



Wellington Botanical Society

NEWSLETTER May 2002

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Newsletter by e-mail

If you would like to receive your Newsletter by e-mail, in pdf format, please send your e-mail address to Penny Currier: pennyc@clear.net.nz.

Articles for web site

We welcome articles for consideration for inclusion on our web site, www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz

Please send your article to pennyc@clear.net.nz, or post it to Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10 420, Wellington, attention: Penny Currier and Julia White.

An apology

We apologise to anyone who came to Victoria University on Monday 15 April, hoping to attend the members' slides evening meeting. We forgot to place notices on all doors into the New Kirk Building stating that meetings are now held in the **Murphy Building, Lecture Theatre 101**, on the opposite side of Kelburn Parade. Please see Meetings box on this page.

The committee

Manawa Karioi Society Revegetation Programme

WORK BEES

10.00 am every Wednesday
and 2nd Sunday each month.
Lunch provided.

*Potted locally-sourced native
seedlings welcome. Thank you.*

Contact:

Morgan Cox ph 383 5168 or
Sally Bowman ph 934 7041

Meetings

Botanical Society meetings are normally held at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month at Victoria University, Wgton – Room M101, ground floor, Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade. Enter building through door about 20 m down Kelburn Pde from pedestrian overbridge.

Field trips

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

Committee meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month as follows: 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December. Meetings normally begin at 7.30pm. Any BotSoc member is welcome to attend. If you would like to do so, please ring the Secretary, Barbara Clark, ph 233 8202, to find out where the meeting will be held.

WBS Bulletin

We welcome articles for consideration in the next issue of the Bulletin. Members with memories of special occasions are invited to write an article. Please send your article ASAP 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)

Submissions

co-ordinator: Barbara Mitcalfe ph/fax 04 475 7149

Address: PO Box 10-412, Wellington 6036

Web site: www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz

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 \$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 the newsletter.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 15 September 2002

ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS

Ideas please

We welcome your ideas about:

- places to visit on field trips
- topics for evening meetings
- speakers at evening meetings.

Please send ideas to our secretary, Barbara Clark – address on page 1.

Field trips

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.

Clothing for field trips

Sun hat, balaclava¹ or hat¹, waterproof/windproof parka, long-sleeved cotton shirt, singlet¹, bushshirt¹, 1 or 2 jerseys¹, waterproof/windproof overtrousers, nylon shorts, longjohns¹, longs¹, underclothes, swimming togs, 4pr socks¹, hut shoes, boots, gaiters, mittens¹, handkerchief.

Day trip gear

First aid kit, compass², map², insect repellent, whistle, matches in waterproof container, water purification tablets, water bottle, thermos, pocket knife, camera², binoculars², hand lens², note book², pen and pencil², sunblock, sunglasses, large plastic survival bag to line pack.

Overnight trip gear and food

As well as 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, Glucose³, Ginger, Including Nuts.

¹ = wool, polypropylene or polarfleece as applicable.

²Optional

³ Dried apricots are recommended instead of glucose but would spoil the acronym!!

BotSoc equipment

In addition to the gas stoves, billies, kitchen utensils, flies etc., used on our long field trips, we have the following for use on any field trip:

- a first aid kit
- ten NZMS 260 Sheet R27, Pt.Q27 maps
- ten Silva Type 3 compasses

If you are leading a BotSoc trip, and would like to take these items, please ring Chris Horne ph 04 475 7025, or Barbara Mitcalfe ph 04 475 7149.

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.

Meetings

Public transport to meetings

You may find the following bus services useful. They stop on Kelburn Parade, about 50 m from Lecture Theatre M101 in the Murphy 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. 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 – 6.35 pm from Karori Park, 6.52 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 Microsoft Word, it would be much appreciated.

PROGRAMME: MAY – DECEMBER 2002

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.

Monday 20 May: Evening Meeting

Speaker: Julia Stace. Julia, a professional photographer who spent 4 months on Raoul Island in the Kermadecs, working for DOC as a volunteer on weed eradication, will show us slides of this remote island in Auckland Conservancy.

Extreme weeding on Raoul Island

Saturday 8 June: Field Trip

NOTE: not 1 June, to avoid clash with Queen's Birthday.

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 hired 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, and with planting trees and shrubs. Choose your task!

Bring: gloves, kneeler, weed bag, and your favourite planting tools e.g., a grubber, or pinch bar, because spades are no use in the bouldery soil; and weeding tools e.g. trowel, hand fork, loppers, pruning saw.

Catch 8.05am train on Hutt Line from Wellington Station. Tell leader you will be there.

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. Maps R26 and Upper Hutt.

Leader: Darryl Kee, ph 527 4093, Deputy leaders: Sue Millar ph 526 7440 and Glennis Sheppard ph 526 7450.

Monday 10 June: Evening Meeting

NOTE: not 17 June.

Speaker: Dr Philip Simpson, ecologist and author

Philip runs Uruwhenua Botanicals—Ecological Services and Wine Growing, RD 1, Takaka. He will have copies of his wonderful book, *Dancing Leaves*, for sale for \$50.

Conserving nature on private land in Marlborough

Saturday 6 July: Field Trip

1. Industrial Research Ltd, Gracefield

2. Rare *Leptinella* hunt

3. Petone Esplanade native plantings

Les Roberts, Site Manager, IRL, will guide us round the Sister Aubert Garden, and the extensive plantings of native species along the banks of Waiwhetu Stream. He will describe plans for planting 5000 more plants in the riparian zone this winter.

Meet at 10am at the IRL gate, Gracefield Road. Maps R27 and Lower Hutt.

Leader: Les Roberts; Ring deputy leader: Robyn Smith ph 236 6086.

Later we will search for *Leptinella dioica* ssp *monoica*, water level permitting. Finally we will study the fine example of the horticultural use of native plants on Petone Esplanade, and look at *Tetragonia tetragonoides* nearby. Ring Robyn if you wish to be met at Petone Station. Trains leave Wellington at 9.35am, and Upper Hutt at 9.0am.

Monday 15 July: Evening Meeting

Some aspects of the botany of the Bay of Plenty

Speaker: Graeme Jane, amateur botanist. Graeme will give us a general introduction to the features of the Bay of Plenty—geology, climate and human influences.

Saturday 3 August: Field Trip

Private forest, Western Hutt hills

Botanise Marlen Schmiegl's and Tony O'Rourke's 3.9 ha remnant which is listed in the Hutt City Council District Plan as Significant Natural Area No. 23. Though cut-over about 100 years ago, it has stands of tawa, hinau, rewarewa, and nikau, and good regeneration. Tui, kereru and bellbirds are in area. They would like a species list prepared, and ideas for controlling weeds.

Meet: 9am at clothing bins just off SH2 at the Hebden Cres/Liverton Rd exit. If you arrive late, their steep drive is almost opposite the bins. Maps R27 and Lower Hutt.

Leaders: Marlen and Tony. Deputy Leader: Emil Schmiegl. If you plan to come, wish to car-pool, or get a lift, ring Chris Horne ph 475 7025, or Barbara Mitcalfe ph 475 7149.

Monday 19 August: 1. Annual General Meeting**2. Evening Meeting****Tony Druce, field botanist extraordinaire**

Speaker: Dr Brian Molloy, Botanist, Research Associate, Landcare Research, Lincoln

Brian will tell us about his time botanising with Tony in the North and South Islands.

Saturday 7 September: Field Trip**Otari-Wilton's Bush–Johnston Hill Reserve**

Combined trip with 1st and 2nd year botany students from the School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University.

Come and share your knowledge with budding botanists, while botanising these fascinating and accessible forests.

See some of Leonard Cockayne's plantings.

Meet 9.45am at Izard Park, Wilton Road, opposite Mairangi bus terminus. Catch No.23 Mairangi bus from

Southgate 9.00, Courtenay Place 9.20, University 9.31; alight at terminus. Return from Marsden Village, Karori on

No.12 Lyall Bay bus.

Co-Leaders: Dr John Dawson, Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, and Prof Phil Garnock-Jones, SBS, VUW. Ring Barbara

Mitalche ph 475 7149, or Chris Horne ph 475 7025, if you plan to come, so that a copy of John's preliminary

species list will be made for you.

Monday 16 September: Evening Meeting**tba****Saturday 5 October: Field Trip****Strathmore revelations**

See matagouri on Airways Corporation land, look for more of this shrub which is rare in Wellington Conservancy,

and see *Pimelea prostrata*, *Aciphylla squarrosa*, and taupata forest in the WCC Rangitatau Reserve. Bring gloves

and secateurs to help with weeding around the matagouri plants. After botanising this coastal land, we will botanise in Beacon Hill Reserve, which includes the large-leaved milk tree, ewekuri.

Co-leaders: Julia White ph 938 5102; Gary James ph 938 6751

Meet at 9.30 am at gate at end of Ahuriri St, Strathmore. Map R27 and Wellington street map.

Catch no. 43 Strathmore bus 8.50 am Khandallah, 9.05 am Lambton Interchange, 9.23 Kilbirnie; alight at stop at

end of Ahuriri St. near gate.

Monday 21 October: Evening Meeting**tba****Saturday 2 November: Field Trip****Kapiti Island**

See for yourself the results of removing all possums, rats and other pest animals from 1965ha Kapiti Island. Plant communities, invertebrates and birds are thriving.

Co-Leaders: Jane Humble ph 971 6970, 16 Izard Rd, Khandallah, WN 6004, and Lynne Pomare, phone no. in next

Newsletter. Jane will book places on the launch when bookings open on 1 August. *SEND JANE YOUR \$25**DEPOSIT A.S.A.P. TO ENSURE YOU HAVE A PLACE ON THIS SPECIAL TRIP.* NOTE: if you have to cancel

your booking, please either find someone to take your place, or, if the leaders cannot find a substitute, be prepared to forfeit your deposit.

Monday 18 November: Evening Meeting**Ecological monitoring in Wellington Conservancy**

Speaker: Dr Steve Ulrich, Forest Ecologist, Department of Conservation.

Steve is reviewing previous monitoring work, including that done in the late 1950s by J Holloway and P Wardle, L

Pracey's work with exclosure plots from 1951, and work done in the Orongorongo Valley since the 1960s. He is

evaluating progress so far, and planning future monitoring.

He says that "Wellington is lucky to have long-established permanent plots to monitor vegetation change—a treasure-trove of good ecological information".

Saturday 7–Sunday 8 December: Field Trip**South Wairarapa**

Botanise forest remnants on private land near Ruakokoputuna, Pirinoa and Whangaimoana.

Accommodation: Please see next Newsletter

Pot-luck dinner Saturday night.

