenikau

The threat of gale-force winds and torrential rain did not deter the small group of eleven BotSocers and one dog that gathered at 9.00 am at Kiwi Ranch, Kaitoke. The objective was to botanise the Marchant Ridge track in the Tararua Range as far as the site of the old Dobson Hut at the junction with the side track to the Tauherenikau River. Options were then to return either by the same route or by the longer route via the Tauherenikau River and Smith Creek.

Plant lists from a preliminary survey by Colin Ogle in February 1969, of the old Puffer Track and its continuation to Dobson Hut were available. These were collated, along with DOC database records, into a list to serve as a basis for observation and recording. As track work since the date of the earlier survey had significantly changed the route, observation for an updated list began where the track to Dobson Hut branched from the main Puffer Track.

The group made steady progress through lower slopes of bush regenerating from scrub into the beech/kamahai forest on the ridge. The time of the visit was not ideal for recording orchids for which, in

season, the Puffer Track has something of a reputation. Also, the absence of flowers limited the ability to identify the range of terrestrial monocots. Nevertheless, a good number of the plants previously recorded were relocated and a number of additions were recorded.

The highlight of the morning was relocating a group of southern rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*). Knowing that the trees were there, this relocation was not difficult as the largest of the group is immediately adjacent to the track. Barbara Mitcalfe had brought with her an article from an old Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin with Tony Druce's observations on the few scattered records of southern rata in the Tararuas. We listened to selected excerpts from the article, including the account of the search by Tony and Alison Druce, Geoff Park, and John and Michael Christeller in January 1959, for more rata in the vicinity of the largest tree, under which we had gathered. At the time of those observations, this tree was estimated to have had a diameter of 4 ft and a height of 55 ft. It still appeared to be in good health, with a few

younger canopy-height specimens near it. We did not have the time to relocate other specimens in the area, which in 1959 had totalled 19 living and 10 dead trees.

Another pleasure was finding *Brachyglottis kirkii* right by the track.

After a second lunch at the site of the old Dobson Hut, we left packs and hurried to the site of the original Dobson Hut sitting almost precisely on the Wellington Fault. From the open ridge approaching the site, the location of the fault could quite clearly be seen curving up from the Kaitoke basin, crossing the ridge on which we were standing, and continuing into the Tauherenikau valley towards Cone Saddle. A population of *Libertia pulchella* was located where once the old hut had stood.

Most then opted for the longer route to the cars while the scribe and one other chose the easier return.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Margaret Aitkin, Peter Beveridge (leader), Geoff Doring, Ian Goodwin, Jill Goodwin, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne (deputy), Jane Humble, Barbara Mitcalfe, Lynne Pomare.

*Peter Beveridge*

## Trip Report

### 3 November 2001: Boulder Hill KNE

This trip was cancelled because of stormy weather, and has been rescheduled to Saturday 2 March.

## OBITUARY

### Dave Peebles 1912-2001

BotSoc, tramping, mountaineering, Forest and Bird, and deerstalking were among Dave's many interests. He will long be remembered in conservation circles, especially for his work on projects run by Lower Hutt Branch, Forest and Bird. Dave was respected for his botanical knowledge. He gave talks and guided walks during Department of Conservation and Wellington Regional Council Summer Programmes. BotSocers will recall with pleasure having Dave on several trips, accompanied by Beryl, including the trip in December 1998/January 1999 to Golden Bay. Perhaps his most notable achievement was helping to form the Kaumatua Tramping Club.

We offer our condolences to Beryl Tuppin and Dave's family.

*Chris Horne (based on article by Bill Milne in Hutt News).*

# TRIP REPORT

## 1–2 December 2001: Eastern Wairarapa

The Uruti Dunes (DOC Site No. 2516) are the largest dune system in eastern Wairarapa. They are private land, and we thank Wendy and Davey Moore for permission to botanise on their property, advice on sites to visit, and plants to be looked for.

Among the dunes on this wonderful, windswept coast, we saw matagouri, *Coprosma acerosa*, *Pimelea arenaria*, *Calystegia sepium*, *C. tuguriorum*, spinifex and pingao. In the wetlands, we found *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontana* (= *S. validus*), *S. pungens* and *Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*. We also listed some of species of adventive plants.

Later on Saturday, we botanised the Riversdale Beach Dunes (DOC Site No. 2515) south of the village. Here we saw *Coprosma acerosa*, *Pimelea arenaria*, pingao and spinifex again. Of concern were the wide range of garden escapes on the

dunes, and the plantings of boobialla (“Tasmanian ngaio”) at the parking area.

Our potluck dinner at Riversdale Beach Camping Ground would have pleased any gastronome!

On Sunday, we met Chris Tatham, owner of Homewood Station, who explained the route the mouth of Kaiwhata River. We thank him for permission to see the steep coastline, the plant communities along the main stream and in two tributaries, and the drowned totara forest remnant in the surf.

When we arrived on the river flat, an adult variable oyster-catcher flew above us, anxious to warn us away from its chick which was running about on the beach. Nearby we saw numerous *Carex pumila*, and in the estuary, thousands of tiny fish.

The two tributaries on the True Right near the mouth of the river gave us 2 hours’ botanising. Of

interest was crown fern growing at 5m above sea level, and in a grove of Tasmanian blackwood, a range of forest and wetland species.

Our final foray was to the steep remnant on the True Left, opposite the woolshed. We saw black beech high above the scenic bend in the river, botanised the face by binoculars, and from the shallows at its base, then clambered up to the cars. A feature of the road to Te Wharau is *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* along the road cuttings.

We thank Aalbert Rebergen, Tony Silbery and John Sawyer, of the Department of Conservation’s Masterton and Wellington offices, for help with planning this field trip.

Participants: Beth Andrews, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Cath Mathews, Barbara Mitcalfe, Emil Schmieg, Darea Sherratt, Julia Stace, Harry Stimpson, Julia White.

*Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe*

## EVENING MEETING

### Monday 18 June 2001: Recent work on the evolution of the concept of scenic reserves in NZ

#### Speaker: Dr Geoff Park, writer and ecologist

Geoff, who learnt a lot about plants and landscapes from Tony Druce, wrote “Nga Uruora – The Groves of Life: Ecology and History in a NZ Landscape”. The book is part ecology, part history, part personal odyssey, and offers a fresh perspective on our landscapes and our relationships with them.

Geoff’s talk brought together for the first time some of his essays which have appeared in various publications, eg, *Landscape*.

In the early 1900s, the Public Works Act enabled land to be taken for scenery preservation purposes.

At that time, NZ was being created as a productive “southern Britain”. Thus Te Reinga Falls Scenic Reserve was set aside in the early 1900s to protect the falls, NOT the bush in which they were situated. The reserve was established to save a beautiful feature for tourists. Typically, scenic reserves are small, and surrounded by quite different vegetation, eg, pasture.

Percy Smith, who had been Surveyor-General, set about rescuing areas and protecting them, but he was not an ecologist, so he did not establish corridors between them. He led the scenery preservationists who were

government servants, and became Commissioner of Scenery Preservation in his retirement. The result of this work was the core of the present Scenic Reserves. The 1903 Scenery Preservation Act arose out of his concern at the loss of vegetation on the ever-changing landscape caused by rapid land clearance.

The Main Trunk Railway was a prime reason for setting up scenic reserves, because it was a route used by tourists.

For more information, contact Dr Geoff Park, ph 04 384 6679.

*Chris Horne*

# EVENING MEETING

## Monday 15 October 2001: *Sophora* (Fabaceae) in NZ: taxonomy, distribution and biogeography

**Speaker: Peter Heenan, Curator of Herbarium, Landcare Research, Christchurch**

Peter described his taxonomic treatment of the *Sophora microphylla* complex in NZ.