Meet 9am at Dorset Square Native Reserve, cnr SH2 and Moore St (which becomes Western Lake Road)

Featherston. The reserve is an excellent example of the horticultural use of native plants. Get there early to enjoy it!

Co-Leaders: Jenny and Geoff Doring ph 021 619 599.

Ring Wellington contact re car-pooling, arranging lifts etc: Bev Abbott 475 8468.

2–12 January 2003 Field trip**Bay of Plenty****NB:** The later than usual start is to minimise accommodation difficulties associated with this popular location.

It is a very stimulating area for botanists to explore!

The Kaimai Range and Northern Ureweras mark the transition from kauri forests to beech forests. Red and silver beeches reach their northern limits in the Kaimai Range and kauri and many of its associated species their southern limits. The fog forests of the Kaimai Range also carry their own unique plant communities and are rich in ferns and

bryophytes. The thermal floras of Rotorua also contain lower plants otherwise found only in Northland. Field trips will visit Mount Te Aroha and several other places along the Kaimai Range; coastal pohutukawa, puriri and kohokohe forests; coastal wetlands, dunelands and mangroves; the thermal areas of Rotorua, pohutukawa/hard beech forests and the dense podocarp forests of the Urewera fringes.

Venue 1: Thursday 2 – Sunday 5 January 2003

Rocky Camp (Christian Camp), Rea Rd, Katikati, (30 min north of Tauranga), is situated just south of Katikati on the western side of the highway, along a stream, among orchards and close to hot springs. This site has plenty of indoor and outdoor accommodation. Camping: \$7. Bunk rooms holding up to 9: \$90.

(Web site: <http://homepages.maxnet.co.nz/map>)

Venue 2: Monday 6 – Sunday 12 January 2003 (depart Sunday 12)

Murphy's Motor Camp, Matata (23 km NW of Whakatane). "Absolute beachfront along 1.5 km of coastline"! There are caravan sites, some permanent, a few cabins and tent sites. **Only tent sites are available here.** Though a cabin has been booked for BotSoc use, no other cabins are available. (See Registration Form for a suggestion for those needing indoor accommodation—approx 9 km south of Matata).

NB: The following may help you find your own accommodation if you have to be indoors. Approximately 9 km from Matata, *en route* to Whakatane, is **Thornton Beach Motor Camp. Phone/Fax: 07 304 8296.** They have cabins which sleep 4, cost: \$35 double, each extra adult \$10 and tourist flats (include bathrooms) sleep up to 8, cost \$65 double, each extra adult \$12.

To be assured of accommodation you will need to book by September. (We will try and help people who want to share to contact like-minded others on request)

Mayor Island: an optional extra visit. Accessible from either venue. Cost up to \$100.

Maps: Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park, interim revision. 2000. DOC. \$10.

Parkmap Kaimai Mamaku, scale 1: 50000 Infomap. \$14.95

Booklet: Tramping and walking in Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park. 1994. DOC.

Photos needed for BotSoc's new display board

A generous donation from Wellington Conservancy of DOC has largely funded purchase of our new display board, from Displayways, Petone. It was used for the first time a few weeks ago at the Environmental Restoration Network's "Restoration Day" at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park, and is a great improvement on our old one.

Even at a distance, the big, bold, BotSoc heading for the display attracts attention, standing out from its muted background of *Raoulia hookeri* "Coast".



The display's next outing will be the Open Day at WCC's Berhampore Nursery on 25 May (see Events section, p. 6). There will be another opportunity to view it during Conservation Week at the Wellington Cathedral.

For years we have enjoyed the privilege of using enlarged, colour prints of Olaf John's splendid, botanical photographs. It is time now to invite other members to send in slides/photos of botanical subjects and BotSoccers in action, to copy for the display. If possible, please accompany the photos/slides with notes regarding date, site, and names of people and/or plants involved. Send to Hon. Sec. WBS, Box 10-412, WN. Include your name and address for return, if desired. We will acknowledge your contribution.

Boobiella

Our next issue will feature an article on the problems posed by the widespread availability and use of this plant, also known as Tasmanian "ngaio", *Myoporum insulare*. We will also give advice on how to distinguish this species from ngaio, *M. laetum*.

Watch this space!

Barbara Mitcalfe.

New Zealand Post

We thank the Wellington Community Post Board of NZ Post for 100 postage-included envelopes for use when posting our Newsletters.

We congratulate NZ Post on the set of six beautiful stamps featuring native fungi, issued on 6 March, and hope that other groups of our native flora will appear on future issues.

Victoria Froude
President

AWARDS

1. Loder Cup

NZ's premier conservation award. Nominations must be made by or through one of a list of organisations including NZ Botanical Society and Wellington Conservation Board. *URGENT!*: Nominations due by 31 May. Contact Pam Crisp, Loder Cup Committee, Dept of Conservation, Box 10 420, WN, ph 04 471 0726, fax 04 471 3255, e-mail pdcrisp@doc.govt.nz

2. Conservation Awards 2002

If you know about any outstanding conservation project in Wellington Conservancy deserving recognition to help to inspire others, ask Gavin Rodley, Dept of Conservation, Box 5086, WN, ph 04 472 5821, fax 499 0077, e-mail grodley@doc.govt.nz for a nomination form. Nominations close 12 July.

EVENTS

- 1a. Saturday 12 May, 9.30 am. Queen Elizabeth Park. Dune seedling potting up.
- 1b. Friday 31 May. Queen Elizabeth Park. Arbor Day planting – see 4. below.
- 1c. Saturdays 8 and 22 June. Forest restoration planting, Maara Roa, Cannons Creek, Belmont Regional Park. Meet 9.30 am at Brandon Intermediate. Phone Sylvia Jenkin, ph 237 4760.
- 1d. Saturday 15 June, 10 am. Arbor Day planting, Rimutaka Incline Recreation Area.
- 1e. Saturday 29 June, 9.30 am. Sand dune trial plots, Whareroa Bach, Queen Elizabeth Park.
Please bring a spade or trowel, depending on which of the above activities you plan to attend.
Ring Ross Jackson, Volunteers Co-ordinator, Parks and Forests, Wellington Regional Council ph 04 802 0331, e-mail ross.jackson@wrc.govt.nz, for a copy of Newsletter No.2 with full details of these events.
2. Matiu/Somes Island Tree Plantings. Sundays: 26 May, 23 June, 31 July, 18 August, 15 September. Free transport from Queens Wharf at 8.30a.m., or Days Bay at 9.15a.m. Bring lunch. Contact Alex Kettles 569 6208, or Stan Butcher 567 7271.
3. WCC Berhampore Nursery Open Day. Saturday 25 May, 9am–2pm.
Emerson Street, Berhampore. See where most of the plants used for revegetation, street plantings and bedding displays are grown. Some plant sales. Contact Manager, Jonathan Bussell, ph 389 9729.
4. Arbor Day 2002.
 - a. 10.30am, Friday 31 May. MacKays Crossing, Queen Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki. All welcome. Help plant trees and wetland plants. Bring gumboots/sturdy shoes and a spade.
 - b. Kaiwharawhara Stream. 5 June and 4 August. Contact Jane Wright ph 475 3245 re start time and place.
5. Montana Book Award 2001. Saturday 8 June. Tree House, Wellington Botanic Garden. \$15 for non-members of Friends of Wellington Botanic Gardens.
9am–noon: Finalists in the *Environment* category:
 - Dr John Dawson and Rob Lucas – “Nature Guide to the NZ Forest”
 - Winsome Shepherd – “Wellington’s Heritage Plants”
 - Dr Philip Simpson – “Dancing Leaves”12.15–1.15 Lunch, Begonia House café – book by 1 June: ph 476 6589.
1.30pm–3.30pm: Outer Town Belt
Speakers: Richard Nanson and Mike Oates. Panel includes John Dawson and Philip Simpson.
6. Conservation Week. Theme: Maunga Korero—Talking Mountains. Focus on the cultural, natural and recreational values of mountains, from local hills and landmarks, to high alpine mountains. 4–11 August. Contact Sally Airey, Dept of Conservation, Box 5086, WN, ph 04 472 5821, fax 04 499 0077, e-mail sairey@doc.govt.nz.
7. NIWA Schools Science Fair. 28 August – set-up, 29 August – judging, 30 August & 1 September – open day. Laby Building, School of Chemical & Physical Sciences, Victoria University. NIWA contact: Sylvia Nichol ph 386 0396.
8. Otari-Wilton’s Bush Open Day. 15 September. Native plant sales and guided walks. Contact the Supervisor, Jane Wright, 475 3245.
9. 18th John Child Bryophyte Workshop. 28 November–3 December. Albert Town, near Wanaka, Central Otago. Contact: Geoff Spearpoint, Box 188, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. Wellington Plant Conservation Network – members’ directory, April 2002.
- 1b. Have you seen these plants in Wellington Conservancy? Copy enclosed with this Newsletter.
- 1c. Have you seen these aquatic plants? Copy to be enclosed with next Newsletter.
- 1d. Native plants for streamsidings in Wellington Conservancy. Barbara Mitcalfe and Wellington Conservancy. 2002. See article in this issue.

Wellington Conservancy, Dept. of Conservation, Box 5086, WN.

- 2a. Science Publications 2001 – catalogue.
- 2b. ConScience No. 43: Invasion of coastal forest by weeds from subdivisions; etc.
- 2c. DOC Science Internal Series 25–32. 234 p. \$40.00. Third compendium of DSIS papers.
- 2d. Monthly Distribution Memos now available by e-mail: science.publications@doc.govt.nz
- 2e. The Conservation Requirements of NZ’s Nationally Threatened Invertebrates. Information on 280 species, plus list of 540 species which may require conservation management in future.
- 2f. Protecting NZ’s invertebrates – leaflet re 2e above.
- 2g. Maintenance of key tree species. RB Allen, GM Rogers, GH Stewart. 2002. Science for Conservation 190. 60p. \$30. *DOC Science Publishing, Dept. of Conservation, Box 10 420, WN. Ph 04 471 3285.*

- 3a. Ornamental pets can become monumental pests – leaflet re alien plants and fish and invertebrates released from aquariums.

Dept. of Conservation, Hamilton.

4. Gondwana invaded: an address on distinctive features of managing indigenous biodiversity in protected areas in NZ. H Logan 2001. Journal of the Royal Society of NZ 31:813-818 5p.
5. Pakuratahi Valley – riparian recovery. Report prepared for Wellington Regional Council. June 2001. *Ross Jackson, WRC, Box 11 646, WN, ph 04 384 5708.*
6. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletins – some back issues available. \$1, plus \$1 p&p. *Contact Pat Enright, 19 Gaya Grove, Ngaio, WN 4, ph 04 938 7537.*
7. NZ Botanical Society Newsletter. Quarterly. Subscription: ordinary – \$18; student – \$9. Complete run of back issues available. *Contact NZ Botanical Society, c/o Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, CH 8001.*
- 8a. Festive season weed control – holly and ivy. Tim Park, in “Open Space” No. 53, Dec/01.
- 8b. Toetoe, or not toetoe? – identification and control of pampas grass. Tim Park, in “Open Space” No. 54, May/02. *QE II National Trust, Box 3341, WN. Subscription: individual – \$30, family – \$45.*
9. New Zealand Environment. 24 issues p.a. Subscriptions: individual – \$95; public/non-profit bodies – \$125; commercial organisations – \$150. NZE, c/o Landor Publishing NZ Ltd, Box 766, Shortland St, AK. Ph 09 366 1543, fax 09 309 2011, e-mail nzenvironment@xtra.co.nz
- 10a. Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the NZ flora – 37. PJ de Lange, BG Murray. 2002.
- 10b. A taxonomic reappraisal of *Coprosma obconica* Kirk (Rubiaceae: Anthospermeae). PJ de Lange, RO Gardiner. 2002.
- 10c. Taxonomic and ecological profiles of rarity in the NZ vascular flora. GM Rogers, S Walker. 2002. *NZ Journal of Botany 40: 10a: 1 – 23; 10b: 25 – 38; 10c: 73 - 93.*
11. NZ Journal of Botany. Subscription (Volume 40): individual – \$147. SIR Publishing, Box 399, WN. Ph 04 472 7421, e-mail sales@rsnz.govt.nz
12. Botany of the Waikato. 136p, 120 colour photos, 15 chapters, ecosystem-based. Different authors for each chapter. \$35 incl. p&p.
Make cheque payable to Waikato Botanical Society Inc. Waikato Botanical Society, c/o Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Waikato, PBag 3105, Hamilton.
13. Kermadec Islands Flora – special edition. WR Sykes, CJ West, JE Beever, AJ Fife. 2000. Manaaki Whenua Press. This is a reprint of Bill Sykes’ 1977 check list, updated by the inclusion of several recently published papers, a colour photograph supplement and a new preface. RRP \$59.95 incl. p&p, less 20% discount to BotSoccers. Order at www.mwpress.co.nz
14. NZ National Parks and Conservation Foundation – an opportunity to support NZ’s natural heritage. Pamphlet. NZNP&CF, Level 4, 32 The Terrace, Box 3058, WN. Ph 04 495 3747, fax 04 473 7991. www.nationalparks.org.nz
15. The Conservation Requirements of NZ’s Nationally Threatened Invertebrates. Carl McGuinness. Threatened Species Occasional Publication No. 20. Biodiversity Recovery Unit, Dept of Conservation, Box 10420, WN.
16. Branch Out. No.6 May 2002. Newsletter for friends of Wellington City Council parks and reserves. Joanna Gillanders, Curator, Town Belt and Reserves, WCC, Box 2199, WN, ph 801 3607.

SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR—URGENT!!!

1. Towards a Greater Wellington – ten year plan 2000 – 2010: 2002 Update, Incorporating the 2002 – 2003 Annual Plan. Submissions by 20 May to Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN. Freephone 0800 496 734 for a copy, or see on www.wrc.govt.nz/aw/consult.htm
2. Wellington city Council Draft Annual Plan 2002/03, including the 10-year plan. Submissions by 22 May to WCC, Box 2199, WN. Ph 499 4444 for a copy.
3. Visitor access to Kapiti Island northern public land – discussion document. Document from Steve Sutton, Wellington Conservancy, Dept. of Conservation, Box 5086, WN, ph 472 5821. Submissions due 24 May.
4. Porirua City Council Draft Annual Plan and Draft Funding Policy. Submissions to PCC, Box 50-218, Porirua by 24 May. Ph 237 5089.

SYNOPSIS OF SUBMISSIONS

KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL RE APPLICATION RM980426 FOR RESOURCE CONSENT UNDER SECTION 92 (2) OF THE RMA 1991, TO OPERATE A HOMESTAY AND ECOTOURISM ENTERPRISE ON PRIVATE LAND ON KAPITI ISLAND, MARCH

Neither opposed in its entirety, nor supported in its entirety; **opposed** the overnighting option but **supported** a daytime option with protocol amendments as conditions of a resource consent if it is granted; **advised** that WBS members with local and international experience and expertise in the management of island nature reserves had suggested that the *overnight* nature of the proposed application would increase unacceptably the risk of rodent re-infestation on Kapiti; **complimented** the applicants on the quality of their application and **agreed** there would be significant environmental benefits from a daytime eco-tour operation, with considerably strengthened protocols; **agreed** that their proposed protocols constitute a good environmental model, being not far short of Department of Conservation (DOC) Best Operating Practice (BOP) and far in advance of existing procedures operating for visits to Kapiti; **recommended** that if the application is successful, there be comprehensive compliance monitoring in perpetuity by DOC and the proposed period for implementing the protocols be reduced to 2 years; **suggested** many ways in which the protocols should be strengthened; **agreed** that a very valuable, fundamental part of the proposed venture is tangata whenua teaching about things Maori and providing a model of kaitiakitanga in action.

TO OPERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE, HUTT CITY COUNCIL, RE APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO TRIAL COMMERCIAL ABSEILING AT PERCY STREAM WATERFALL

April: Visited the site; **recommended** that the application be declined; **backgrounded** our long-standing association with Percy Scenic Reserve; **expressed** concern that the proposed increased use would be detrimental to the track system and to the natural amenity of the valley, especially the immediate vicinity of the waterfall; **suggested** there would be increased maintenance costs which would not be covered by the token fee suggested; **asked** who would supervise the proposed activity when there are no Percy Reserve staff on duty; **expressed** concern regarding some safety issues; **requested** HCC to draft a management plan for the reserve as a matter of urgency; **agreed** that the Top Adventures abseiling operation could provide “an alternative tourist destination” i.e. Percy Scenic Reserve, but **asserted** that it should be a priority to promote the reserve for *ecological* reasons rather than as a convenient, adventure destination - clients could be guided round the reserve and shown the collections, the bush walks and the waterfall, as a non-exploitative experience of Aotearoa’s indigenous vegetation; **concluded** that the proposed activity is an inappropriate, unsustainable and exploitative use of a significant, natural feature.

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW, REGIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS

February 2002 Recommended increasing community involvement as one effective way to achieve both closer relations with the community and park/forest management objectives; **recommended** all parks and forests be subject to intensive control of pest plants and weeds and pest animals including deer, feral stock, goats, pigs, possums, hares, rabbits, rodents, mustelids, hedgehogs, cats and magpies; in order to protect the ecological health of the parks and forests, **supported** using the most effective poisons for the task in hand, including brodifacoum, 1080, cholecalciferol, Ferotox and cyanide, and the use of traps, dogs, and guns as appropriate; **commended** Council’s efforts to rid **Queen Elizabeth Park** of blackberry, boneseed, Indian buckthorn, boobialla (sometimes called Tasmanian ngaio) and pampas; **recommended** that funding and resources be allocated in this year’s and succeeding Annual Plans, for a strategy to systematically replace these problem plants with appropriate, native species; **asked** for protection of existing, remnant, indigenous vegetation, (e.g. the forest remnant at NZMS 260 R26 Paraparaumu, G.R. 762266), by fencing; provision of bait stations; seed collection and propagation for planting back in situ; also **requested** monitoring of threatened, remnant, indigenous species such as sand Coprosma, *Coprosma acerosa*, taatarake, which survives in a few locations in the park, and the sand-binding grass, spinifex, *Spinifex sericeus*, koowhangatara, in danger of local extinction in the park because of marram grass; **commended** Council for their efforts to save the dune sedge, *Carex testacea*, by seed collection, propagation and planting back; re **Battle Farm Hill Forest Park**, **asked** for special care for *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, taurepo, near its southern limit but flourishing trackside in the park; re **Belmont Regional Park**,

recommended fencing the Nikau Covenant; re **Kaitoke Regional Park**, **advised** that Te Marua Bush has greatly benefited from the weed-spraying made possible by Council's generous grant last year: the forest floor, formerly smothered in dense *Tradescantia fluminensis*, is unrecognisably bare, ready to receive this autumn's seedfall; re **East Harbour (Pencarrow) Regional Park**: **recommended** that it be gazetted, that the Lakes Block be retired from grazing as soon as the current lease expires, and that access along the coast road be restricted to walking, running, cycling, horse-riding and tour bus operation; to ensure the effective management of the park, **recommended** funding be allocated for the appointment and support of an East Harbour Park ranger; (Note: this has been approved); **expressed** the hope that negotiations succeed in Council purchasing the highly scenic and ecologically significant Turvey property for adding to the park; **proposed a new Makara/Terawhiti Regional Park**, **recommending** that Council signal its interest in purchasing this rugged terrain, with its highly significant ecological values, (including refugia of threatened, indigenous species), if the opportunity arises; **proposed another, new Regional Park: Wairarapa Taipos, and Rocky Hills**, known refugia of threatened species. (Source: A.P.Druce's species lists and the DOC data base); re **Akatarawa Forest, including Cannon Point Walkway, Karapoti Challenge Courses**, one of the largest areas of heritage, indigenous forest in the region: **recommended** no further roads or tracks be permitted; re the **Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area**, **quoted** first-hand evidence of long-term damage from ungulate and possum browsing and pig rooting in these forested catchments, putting at risk one of the best examples of heritage, lowland podocarp/broadleaf forest in the southern North Island; **recommended** pig- deer- and goat-proof fencing and intensive, localised pest plant control; **supported** continuing control of access but with some changes, e.g. supervised volunteer groups carrying out weed control and other appropriate tasks; re **Hutt Water Collection Area**, **supported** continuing pest control to improve the health of the ecosystem and thus the water quality.

Barbara Mitcalfe, Submissions Co-ordinator

Alternatives to willows

(Look – there are “NATIVES” popping up in “ALTERNATIVES”!

At last—*Feasibility Trials of Native Plants for River Edge Protection*. BotSoc submissions made to Wellington Regional Council (WRC) over several years, followed by a series of discussions and a site visit, have been successful. There is now a set of agreed protocols to guide a 5-year feasibility study of selected native species for river edge protection, using 4 sites on the Hutt River.

These trials have been motivated to some extent by the recent, country-wide threat posed by infestations of sawfly, which browse willows. Traditionally, willows and poplars have been “frontline protection species” used almost exclusively by regional authorities and others, for river edge protection. However, promoting and maintaining indigenous, regional biodiversity is now a recognised need.

A small sub-committee of BotSoc (Ian Atkinson and I) and WRC flood-protection staff (Steve Murphy and Trecia Smith) have drafted the protocols and WRC has generously offered to fund the project. The native species selected are being sourced locally and it is hoped to begin planting this winter. WRC staff will do the planting, and two independent auditors will monitor the performance of the plants at regular intervals, using agreed criteria.