- *Sophora microphylla* sens. str. is endemic to NZ, and includes those plants with a distinct divaricating and/or strongly flexuose juvenile phase, orange-brown to yellow-brown juvenile stems, and distant leaflets.
- *S. chathamica* is reinstated at species rank
- *S. fulvida* is a new combination for the taxon previously known as *S. microphylla* var. *fulvida*
- *S. godleyi* is a new species
- *S. molloyi* is a new species

Only *S. microphylla* has a divaricating and/or strongly flexuose juvenile phase. The other four are each distinguished by a number of leaf characters, e.g. *S. fulvida* and *S. godleyi* have distinctive leaf hairs.

*S. chathamica* is a predominantly coastal species in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Wellington and the Chatham Islands.

*S. fulvida* occurs north of Auckland on volcanic rock outcrops.

*S. godleyi* occurs on calcareous mudstone and sandstone in eastern Taranaki, King Country, Wanganui and Manawatu.

*S. molloyi* is restricted to extremely dry and exposed bluffs

and rock outcrops of southern North Island headlands, Kapiti Island and several islands in Cook Strait.

Peter described cluster analyses of 11 leaf and four growth habit characters which provide additional support for the revised classification. He also discussed his key to *Sophora* in NZ, the occurrence of hybridism, the conservation status of each species, and biogeographical considerations.

Ed: the above is based on the abstract of the paper "*Sophora* (Fabaceae) in New Zealand: taxonomy, distribution, and biogeography" in *NZ Journal of Botany*, 2001, Vol 39: 17-53.

## Matiu Matters

Forest restoration continues on Matiu/Somes Island. Lower Hutt Branch, Forest & Bird, are preparing for the 2002 planting season. We expect that half the last unplanted paddock south of the quarantine buildings will be available. It is the only deep valley on the island which will provide a niche for pukatea and kahikatea at the lowest levels. Additional water can be provided by diverting stormwater from the quarantine station into the area. A shallow pond is proposed. The higher slopes will suit northern rata and kohekohe. Pioneer species such as taupata, kanuka, karamu and koromiko will be planted first to provide shelter.

On the island's eastern face "successionals" will be planted, sheltered by the trees put in five or six years ago which are now well grown. Thinning and pruning is being done to open light-wells for rewarewa, titoki, pigeonwood, totara, nikau and other species requiring shade.

*Streblus banksii* sourced from Mana Island is growing well, some now over 2 m high. It has proved remarkably resilient, with plants that looked dead after last year's drought coming back into leaf. There is some concern that *Senecio sterquilinus*, Matiu/Somes's flagship species, is less abundant. It will be brought into the island's propagation programme.

Stan Butcher

## QEII National Trust News

The Trust has recently registered the following Open Space Covenants to protect private land:

- Mulhern Road, Pauatahanui – 1.7 ha of tawa-dominant forest with a variety of podocarp and broadleaf species.
- Hanover Street, Wadestown, Wellington – 0.23 ha adjoining other covenanted properties and WCC's Treliwick Park.
- Manuhara Road, 16 km north of Pongaroa – 10.9 ha of lowland secondary podocarp/tawa forest.
- Range Road, Pongaroa – 37.94 ha of lowland secondary hardwood and modified primary podocarp/tawa forest.

The Trust has been working to enhance relationships with Wellington Regional Council and Kapiti Coast District Council, to increase covenanting activities in the region and in Kapiti.

Tim Park

Queen Elizabeth II National Trust  
PO Box 3341, Wellington  
Ph 04 472 6626; fax 04 472 5578;  
e-mail: [qe2@qe2natrust.org.nz](mailto:qe2@qe2natrust.org.nz)  
website: [www.nationaltrust.org.nz](http://www.nationaltrust.org.nz)

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



## Nature Heritage Fund news

The Nature Heritage Fund has recently purchased 54 ha of silver beech/red beech-kamahia forest, with a small area of subalpine leatherwood at the relatively low level of 912 m, in the headwaters of the Waitatapia Catchment, Otaki Gorge. The forest will be added to Tararua Forest Park.