There will be opportunities for interested BotSoc members to give practical assistance at all stages of this exciting, worthwhile project. Ring me if you would like more information.

*Barbara Mitcalfe,
Ph./Fax: 475-7149*

Lichen or not?

One of the two BotSoc prizes at the 2001 NIWA Schools Science Fair was won by three pupils from Form 2, St Mark's Church School, Wellington—Kate Bromley, Lauren Bailey and Joanne Bailey. Their project was called “Lichen or Not?”

They wanted to find out how many of their selection of 25 trees growing within 100 m of a main road in each of Mount Victoria, Kilbirnie, Newtown, Vogeltown, Thorndon, Kelburn, Karori, Johnsonville, Miramar and Island Bay, support lichen.

Their hypothesis was that Mount Victoria and Thorndon would have the most because there are many trees in those suburbs, and trees produce clean air through photosynthesis. Therefore lichens will like Mount Victoria and Thorndon. They also thought that Newtown and Karori would have the least lichens because there are fewer trees in these suburbs and the traffic volumes are higher on the main roads there. Their method was to visit each of the ten suburbs and find 25 trees within 100 m of a main road. They then examined the trees carefully for the presence of lichen.

They recorded the results and displayed them on their project.

Conclusion

Their conclusion was that the suburb with the most lichen was Newtown, and they thought that it would have the least. This disproved their hypothesis.

“The Government could use this information to know what areas are cleaner and what areas need to be worked on to make them cleaner. We also think that people buying a new house could use our information to find out what areas are cleaner, and if they would like to buy a house there,” they said.

OBITUARY

Pauline Constance Mayhill 1924–2002



Photo: Val Smith.

Pauline was feeling fit and looking forward to the botanical societies' New Year camp at Lakes Pukaki and Ohau, when on that fateful journey south, she was killed in a car accident at Blenheim. Being a person who expressed so much life and enthusiasm, it was difficult to comprehend that she would no longer be a part of these most enjoyable occasions.

Pauline was born in Tauranga. Her father was a keen vegetable gardener, but a neighbour encouraged her to grow flowers and native plants, and to learn their Latin names. She was a member of botanical societies in UK, USA and South Africa, and participated in their seed exchanges. Her garden was always a treasure-trove of interesting plants, many of them NZ natives. There will be many people who will have memories of Pauline growing in their gardens as a result of her generosity.

She was also interested in native orchids, and had photographed them in the wild, both here and overseas. She was at an NZ Native Orchid Symposium at Iwitahi in December.

Early in Pauline's life she was interested in conservation. I had first met her and her family about 35 years ago on Forest and Bird Protection Society trips in the Waikato. I was impressed by her ability to learn quickly the names of native plants, and found years later that she would retain not only the names, but recall the places

where she had seen a particular species. Her three children all developed an interest in the native bush through her, which they retained as adults.

About 20 years ago, Pauline and I joined Wellington Botanical Society as country members, and together with Keith, we started attending the annual New Year camps. These well-organised camps to see interesting plants in exciting places, in the company of knowledgeable and warmly friendly people, have always been a highlight of the year for us.

At about the same time, Pauline had developed an interest in land snails. She already had knowledge of some of the almost microscopic sea snails found on our northern shores. It was amazing how quickly she learnt the names of the land snail fauna, eventually becoming familiar with most of the 1200 or so species and varieties found in NZ. Not a easy task because most of them are less than 5mm in diameter. Pauline could never have attained this knowledge without the help of Keith who, particularly after he retired, spent much time travelling the country with her. The Wellington and Auckland museums and scientists in this field must be greatly indebted to Pauline for her indefatigable work which has helped to expand their knowledge and their collections of land snails.

A brief mention of another of Pauline's attributes—by profession she was a dietitian. She produced beautiful meals and was a great asset to Waikato Forest and Bird members by her catering for the many camps we had over the years. She and Keith also organised camps to exciting botanical areas. The most adventurous was to the Auckland Islands, aboard *Acheron* in 1982. This was before tourism found this destination.

This cannot be an impersonal obituary because of the long period of our friendship, and the support we gave each other in our respective fields of endeavour. Her memory is very dear to me.

Let us rejoice for a life lived to the full, for the knowledge she so generously shared, and for her enthusiasm for plants, birds, snails, and of course people.

Audrey Eagle



Photo: Audrey Eagle.

TRIPREPORT

Field Trip: 27 December 2001–8 January 2002: Mount Cook to Omarama and more

This combined field trip for Wellington BotSoc and the Botanical Society of Otago included areas of interest in the southwest Canterbury, Mount Cook and associated lakes areas. An unusual aspect of the trip was to move camp half way through to avoid driving long distances. The first base was Lake View Homestay, Lake Pukaki; the second was Glen Mary Ski Club, Lake Ohau. Both had good camping sites with wonderful views, inside accommodation and the necessary facilities. The move from one to the other was not the bother we feared it might be, and the change of scene was stimulating.

Sites visited ranged from wetland to alpine, from dry riverbed to dripping beech forest.

Considering how the summer has been, we were blessed with good weather and three superb days in Mount Cook National Park.

Participants: Ted Abraham, Beth Andrews, Barbara and Peter Beveridge, Robyn Bridges, Barbara Clark, Rosemary Collier, Gael Donaghy, Audrey Eagle, Chris Ecroyd, David and Karen Havell, Chris Horne, Ros Iles, Rick Jackson, Graeme Jane, Allison Knight, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Donella Moss, Ruth Peszynski, Frank Rogers, Emil Schmiege, Darea Sherratt, Barbara and Neill Simpson, Val Smith, Nola Walker, Bastow Wilson, Joyce Wilson.

The 33 members who took part made a great team, hard working, co-operative and friendly. This contributed hugely to the success of the events. Special thanks to Joyce Wilson, Alison Knight, Rodney Lewington, Graeme Jane, Gael Donaghy, Geoff Rogers, Pat Enright, Barbara Clark, Julia White.

The participants

28 Dec: Pukaki Scientific Reserve

Chosen for its easy access from camp on our first morning, this reserve proved to be a worthy starting point for botanising.

The reserve is fenced to exclude rabbits, and looked like it had been grazed tussock grassland in the past. Nearest the road a thick cover of *Hieracium* was evident. Keen eyes soon spotted little orchid seedheads emerging from this, and a grovel uncovered the rosettes of one of the small multiheaded *Pterostylis* orchid species. Dissection of a shrivelled flower allowed it to be identified as *Pterostylis mutica*. The rosettes of leaves were still green despite the fact that the seeds had been dispersed from many of the capsules.

Near the road there are small, seasonally wet areas which provide habitats for wetland species like *Pratia perpusilla* with its ruffled leaves and split flower, and *Epilobium angustum*, which also has distinctive ruffled, brownish leaves. As we moved back from the road, the tussock grassland contained many more orchid plants, mostly *Praesophyllum colensoi* and the little *Microtis oligantha*, with its few-flowered spike. By late morning it was warm enough for the white flowered sun orchid, *Thelymitra longifolia*, to be in flower.

Moraine with large rocks provided shelter and protection for shrubs and other plants. Here the shrubs are dominated by *Discaria toumatou*, *Aristotelia fruticosa*, and *Coprosma propinqua* with some *C. intertexta*. In the shelter of the rocks were interesting plants like the small renga renga lily (*Arthropodium candidum*), two *Asplenium* – tiny *A. flabellifolium* and the beautiful carrot fern (*Asplenium richardii*), the white-leaved herbaceous yellow daisy *Brachyglottis haastii*, and the spider

orchid *Corybas trilobus*. Perched in its usual habitat, the “hot rock fern” *Cheilanthes humilis* should not have been a surprise!

Those who took the long way back to the vehicles were rewarded with flowering plants of *Hebe cupressoides*, while those who took the more direct route had time to spend exploring the red tussock fringed wetlands.

Gael Donaghy

28 Dec: Wet grassland on Pukaki Downs Station

Plan A had been to botanise the Big Rock stream catchment in the afternoon. But we ended up driving and walking across Pukaki Downs Station to botanise an area of low lying grassland, with a bit of bog surrounding a small alder-lined lake, the source of the Station’s water supply.

As we descended the last slope we had a close encounter with a magnificent solitary *Aciphylla aurea*, whose stems were heavily covered in seed. On the same contour and similarly isolated, grew a specimen of *Olearia virgata* with a fragrance reminiscent of almonds. With the benefit of hindsight, and Geoff Roger’s stunning talk, this may have been one of the few remaining shrub species purported to have originally covered this area.

The lower boggy flat, which had been grazed, was dominated by *Juncus* species and introduced grasses. Interspersed were *Oreobolus pectinatus*, *Drosera arcturi*, *Celmisia gracilentia*, *Epilobium* “one of the 40”, *Anistome imbricata*, *Gonocarpus* sp, *Gnaphalium traversii* and *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*.

A foray to the lake edge found *Carex secta*, *Phormium tenax* and *Chionochloa rubra*. On slightly less boggy ground we saw *Ranunculus glabrifolius* and *Wahlenbergia*.

On drier and much softer areas, especially in patches of full sun, a few wilting *Botsocia sitzii* and *Botsocia prostrata* were in evidence. Well, it was the afternoon of the first day!

Our thanks to the Managers of Pukaki Downs Station for permission to botanise their land.

Robyn Bridges

29 Dec: Mount Sebastopol and Governor's Bush

After visiting the information centre at Mount Cook Village, where we saw that the weather report was not very hopeful, we decided to botanise the 'one hour' track through Governor's Bush. It took us longer than the hour, as there was something for everyone.

We saw mosses, liverworts, ferns, *Lagenifera*, orchids, species of *Dracophyllum* and *Gaultheria*, cascading parahebe (*Parahebe catarractae*), and the ever-present *Pratia*. An ascending track led us to an open area with views and then a winding track down again. Distorted and over-large plants were seen at the edge of the track, where we surmised that DOC's weed spraying had produced these aberrations, such as a triple headed *Thelymitra*.

The weather cleared enough for a walk up Mount Sebastopol. A swing bridge over the river led to a steep track, with many deep steps that I found difficult, my hips complaining so much that I didn't go far. Others went to a saddle or a rewarding climb to see the top tarns. A Japanese student from Palmerston North, keen to learn a little of our botany, accompanied us.

I had always admired the huge mountain *Celmisias*, so here was my chance to get a good photo. *Brachyglottis haastii* (formerly *Senecio*), caught my eye, with its rosettes of white leaves, fur covered - but sometimes the fur had worn off the upper surface, showing a shining green surface.

An unusual lichen, *Omphalina alpina*, collected by Allison, was interesting because it is a

basidiomycete, with a toad-stool-like fruiting body, unlike most other lichens that are ascomycetes.

Beth Andrews

30 Dec: Hooker Valley

What a wonderful setting for botanising! We were thrilled to be among the ice-clad peaks, with avalanches thundering off Mount Sefton, and Aoraki/Mount Cook standing sentinel near the head of the valley, with its three peaks often free of cloud. A glider slowly circling Sefton's summit added to the magic of our day among a wonderful range of alpine plants.

We followed the valley track through forest remnants and over moraine deposits, where the dead-looking *Helichrysum depressum* featured, and past a rock face with the strap fern, *Grammitis poeppigiana*, to the second footbridge. Here, thanks to advice from Jenny Christensen at Park Headquarters, we took the track towards Ball Pass. We were delighted at the extensive areas of the large spaniards, *Aciphylla aurea* and *A. scott-thomsonii*. Some with inflorescences up to two metres tall. They themselves were striking subjects for photographs, and also made marvellous foregrounds for shots of the great peaks. *Celmisia coriacea*, with its large, stiff, grey-green leaves and showy white flowers, and *C. verbascifolia*, with purple-stalked leaves, were conspicuous, but the Mount Cook buttercup, *Ranunculus lyallii*, had almost finished flowering on the valley floor, so it was not until the following day above Sealy Tarns that we saw numerous examples of this handsome plant in flower. *Acaena saccaticupula*'s crimson seedheads, *Parahebe linariifolia* in flower, the glaucous-leaved *Dracophyllum kirkii*, *Hebe subalpina* in flower, and the fern *Asplenium trichomanes*, were among the many other plants that attracted our attention.

Further up the valley, areas of *Hebe macrantha* in flower were particularly striking, as was evidence of the retreat of the Hooker Glacier,

because Hooker lake is a relatively recent development, and Hooker Hut, perched high on the lateral moraine, is now hard to reach. No doubt alpine plants will colonise the moraine deposits as they lose their cover of snow and ice.

Chris Horne

31 Dec: Kea Point and Tasman Glacier Moraine

Three kea calling overhead greeted the group of eight on the Kea Point Walk. On this undemanding walk there was plenty of time to study the vegetation and the following were a few observations:

At the altitude of The Hermitage *Podocarpus nivalis*, snow totara, was massed with red fruit, whereas a few days earlier, high up on the Mt Sebastopol Track, it was still in full flower. Spotted hiding in the undergrowth were the attractive bluish green, serrated leaves of *Gingidiamontana*. Some of the plants seen in flower were *Parahebe decora*, (with leaves as small as 1.5–3 mm), *Geranium sessiliflorum*, *Wahlenbergia* sp., *Gaultheria crassa*, *Stellaria gracilentata* and *Leucopogon fraseri*.

In the afternoon we visited the Tasman Glacier. On the lateral moraine the *Aciphylla aurea*, spaniard or speargrass, were spectacular, they were in full flower and in every direction one looked were seen the raised, golden-stemmed spikes. Plants of note on the terminal moraine were the green compressed mats of *Raoulia australis* sprinkled with their tiny yellow daisy flowers. Even more curious were the numerous dead-looking twiggy branchlets of *Helichrysum depressum*; in this specialised stony habitat it was abundant. It is a small rather flattened shrub but one bonsai-looking plant had a gnarled and twisted 'trunk' 20 cm high.

Audrey Eagle

1 Jan 2002: Lake Tekapo Turf Plants

On New Year's day our botanising site was the sandy/silty flood plain of Lake Tekapo. The lake is subject to a 10 m rise and fall, so the lacustrine flora has to adjust to periods of inundation and desiccation. It was a classic "... bums on high and lens to eye ..." occasion as we struggled to identify some cryptic species, ourselves closely observed by a pair of pohowera, (banded dotterel) nearby. *Leptinella maniototo* was plentiful and *Neopaxia* sp. and *Pratia perpusilla* were both in flower. A few dimple-leaved *Epilobium komarovianum* were flowering, also *Raoulia* sp., *Carex berggrenii* and *Juncus antarcticus*. A little plant that puzzled us, until Neill identified it in the wetlands book as *Crassula sinclairii* with minute flowers. Nearby in weedy pasture we found *Glossostigma elatinoides*, *Parahebe lyallii*, and the tiny, delicate, mauve-flowered *P. canescens* in flower and fruit. A welcome distraction from this hands-and-knees prostration was the sight of five kakii, (black stilts), wading in the shallows. (Whether the late, lamented Mrs Bones was among them is not known). Nearby on a bouldery slope were *Convolvulus verecundus* and some impenetrably dense cushions of *Carmichaelia uniflora* with fat, yellow, sigma-shaped pods bursting through their *Phyllachne*-like crowns—a strange sight. After lunching in our vehicles because of heavy rain, some of us looked for more wetlands on the east side of Lake Ohau. A chance conversation with an itinerant [sic] musician on a bicycle, led to our creeping past about 50 caravans and tents (whose occupants were sleeping off their New Year's Eve spent in Twizel), to explore another indigenous, lakeside turf. This area of about 30 m × 20 m was weed-free and so densely vegetated that no soil was visible, however it did not yield any species additional to those which we had seen in the Tekapo turf.

Barbara Mitcalfe

1 Jan: Western Shore, Lake Tekapo

This unpromising-looking area of soft sediment lakeshore, that is sometimes covered with water, proved to have some interesting plants. There are mats of the little *Leptinella maniototo*, a tiny *Crassula*, *C. sinclairii* that was in flower, the "tape measure plant" *Lilaeopsis ruthiana* and carpets of *Neopaxia lineariifolia*, with its pretty white flowers, with a pink stamen lying along each petal. We searched for *Glossostigma elatinoides* flowers to show people how to trigger the irritable stigma, but there were very few out. A small plant with a disproportionately large blue flower turned out to be *Parahebe canescens*.

Rain interrupted our botanising, but after a compulsory lunch break in the vehicles, we made a quick sortie to a wind-scoured area about 100 m from the lake. Here there were several treasures including the unusual, dark green *Raoulia monroi*, with its fan-shaped arrangement of leaves. Another treasure was the *Convolvulus verecundus* ssp. *verecundus* which has rosettes of grey/brown rabbit-dropping-shaped leaves that arise from a deeply buried runner! The plants had flowered earlier, and there were many capsules blowing around in the wind. Two other rewards for the plodding about in the rain were the tight cushions of the very hairy *Pimelea pulvinaris*, and the small broom, *Carmichaelia nana*.

Of interest here too were the bright yellow vagrant lichens, *Chondropsis semiviridis*—when the weather is dry they curl up and blow around. When it rains, they flatten out against the ground and photosynthesise, until it again becomes too dry.

Gael Donaghy

2 Jan: Temple Stream Nature Walk

A blustery nor'wester with rain squalls brought in 'shift day', our move from Pukaki Downs to Glen Mary Ski Club Lodge, Lake Ohau. By the time we packed up, cleaned up, stocked up at Twizel and settled down at Ohau much of the day had gone. The nature walk at Temple Stream road end, at the head of Lake Ohau, proved an ideal end to the day. The road ends at a patch of mature mountain beech where several large trees were laden with red mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*) with the flower remains carpeting the ground. Three tracks start from this picnic area, the North and South branches of Temple Stream, the latter with a "forest" of the rare and threatened, small tree, *Pittosporum patulum* at its head, and the nature walk.

The nature walk climbs through dry mountain beech forest briefly before zig-zagging up in fire-induced, open grassland with patchy forest showing good regeneration. Numerous native herbs, orchids such as *Aporostylis bifolia*, and shrubs were found as we listened to the riroriro, a flock of chattering brown creepers and bellbirds, and swiped the numerous sandflies. A falcon flew overhead, and large dragonflies whizzed about.

At the highpoint of the loop track there is the option of climbing directly uphill through steep *Dracophyllum* shrubland and beech forest for excellent views to the south. Those who did this found many more plant species, some in flower, such as *Celmisia sinclairii*, *C. verbascifolia*, *C. densiflora*, *Forstera sedifolia* and yellow flowered *Brachyglottis haastii*. The hebes, *H. salicifolia*, *H. subalpina* and *H. buchananii*, were present as was snow totara, *Podocarpus nivalis*, and many other shrubs. It was a warm, balmy evening now and we were reluctant to leave this pleasant place. The numerous mistletoe, some still in flower, were the most notable feature of the loop back through the forest to the vehicles.

Neill Simpson

3 Jan: Freehold Creek

On this moist but mild day, the trip began behind the Glen Mary Ski Club, where we walked along the track to Freehold Creek. *Hieracium* dominated amongst the short grazed tussocks, while the monospecific endemic, dandelion-like *Kirkianella novae-zelandiae* was spotted on the track. A little further on, in the turf beside a pond, we marvelled over the tiny fern, *Ophioglossum coriaceum*.

At the forest edge, we discussed identification of mountain beech, *Nothofagus solandri* var. *cliffortioides*, as some of the leaf-tips were rounded like black beech, *Nothofagus solandri* var. *solandri*. Bright patches of forest floor were carpeted by petals of the red mistletoe, *Peraxilla tetrapetala*. A few buds were left to tweak open as the birds do for pollination. Also in flower were the orchids, *Chiloglottis cornuta* and *Microtis oligantha*.

Above the bushline, *Hieracium* was still evident, but there was much else of interest: *Myrsine nummularia* with purple berries that lizards like to eat; two whipcord hebes, *H. hectorii* and *H. lycopodioides*; yellow swathes of *Bulbinella*; many woolly-headed *Craspedia*; two *Aciphylla*—the golden *A. aurea* and the creamy-flowered *A. "Lomond"*, spiky false spaniard, *Celmisia lyallii*, with its tips nibbled by hares; and the yellow daisy, *Dolichoglottis lyallii*, crossing with the white *D. scorzoneroideis* to give a cream-flowered hybrid.

Any lack of diversity in the vascular plants was more than made up for by the richness of the lichen flora on soil, rock and bark, inside the forest and out. The white paint-like splashes of *Lecanora farinacea* stood out on the wet rocks above bushline.

Allison Knight

4 Jan: Ohau Ski Field

Twenty-two people went to Ohau Lodge to check whether the ski road was open to all vehicles and to collect the key. Lake Ohau was choppy and a southerly was blowing but the sun was shining after heavy rain the

previous day. The rocky road up to the skifield was negotiable despite a few slips. Alli's car had a puncture but the tyre was quickly changed with all the help available. Two passengers elected to walk the rest of the way to lighten the load. They reached the top of the road soon after the cars by following a stream bed up the steep slope.