*John Morton  
Nature Heritage Fund  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington  
Ph 04 471 0726; fax 04 471 3018*

## DOC Wellington Conservancy news

The Department of Conservation has recently acquired the following properties:

- Taungata Trig, Otaki Forks—see Nature Heritage Fund news article above.
- Kupes Sail Recreation Reserve. This acquisition of 2.1890ha, includes the northernmost sandstone slab of the “Kupe Sails”. It is a significant geological feature, and is important in Maori mythology. The land will be added to the existing reserve, and will secure better public legal access up Little Mangatoetoe Stream in Aorangi Forest Park .

*Adrian Griffiths  
Wellington Conservancy  
Department of Conservation  
PO Box 5086, Wellington  
ph 04 472 5821; fax 04 499 0077*

## Conservation emergencies

The Department of Conservation has a national 0800 freephone service for conservation emergencies. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Ring 0800 DOCHOTLine (0800 36 24 68). Callers are linked to the department’s duty officers in the nearest conservancy, either directly, or through a national answering service.

The number is for EMERGENCIES only, to report:

- illegal activity on conservation land;
- whale strandings;
- other occasions when any protected wildlife is in distress or obviously injured.

*Source: Forest & Bird No. 303, November 2001*

## Hutt Valley’s Daly St northern rata

Congratulations to Judy Robb, Horticultural Manager, Hutt City Council, who confirms that negotiations between HCC and the developer of the site have succeeded in saving this fine tree: The developer has agreed to modify the development plan, and HCC has taken responsibility for long-term maintenance of the tree.

## A new list of nationally and regionally threatened plants in Wellington Conservancy (excluding Chatham Islands)

The Department of Conservation now invites suggestions from BotSoccers on the species that should be included in a new *regional* threatened plant list for Wellington Conservancy (excluding Chatham Islands).

This is a continuation of a project that Wellington BotSoc began in the 1980s, when the region’s first threatened plant list was prepared and published as a supplement to the newsletter (see Ogle 1981).

The list will include species at greatest risk of regional extinction, or are in serious or gradual decline. Suggestions must be received by **1 March 2002** (see below for address). A meeting of key members of the Wellington Plant Conservation Network will be held later in 2002 at which time a final regional threatened plant list will be prepared for publication in the BotSoc Bulletin.

In 1996, DOC published a threatened plant list for Wellington Conservancy identifying 187 plant species either nationally or regionally threatened. Since then the Department has developed a new system for classifying threatened species, based on work by David Norton and Peter de Lange. That has resulted in a new list of nationally threatened species for New Zealand. A list of the nationally threatened plants in Wellington will be published in the next BotSoc Newsletter.

While nationally threatened species remain priorities for conservation management and species recovery efforts, there is also a need to identify species that are threatened within a particular region. It is those species that could become nationally threatened unless we intervene now.

To identify those regionally threatened species, DOC seeks help from BotSoccers to determine the species most at risk. The regional threat categories are listed below:

- Regionally Extinct
- Regionally Critical
- Regionally Endangered
- Regionally Vulnerable
- Serious decline in the region
- Gradual decline in the region
- Data deficient

If the species is taxonomically indeterminate, it can still be classified according to the above categories. Please contact DOC if you would like more information about how the threat categories are defined.

*John Sawyer  
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Wellington Conservancy  
Department of Conservation  
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## Over the hill

After a few years of exploring the vascular plants, this time it was the turn of the mosses and liverworts to take the stage as the John Child Bryophyte workshop settled into the Wairarapa for the annual foray.

In the spirit of “getting the plants just right,” it rained solidly during the days beforehand. It would, after all, have been less than polite to have had to show distinguished and long-travelling guests scraps of shrivelled, wizened brown stuff, all the while declaring that “it really is alive, just a bit dry”. Shades of Monty Python and the parrot. It could easily have been so; we had almost no rain at all in August and September, so things were looking decidedly grim for the plants with summer around the corner, and then, as we all know, it rained, and rained, and rained some more. Must have been the combined power of all the farming folk praying at the same time.