At the top we donned extra clothing to counter the cool breeze, then people scattered in all directions. There was so much to see! Many stayed on the lower slopes beyond the ski buildings for most of the morning, where there was a lot of marshy ground and a great variety of plant species. Others climbed to the upper ridges to scree slopes, rocky outcrops and a hidden tarn. Some of the upper slopes had been "groomed" for the ski operations.

Graeme Jane provided an extensive plant list. Some of the plant highlights were additions to it. Rick Jackson found *Haastia sinclairii* and *Hebe epacridea*. Also found were a beautiful clump of *Lobelia linnaeoides*, on a barren ski run slope protected by a larger rock and *Raoulia eximia*, about a metre across. Other favourites were *Leucogenes grandiceps*, *Aciphylla dobsonii*, penwipers on scree (*Notothlaspi australe* = *N. rosulatum*), *Myosotis traversii* in bud and flower and *Myosotis "drucei"*, with its panicked flower, by a group discussing its non-appearance when it was spotted at their feet near the hut. We also saw alpine butterflies, grasshoppers and a South Island pipit.

Barbara Clark

6 Jan: Mackenzie Basin and Tekapo River Valley

Following his interesting talk the previous evening as part of the DOC Summer Programme, Geoff Rogers not only made suggestions for our last day, but also offered to show us something different—four very dry, degraded areas with shrubland restoration possibilities.

First, a terminal moraine site in the Pukaki Conservation Area, with

a mixture of indigenous and exotic grasses still being grazed, and six species of shrubs: *Carmichaelia petriei*, *Coprosma propinqua*, *Discaria toumatou*, *Meliccytus alpinus*, *Muehlenbeckia complexa* and, growing in its shelter and tightly interlaced with it, *Sophora prostrata*. Seeing the prostrate kowhai *in situ*, with flower and seed, was a real highlight. The shrubs all show resilience to the desiccating winds and low rainfall, and Geoff said the reserve is expected to recover.

We drove on to the featureless flats of the Mackenzie Basin, to an example of the ecological variability of the Tekapo dendritic (branching) drainage system. With a fall of only 1–1.5°, the land is a series of dry interfluves and shallow, slightly damper channels. Within the rabbit-infested *Hieracium* and hard tussock "pasture" have been found several threatened plants.

Dedicated searching of the channels eventually located a few tiny spreading plants of *Leptinella* "Clutha", previously known only from Pisa Flat in Central Otago. An earlier find of the slightly larger, denser, silkier and generally more attractive *L. serrulata* probably helped us get an eye in for the smaller plant. Other plants of interest in the arid conditions were *Acaena buechananii*, with variable green or glaucous foliage and red sessile fruiting heads, small bronze mounds of *Scleranthus uniflorus*, *Pimelea pulvinaris* and three species of *Raoulia*—*R. parkii*, *R. australis* and *R. tenuicaulis*. The finding of a *Helichrysum* species not seen there before created a minor flurry of excitement so we took a GPS reading of its location.

A little further along the road on the same property, we were shown an enclosure plot, one of ten set up ten years ago by DOC in different parts of the Mackenzie Basin. Regular monitoring has seen little noticeable difference in plant recovery within the plot so far. However, Graeme did note within it, three shrub species not seen on the still-grazed area outside.

QE II National Trust Open Space Covenants

The last study site was along the Bullock Wagon Trail and the hydro canal to the terraces and bed of the Tekapo River. The braided riverbed yielded mainly exotics, but amongst them were brilliant reddish-purple berries of *Coprosma atropurpurea*. The dry, stony slope above was probably disturbed by hydro works in the past, and was sparsely vegetated, but keen eyes found tough and resilient *Carmichaelia nana* and *C. vexillata*, *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*, grey rosettes of *Convolvulus verecundus* ssp. *verecundus*, woolly-looking *Pimelea sericovillosa*, muddy brownish-grey *Lepidium sisymbrioides* ssp. *sisymbrioides* and more *L. "Clutha"*.

An interesting and thought-provoking day to end this year's New Year Field Trip.

Val Smith

The Trust has recently registered the following Open Space Covenants in the Wellington Region:

- Pigeon Bush, a 332 ha addition to Rimutaka Restoration Reserve, Featherston. It extends the link between Tararua and Rimutaka forest parks.
- A 2.8 ha area of harakeke and ti kouka adjoining Te Hapua Swamp near Te Horo.
- Te Oranga Whenua, Stokes Valley, 22 ha of primary hard beech/kamahi forest with an area of secondary fivefinger-manuka-kanuka forest, and some palustrine kahikatea.
- A 20.8 ha extension to the Harakeke Swamp, including an area comprising a kahikatea-pukatea swamp forest association with scattered

ngaio, tawa and karaka.

The Trust is working toward protecting a further 370 ha of private land on 38 properties in the region. The Trust is grateful for the support of WRC, and KCDC, and look forward to working with funding available from WCC this year. If you are aware of any ecologically important area, please contact us.

At 2 March 2002, there were 1569 registered Open Space Covenants totalling 56257 ha nationwide. A further 308 covenants, covering 16360 ha, have been approved by the Board and are moving towards registration.

Tim Park

QE II National Trust,

PO Box 3341, Wellington

tpark@qe2nattrust.org.nz

ph 04 472 6626; fax 04 472 5578

TRIP REPORT

19–20 January 2002: South Wairarapa

We had a warm welcome from Eileen Brindle and David Stone at their property on Te Rata Road, Pirinoa, then began listing species in their remarkable kahikatea/tawa swamp forest. Protected since November 1998 by a QEII Open Space Covenant, this 1.9ha remnant impressed us with the number of species present – we listed 94 during a three-hour visit, the stature of the canopy and emergent trees, and the good condition of the forest. Among the species we saw were kahikatea, rimu, totara, miro, matai, nikau, swamp coprosma, pukatea, wharangi, large-leaved and small-leaved milk trees, and kiekie, and a good variety of fern species.

The forest has been designated a Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) by Wellington Regional Council (WRC). Eileen and David, in collaboration with WRC, have been poisoning possums for four years, and the results are obvious – there is little evidence of browsing, and plenty

of seedlings. Some of the plants near the driveway are species native to other parts of NZ. These are not within the covenant, so we listed them, indicating them as (P) for planted. Among them are kauri, tanekaha and puriri.

Just before lunch on the verandah, a southerly arrived which became wild by mid-afternoon and changed our plans for the rest of the weekend. We retreated to a beautifully restored woolshed owned by Jim and Marilyn Law, where three of us spent a cosy night after a pot-luck dinner. Next morning, in wet weather, Jim showed us several remnants on his farm, north of Pirinoa, and a series of three constructed wetlands. He plans to fence the remnants, and plant native species around the wetlands.

Homeward bound on Sunday, we made quick visits to Tuhitarata and Kahutara Scenic Reserves, to check on access and interest for future field trips. We acknowledge the advice from Aalbert Rebergen, DOC

Masterton Area Office, that the west block of the former is almost impenetrable!

We thank Pat Enright for supplying species lists, and obtaining permission for us to visit remnants along Dyerville Road, and Blue Rock Road, and hope that we can botanise them on a trip when "Hughie" is in a better mood.

Before leaving Featherston, Bev, Barbara and I botanised Dorset Square Native Reserve, at the corner of SH2 and Moore St (which becomes Western Lake Road), a fine example of the horticultural use of native plants. It is well worth a visit, to see the range of species planted, and to see what a small group of determined people can do when they have a paddock of rank grass to convert into a botanic garden.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Gavin Dench, Geoff Doring, Jenny Doring, Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe, Sunita Singh.

Chris Horne

TRIP REPORT

2 February 2002: Te Marua Bush workbee

This summer there was a strangling invasion of convolvulus in our newly planted area. Our team worked extremely hard pulling out convolvulus, and chopping blackberry, broom and fennel, to release the plants planted last winter.

Last spring our contractor sprayed tradescantia, old man's beard, nasturtium and other weeds. The surface foliage of the tradescantia had died and has needed a second application in a few areas. This was done during our workbee. He was very informative about techniques for killing weeds such as sycamore and old man's beard. The forest floor looks denuded with the tradescantia nearly eliminated, but native seedlings are already beginning to appear.

Most exciting was to find a silvereye's nest with nestlings in a koromiko, one of the recent plantings! This is what replenishing the bush is all about.



Silvereye nestlings in a koromiko.
Photo: Glennis Sheppard.

Participants: Barbara Clark, Helen Druce, Chris Horne, Darryl Kee, Cath Mathews, Sue Millar, Barbara Mitcalfe, Alan Sheppard, Glennis Sheppard, Julia Stace.

Sue Millar and Glennis Sheppard,
co-leaders

EVENING MEETING

18 Feb 2002: Dr Paul Blaschke: Ecological sites in Porirua City

Paul spoke about a survey commissioned by Porirua City Council and carried out by Paul and some of his ecologist/planner colleagues from Boffa Miskell in 2000/01. A range of BotSoc species lists were useful to the survey.

All 171 sites were assessed relative to each other. There was a wide range of tenure, including private land, Porirua Scenic Reserve, Mana Island, Colonial Knob, Akatarawa outskirts, some Maori land described as very significant, and large parts of the Pauatahanui catchment north of Haywards Hill Road.

Paul said there was reasonable representation across eco-domains.

As a result, the surveyors were able to offer clear advice to PCC that their management priorities should be to maintain/improve the health and sustainability of PCC's own sites and other existing sites, rather than in acquiring more sites. One example is Eastern Porirua's Porirua Park, adjacent to Belmont Regional Park, which contains weedy, fragmented tawa forest but is still a significant site.

It was good to see so many Porirua members in the audience, keen to share their local knowledge and show their appreciation of the information produced by the survey. BotSoc will follow up the issues raised, when submitting on the Annual Plan.

Barbara Mitcalfe

TRIP REPORT

3 March 2002: Boulder Hill Key Native Ecosystem, Belmont Regional Park

This trip, postponed from November because of heavy rain, was in danger of further deferral as heavy showers fell overnight and only a slow clearance was forecast. However, fourteen members were not deterred and met at Kelson. After initial botanising in the KNE, some may have regretted coming when, on the exposed track we faced strong NW gusts and driving rain. Descending into the shelter of the bush in the basin at the head of Speedys Stream, we botanised up the stream. After lunch, we climbed, in sunshine, onto a grassy spur from which we traversed on an old benched track back to the Boulder Hill track. In the bush by the stream, we were impressed by the abundant covering of bryophytes, and the variety of ferns, a total of 46 species, including the two additions to the list, *Botrychium bifforme* and

Blechnum procerum. We also found another young *Raukaua edgerleyii*, about 2 m high, to add to the two previously found on the old benched track. Near the junction with the Boulder Hill track in forest margin scrub, we noted a small population of *Meliccytus lanceolatus*, before returning to the cars. Although the weather was initially inclement, we gained a good appreciation of the species diversity and value of this important bush remnant.

Participants: Peter Beveridge (leader), Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Philippa Crisp (Wellington Regional Council), Penny Currier, Jenny Dolton, Annette Furkert, Chris Horne, Ros Iles, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe (deputy leader), Lynne Pomare, Darea Sherratt, Julia White,

Peter Beveridge

TRIP REPORT

29–31 March 2002: Rimutaka Range

Well-laden, we walked from the Catchpool road end along the Orongorongo Track and established ourselves at Tararua Tramping Club's Waerenga Hut, on the True Left of Browns Stream. After lunch we botanised up the spur above the hut to about 435m above sea level, seeing plants ranging in size from a tiny strap fern, *Grammitis ciliata*, sapling ramarama and small-leaved milk trees, to a large karaka and northern rata. We noted with concern that hut owners have a variety of weed species near their huts, including Mexican daisy, *Erigeron kraussiana*, hydrangea and montbretia, and hope that DOC will enforce the condition in hut licences which requires licensees to remove such species.

Saturday was the day we had been looking forward to, botanising from the Orongorongo River up the Mt Matthews Track to the summit, 941 m.

We had the luxury of Tony Druce's list no. 85 for Mount Matthews from 1500–3086 feet, prepared during ten visits between 1947 and 1987, and an article by AD

Bedde in the BotSoc Bulletin, no.33 February 1966. Despite drizzle, we began listing species as soon as we left the Orongorongo River, thus expanding the range of Tony's list. Highlights of the climb were additions to Tony's list including a seedling and a sapling narrow-leaved mahoe, *Melicytus lanceolatus*, and a sapling raukawa, *Raukaua edgerleyii*, the roar of the severe gale, and the heaving of the root plates of the silver beech trees lurching in the wind.

The range is a harsh environment—the indigenous flora and fauna have evolved to cope with severe weather, which includes winds up to 330 km/h and intense rain storms. As well as occasional large earthquakes, the depredations of pest animals such as deer, goats, pigs, possums, mustelids and rodents, and infestation by pest plants have the power to tip the balance of nature against our indigenous flora and fauna. The Department of Conservation is not sufficiently funded to destroy these alien invaders.

On Sunday, we botanised up the spur on the True Right of Browns

Stream. Here we saw northern rata windfalls being cut for firewood, and about twelve *Hericium coralloides* fungi on the side of a windfall. It was this spectacular fungus which featured on the \$1.30 stamp issued by NZ Post, with other fungi stamps, earlier this year. (See article in this issue). We then packed up and tidied the hut, and left for home. About 10 minutes beyond the bridge over "Jacobs Ladder Creek", we dropped onto the abandoned and pleasantly-reverting Old Five Mile Track. Soon we stopped for lunch, inspired by our finding a scrambled-egg yellow Myxomycete fungus on a dead beech log, a photogenic combination!

And the most amusing memory of the trip? Perhaps it was the sight of Ted, sheltering from the gale among the leatherwood on Mt Matthews' summit, trying to talk to a relative by cellphone. The roar of the wind was almost too much for the technology!

Participants: Bev Abbott, Ted Abraham, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Darea Sherratt, Julia Stace.

Chris Horne

A Community initiative

A Kelburn businessman, Darryl Dreaver, owner/manager of Kelburn Butchery, has a keen eye for places that could do with some environmental TLC. Over a kilo of venison bangers one day last year, he and I discussed the unkempt, weedy state of the eastern approach to Karori Tunnel. Now over 100 years old, the tunnel is part of Wellington's built heritage. We decided that it would be worthwhile investigating whether Wellington City Council would consider landscaping it with native species.

Our letter to WCC was successful—they produced a draft landscape plan, a list of proposed species, an on-site meeting, and eventually an agreement that when money was available, the project would go ahead, provided it had community support.

The site is very steep in places but there is a level area as well which would be suitable for closely-planted

Phormium cookianum as ground cover, and groups of *Sophora microphylla* and *Cordyline australis*. The Karori Wildlife Sanctuary just around the corner and local gardens would benefit from the bird food provided by these species.

It is hoped that planting will start this winter. Council Parks and Gardens staff will use the occasion as a training exercise, since parts of the site are tricky of access. The work will be spread over a number of years, as funds become available.

Subsequently, community help with maintenance will be needed, so any of you BotSoccers who live locally might like to give a hand on the easier slopes. Kelburn Progressive Association will also be approached.

Barbara Mitcalfe

TRIP REPORT

4 May 2002: Te Oranga Whenua, Queen Elizabeth II Covenant, Stokes Valley.

For once, BotSoccers excelled themselves at phoning to indicate they were coming on the trip. A wonderful turnout of 38 people assembled at 17 Horoeoka St to be welcomed by covenanters Joy and Phill, who told us the fascinating story of finding and securing this forest in order to protect it for ever. Its name, Te Oranga Whenua, has connotations of healing and well-being, as well as signifying that it is the place where Joy and Phill's grandchildren's placentas (whenua) are buried, marking their connection with the land in perpetuity.

Having added redpoll to the list of birds, we set off to explore, soon diverting to admire the kahikatea and totara towering above the wetland with its *Dicksonia squarrosa* and *Gahnia xanthocarpa* understorey and occasional swamp maire, *Syzygium maire*. A high-quality, benched, sidle track constructed nearly 150 years ago, wound in and out of gullies with massive hard beech, *Nothofagus truncata* in the canopy, where whiteheads, popokatea, could be heard chattering. Before long we passed the "Gnome House" set into a beech trunk, an enchanting sight. Trackside, luxuriant ferns clothed the banks, among them eight species of *Hymenophyllum*, and plentiful *Leptopteris hymenophylloides*, *Lindsaea trichomanoides*, *Trichomanes reniforme*, *Pneumatopteris pennigera*. The fork fern *Tmesipteris elongata* was uncommon.

Shortly we came to a gully where kiekie, *Freycinetia baueriana* ssp. *banksii* was in fruit, a very rare sight which had the shutters clicking madly for a while, and a tribute to the pest control which Phill and Joy are maintaining.

On the drier slopes we saw the strap fern *Grammitis ciliata*, and plentiful, prickly *Leptocophylla* (= *Cyathodes juniperina* with its deep red fruit rivaling the equally showy

Coprosma rhamnoides. At lunch, Pat produced a specimen of *Pittosporum divaricatum* to puzzle those who had not met it before, but if you just scrape the bark and smell it you get the typical *Pittosporum* smell.

Hall's totara, *Podocarpus hallii* was common throughout, its larger, very pungent leaves, stringy bark and closely-furled resting buds differentiating it from *P. totara* which was present but not common.

We made our way downslope under manuka, with many *Gahnia pauciflora*, and a few, dainty *Pterostylis trullifolia* in flower. Soon we were thrashing about in the wetland, under an enormous hybrid black x hard beech with unfortunately a wasp nest at its base. Phill was badly stung here, and we made haste to retreat after he had taken antihistamine.

Ropey Japanese honeysuckle has partly ensnared the podocarps to their tops but fortunately the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust has obtained funding to undertake initial control of this invasive weed.

We had the company of three members of the Trust including Tim

Park who, working with Phill and Joy, had just completed the processing of this new covenant, his first. Steve Urlich recently arrived from Kaitaia and now with the Wellington Conservancy of DOC joined us, along with many Forest and Bird members and BotSoccers Sheila and Gordon Leary, back from many years overseas.

All in all, a very pleasant day, and about 30 additions to the list.

Participants: Beth Andrews, Peter Beveridge, Don Brooks, Bev Bruce, Stan Butcher, Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Delphine Cox, Jack Cox, Jenny Dolton, Pat Enright, Annette Furkert, Kathleen George, Jill Goodwin, Robyn Hills, Ian Hogie, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Ros Iles, Olaf John, Darryl Kee, Rodney Lewington, Cath Mathews, Margaret McKee, Anne Milburn, Barbara Mitcalfe (Deputy Leader), Tim Park, Phillip Peek, Emil Schmiegl, Darea Sherrat, Julia Stace, Steve Urlich, Joy Waddington (Co-Leader), Phill Waddington (Co-Leader), Nancy Watters, Julia White

Apologies: Mark McAlpine, Robyn Smith.

Barbara Mitcalfe

Matiu matters

Matiu/Somes Island is to have a collection of rare and endangered plants established there. Some will be set out as an education resource and will also provide stock for propagation. Some will be placed in appropriate niches on the island. Species suggested so far include *Discaria toumatou*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, *Streblus banksii*, *Acaena pallida*, *Euphorbia glauca*, *Rubus squarrosus*, *Clematis afoliata*, *Tetragonia tetragonioides* and *Leptinella nana*. Others found on the island but scarce and worthy of display include *Meliccytus* aff. *obovatus*, *Senecio sterquilinus*, *Arthropodium candidum* and *Peperomia urvilliana*. *Craspedia uniflora* var. *maritima*, listed in 1916 is another.

Forest restoration planting will continue for the twenty-second season from May. It will be largely in the last open paddock, a valley leading down to the lighthouse. DOC has excavated a pond in it around which wetland species can be planted. Source: *Open Space*, No. 54, May 2002.

The Lower Hutt Forest and Bird's three nurseries on the island will have 8,000 plants to go in. Members of Wellington BotSoc are warmly invited to assist. Please see the EVENTS section for dates and contacts.

Stan Butcher

“Magic” wetlands tell NZ history

New Zealand’s “magic” wetlands tell the history of their districts and are unlike any others in the world, participants at a Restoration Day in Pauatahanui were told.

Gordon Stephenson, founding trustee of the National Wetland Trust, spoke of the “story-telling” qualities of New Zealand’s unique wetlands—the legacy of retreating glaciers and other natural processes occurring over millions of years. He also praised the efforts of restoration groups, about 40 of which were represented at the annual event, held by the Department of Conservation’s Poneke Area/Wellington Conservancy and Wellington Regional Council at the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

He said organisations such as DOC and regional councils needed community support to manage wetlands. Fifty people could achieve a lot more than “two or three lonely staff of DOC”. An example is the Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve—vested in DOC, but managed by Forest & Bird.

Restoration groups from throughout the region outlined their many projects—including Forest and Bird’s bid to protect the Manawatu Estuary, the community’s restoration of the Punaruku Lagoon near Cape Palliser; and native planting and weed clearance by various groups on riparian strips—before embarking on wetland wanders in the afternoon.

One group was taken on a guided tour of Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve—which involved some native planting with local group members. Others viewed the Battlehill farm wetland—being restored after being partially modified for farming; learnt about native fish—their biology and their habitat from Bruce Dix, and took part in a native planting demonstration with John Sawyer and Barbara Mitcalfe of the Wellington Conservancy.