This didn't do much for one of the highlights, the aquatic *Fissidens berteroi*, which was well below water level and muddy water at that, when the group stopped at one of the two known Wairarapa sites. Searches for this are planned for upstream of the known plants this summer.

Still, the rain did stop, eventually, and even at the well known soggy forest of Mount Bruce, it never got past a thick drizzle as the group gave the terrace podocarp forest as thorough a going-over as it has ever had.

The keen-eyed did stray into the vascular flora from time to time, recording the first *Botrychium biforme* for the western side of Mount Bruce, among other sidetracks.

I'm looking forward to the “Mosses of Mount Bruce” section of the checklist with considerable interest.

The itinerary had folk in some varied and interesting places, from Mount Bruce in the watery north, to Dry River, in the less watery southeast and along the Western Lake reserves, so plenty of country and a good group of brains adds considerably to our collective knowledge of the Wairarapa's plants. It was good to meet people whom I've not seen for far too long!

The *Pterostylis micromega* discovered last year, is still thriving. In fact, this year there are three so far, all in the same spot as the one plant found a year ago.

Beech mistletoe in the Tararua Ranges are appreciating fewer possums and rewarding us with flowers on the known plants. Also, the first new plant has been spotted, from the air, during a search and rescue operation. Having found it, we now have to band the host tree and do the rescue side of the equation.

Finally, another search for more *Pimelea tomentosa* is planned for this summer. The only plant known, found on a BotSoc trip, has since died, which is hardly surprising as they are short-lived. We hope that this is as successful as many other searches for rare plants, though if not, there are always plants at Otari, as cuttings taken from the initial find have struck and are growing well.

Tony Silbery

Department of Conservation, Masterton

## OBITUARY

### John (Jack) David Coulter 1918–2001



Into the 83 years of his life, Jack packed an enormous amount of experience and fulfilment, and travelled a great distance geographically, intellectually and socially.

Jack's home town was Kaitangata. He had his early education there but had to travel to get his secondary education and later, his university training. He took up science and found his forte, but like so many people of his generation, his early career was interrupted by the war, during which he served in the Pacific as an Air Force meteorologist. He would later revisit this area more than once.

The war over, Jack returned to meteorology as his chosen profession, and eventually attained senior status in the Weather Office. But all this time he was doing a host of other things - marrying, building a house, raising a family, getting involved in botany in Botsoc. He also took a deep and informed interest in music, photography and books. Jack built up a splendid library, covering not only scientific and historical subjects but virtually the whole field of literature, including poetry. At different times he climbed, tramped and sailed. He did a lot of gardening, with a good collection of native plants. Later in life he was able to travel over a good part of the world.

And far as BotSoc was concerned, Jack was a hard-core stalwart, and much of what was said of Kingsley Brown (Obituary, October 2001 Newsletter) might be said of Jack. Memories of him come back of many a track and many a camp-tramping, lighting fires, cooking, cleaning billies, singing, philosophising, botanising.

In just about all the activities, Jack was accompanied and supported by Iris. They were a constant couple. Later, he often had the company of children and grandchildren. For many years Jack and Iris and a circle of friends went for a tramp, with mild botanising, each Sunday. There are few areas within 20–30 miles of Wellington that they did not traverse.

Jack's tramping extended throughout New Zealand and over many parts of the world. He lived life to the full and made no mean contribution to New Zealand society as a whole. His memory will be widespread and enduring; not least to Wellington Botanical Society.

E W (Ted) Williams

## The First International Orchid Conservation Congress



*Caladenia flava*

The First International Orchid Conservation Congress held in Perth, Western Australia from 24–28 September was attended by 132 delegates from 21 countries (4 from NZ). The conference promoted information exchange and the concept of integrated

conservation (including *ex-situ*, habitat manipulation and public awareness). There was strong representation of “amateur orchidologists” and it was noted that professionals ignore amateurs at their peril. That amateurs play a major role in the conservation of the world’s orchids should not be forgotten.