Annabel Riley



Above: Restoration Day participants en route to inspect a recently fenced and planted seepage at Battle Hill. Right: DOC officer, Bruce Dix, discussing the range of native fish species found in wetlands and streams. Photos: Annabel Riley.



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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!

Percy Scenic Reserve News

Kia ora tatou

We all know the summer was a bit of a non-event, however it has been a terrific growing season and we have spent a lot less time dragging hoses and sprinklers around the reserve. During November/December 2001 we had several deluges, one of which caused the reserve to be closed for a day. The spillway on the dam was overtopped for the first time since the 1970s, and water flowed through the woodland garden to the duck pond, over the path and over all the lawns below the pond and out onto SH2. The flow was impassable up by the woodland garden and a large amount of silt and debris was deposited on the lawns. Most of the gravel from the paths ended up in the duck pond. Amazingly there was little damage to plant life. By going up a path on the side of the hill, we could see the height of the water in the dam and it was truly mind-boggling; the flood gauge read 21 feet higher than normal. I wished I had a camera at work.

Scrapes containing plants of *Spiranthes novae-zelandiae* from the only known site in Wellington Conservancy were delivered to the reserve by Richard Gill, DOC Kapiti, over two years ago. The scrapes were settled into deep polystyrene containers and put in the small shadehouse near the nursery, only because this is a good place to house all the small plants in the collections which could easily be lost if planted out. The plants have been easy to keep in cultivation, and because they have an association with mycorrhizal fungi, I mulch them with pine sawdust and feed them with leaf litter. They have obliged me by flowering each year and have produced lots of extremely fine seed which is difficult to pick without it becoming airborne. All attempts to germinate the seed by me and Margaret Auger at Waikato University have proved unsuccessful. That is until recently, as I was sitting on a bucket weeding the plants in this shadehouse (tweezer job) I came upon a *Spiranthes* baby in amongst a pot of *Hypericum* "Volcanic Plateau". A close inspection of all the pots in the shadehouse has revealed five new plants all in different pots and hiding amongst everything from *Leptinella* to *Ourisia*. Richard was delighted with the news and came over to see the new offspring. We now need to figure out how to replicate these obviously ideal conditions. I have since placed a tray of mix in the shadehouse and left the last seed-head on the plants and will also sow some seed onto the tray. We'll see what happens.

Several large trees have fallen over in the reserve over the past few months. The first bunch were two huge old poplars near the woodland garden which started to lean following heavy rain at the end of last year. They had to be felled by arborists and in their felling several other trees were destroyed. The clearance of this large space has created an opportunity to plant some well grown trees which were donated to the reserve by DOC staff in Takaka during BotSoc's New Year's trip three years ago.

Pittosporum patulum, *Pseudopanax macintyreianum* and *Pittosporum dallii* are now on view in the reserve and will fill the gap and are more appropriate than poplar. Another mess was recently made by a huge branch falling off a very old pine tree. It has smashed a mature *Fuchsia excorticata* and several other trees near the stream. I will be able to replant this area as soon as the ground is wet enough.

Last week I received two plants of *Craspedia* "Otakeho" from Colin Ogle and DOC, Whanganui. This *Craspedia* grows on seepages on cliffs on the south Taranaki coast and is limited to around fifty plants, however there may be more if someone would do a survey from the end of a rope. The only weed threat to it is Chilean rhubarb, *Gunnera tinctoria*, which is abundant in this area. Colin says that Ilse Breitwieser of Landcare Research thinks it may be a new species and if this is so, then it is an endangered species.

There is a possibility of it being the same as a *Craspedia* found in Northwest Nelson. There are many plants in common to these areas as they were once joined. I will first see if I can grow it in cultivation and if so see if it can set viable seed.

The *Sebaea ovata* has now completed a full life cycle with the result that there are now many hundreds of seeds for revegetation work in the Whanganui area. I hope to keep a self-sustaining population at the reserve as a seed source for the future.

I am now also responsible for the gardens along Petone Foreshore and have been allocated another staff member to join our team. Some of you will have seen this area featured recently in "Maggie's Garden Show" starring John Sawyer, Plant Ecologist, DOC, and my manager, Athol Sanson. Tony Silbery was the instigator of using plants from the reserve in city gardens and traffic islands and I hope to carry on the tradition of using some of the more recent additions to the collections in new plantings down there and will keep you informed via the Newsletter.

Re-potting of the alpine collection will start soon, so if you have a couple of hours free and you think you would enjoy helping, I would be very pleased to have you join me.

Ka kite ano

Robyn Smith
Supervisor

Percy Scenic Reserve
Ph 04 570 6505

Other BotSocs' newsletters

These are available for perusal at our evening meetings, as are documents from other organisations. If you don't see what you are looking for, please ask a member of the committee.

Over the hill

The last few months have seen me all over the place from one end of the Wairarapa to the other, more than enough to remind me, if I ever needed reminding, what an amazing place it can be and to provide a heap of highlights

From the south coast, where the *Notoreas* moth lives among the *Pimelea* plants of Ocean Beach, and the *Raoulia* mats hold together in the face of huge storms, to the open tops, where the *raoulia*'s upland cousin endures even more frequent storms, and through the forests between, it has certainly been a summer where the more I saw, the more I was encouraged to keep looking.

One surprising sight in silver beech forest, not far from the treeline, was an epiphytic *Aciphylla*—A. “tararua” seed had wedged in a crevice just where the first branch left the trunk and a healthy plant sprouted. No sign of flower, but I guess if epiphytic orchids can live on the ground, terrestrial plants may occasionally reciprocate.

A much rarer sight was *Ourisia colensoi*, only a fleeting glimpse in two streams high in the Tararua Range, where the hairy rosettes attracted the eye and then baffled the brain.

High-altitude bogs, not far below the treeline again, covered with a low growth of toatoa, moss and cut by surprisingly steep streams provide a relief from the otherwise unending beech forest, until, lower down, rimu and rata begin to appear and a walker can either relax after a climb, or gather breath before another hill. There's not much flat ground in there!

In the headwaters of the Ruamahunga River a small immigrant from the west was recently spotted. Sika deer have long been established on the western side of the ranges and this year saw the first confirmation that they had crossed into the eastern Tararua.

Away from the Tararuas, some things are rarer. Rata for example has winged its way to Auckland University to assist on their research to see if the few plants from the southern and eastern Wairarapa are different from those in the Tararua Range. Until last year only a handful of northern rata were known from the Aorangi Range. Now there are a handful plus a few hundred as a result of a find on a ridge not far south of Martinborough.

Further north, *Coprosma pedicellata* has continued to appear. Now that we know what to look for, this once enigmatic species has proved surprisingly easy to track down. As Tony Druce said, “when your eye is in, it's easy enough.”

And where one rare plant grows, there are often others, so to finish this round up of great moments, a site near Masterton gave good cause for celebration—in the space of two days it yielded *Coprosma pedicellata*,

Pittosporum obcordatum, *Mazus novae-zelandiae*, *Korthalsella lindsayii* (on a new host for the Wairarapa), *Anemanthele lessoniana*, *Acaena juvenca*, *Adiantum diaphanum* and *Microlaena polynoda* along with the finds of the year to date—*Coprosma obconica*, a plant long looked for in the Wairarapa and *Olearia gardnerii*, taking the Wairarapa total from 5 to 20 known specimens in a week.

And the sun did shine, occasionally!

Tony Silbery



Mazus novae-zelandiae was recently found near Masterton. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Pigeon Bush Reserve opened

On 9 March, this 332 ha addition to the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust's Rimutaka Restoration Reserve was officially opened by Hon. Margaret Shields, Chair, Wellington Regional Council and about 80 NZNFRT supporters. The site of the ceremony was “Whare Gully”, near where Prince Stream runs from the reserve under the Wellington/Wairarapa Railway Line, on its way to Lake Wairarapa. After the ceremony, about 50 people, including several BotSoccers, walked up the valley to inspect the forest and see a large specimen of the uncommon lacebark, *Hoheria* sp. “Tararua type”.

For information on the reserve and the Trust, contact trustee Ben (Alex) Thorpe, 43b London Rd, Korokoro, Lower Hutt, ph 04 589 1887. The NZNFRT welcomes donations for the purchase of reserves: NZNFRT, Box 80 007, Green Bay, AK 1007.

New protected areas

A 0.4047 ha addition to Pauatahanui Wildlife Management Reserve has been gifted to DOC by Forest & Bird.

Two land-owners have established nine separate Conservation Covenant areas (Four Winds Covenant—16.2838 ha.) on the Kapiti Coast. They contain gorse, regenerating shrubland, regenerating kanuka forest with cabbage tree, nikau, matai and mahoe, and beech forest.

Adrian Griffiths, DOC, Wellington

WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY IANUARY 2003 FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION

Please complete the registration form below.

Send it, together with a cheque for \$150 as a deposit, made out to Wellington Botanical Society Inc. to reach Joyce by 15 September 2002 (to allow us to make definite bookings before the camps fill up).

Post to: **Joyce Wilson, 7 Ravi St, Khandallah, Wellington 6004.**

Phone: 04 934 2437. Fax: 04 233 2222. E-mail: kevin.clark@clear.net.nz

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Preferred accommodation

Venue 1: Rocky Camp, Katikati – Tuesday 2 January to Saturday 5 January 2003

I would like to sleep inside @ \$15 a night for nights, from/...../..... to/...../.....

OR I would like to camp in my own tent @ \$7 per night, for nights, from...../...../..... to/...../.....

Venue 2: Murphy's Camp, Matata – Sunday 6 to (morning of) Sunday 12 January 2003)

I will camp in my own tent @ \$9 a night for nights, from/...../..... to/...../.....

OR I will find my own accommodation (nr Matata) and attend field trips from/...../..... to/...../.....

OR I will provide my own food and accommodation (near Matata) and attend field trips, from/...../..... to

...../...../.....

I would/would not like to visit Mayor Island – as a day trip/overnight (delete one).

A species list for the Kaimai Range will be available, if requested, before the camp. That list as well as other lists for specific areas will be available, on the day.

Special Requirements: Please indicate any special food/health/other requirements.

.....

TRANSPORT

- I can provide transport for extra people from camp to trip sites for days.
- I have arranged my own transport with
- I would like transport from base camp to trip sites for days.
- I can provide shared transport to/from the Summer Camp for people.
- I do not have transport. I would like to share transport to/from the Summer Camp.

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

(tick one) country \$22

student \$17

Subscription \$.....

I wish to make a donation of to the WBS Jubilee Award Fund,
to help support research into 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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Thank you.