Several key themes emerged during the congress including: threats facing orchids in the wild (especially fire and wild collection); measuring diversity and the importance of good taxonomy (“*are flies better taxonomists than people*” because of the strong evidence of pollinator specificity); and finally effective recovery operations (we must set realistic and achievable objectives).

A paper was presented on behalf of the Department of Conservation by John Sawyer and Peter de Lange entitled “*Biogeography and orchid conservation in New Zealand: Case studies from the Department of Conservation orchid files*”. This paper described projects undertaken by staff of the Department over the past 12 years.

Some conclusions from the conference were:

- The problem of decline in New Zealand’s native orchids is significant. While there are relatively few nationally threatened orchid species, many others are in decline at a regional level. Taxa without formal names are also in serious decline.
- Orchids are flagship species around the world. The benefits that accrue to conservation from protecting orchid populations and orchid communities can be large. This was described as “*collateral conservation*”. It may be that orchids and/or other groups of species, e.g. mistletoes, can be used more effectively in this way in New Zealand.
- The three “Ps” are important: Patience, Persistence and Partnerships. It was suggested that passion could be added to that list.
- Increased skills in the range of orchid conservation techniques would be beneficial to New Zealand conservation efforts.
- Closer collaboration between the Department of Conservation, the NZ Native Orchid Group, groups such as the Wellington Botanical Society and other such volunteers will reap great benefits for native orchid conservation.

John Sawyer

Department of Conservation, Wellington

## Plants of conservation concern in Wellington

### Wellington Plant Conservation Network

A regional meeting of the Wellington Plant Conservation Network was held at Nga Manu Nature Reserve. This brought together all those involved in plant conservation on the Kapiti Coast for discussions about past and future projects. Meetings of the Wellington network are planned for early in 2002.

Preservation Island (an initiative of Nga Manu Trust) was opened this month. The island was established at Nga Manu, Waikanae, to provide a safe haven for populations of Wellington’s rarest native plant species including *Lepidium oleraceum*, *Urtica linearifolia*, *Streblus banksii*, *Carex litorosa* and many others. This will be a valuable resource for ecological restoration in the region.

### New discoveries

As usual over the past few months many of the region’s botanists have been finding previously unrecorded populations of some of our rarest plant species.

At least nine new *Peraxilla tetrapetala* (red mistletoe) records have been made for Holdsworth area in the Tararua Range (found by Trevor Thompson, Chris Hopkins, Jason Diederich and DOC staff). Discoveries have been made by Chris Hopkins of the two mistletoe species *Ileostylus micranthus* and *Korthalsella lindsayii* beside the Wainuiomata River on the Coast road south of Wainuiomata. *K. lindsayii* had not been seen at this site since 1939 and the last recording of *I. micranthus* was Atkinson’s record in 1921.

The *Pterostylis micromega* site discovered last year in southern Wairarapa, where only one plant was found, now supports three flowering plants. The rare swamp nettle *Urtica linearifolia* has recently been found by Pat Enright and Olaf John to the north of the Aorangi Range in the Ruakokoputuna area of eastern Wairarapa.

Also in the Wairarapa new plant populations have been found of *Teucrium parvifolium* (at Tinui), the Jersey fern—*Anogramma leptophylla* (3 populations at Tinui), *Mazus novaezeelandiae* subsp. *novaezeelandiae* (Admiral Road) and the leafless mistletoe *Korthalsella salicornioides* (several eastern Wairarapa sites).

Observations of rare and endangered plants may be sent to the Department of Conservation at the address below.

John Sawyer

Biodiversity – Technical Support Officer  
Department of Conservation

Wellington Conservancy

P.O. Box 5086, Wellington

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E-mail: jsawyer@doc.govt.nz

## 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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