



# NEWSLETTER

## June 2003

Last Issue: December 2002

ISSN 1171-9982

### Apologies due

We apologise for the late arrival of this Newsletter.

To those people who attended "Members' evening" on 17 March, we are sorry that the display of slides was shortened by the failure of the projector. The DC. power circuit failed, and the slide transport system needed adjusting and lubricating. Our 15-year old Carousel projector has since had \$185 worth of work done on it. It excelled itself at the evening meeting on 16 June.

### Neill Simpson

Neill Simpson is progressing well after a quadruple bypass operation at Dunedin Hospital. BotSoc wishes him a full and quick recovery so that his life returns to normal, and his botanical field work continues apace.

We thank Sheelagh Leary for giving us the news.

*The Committee*

### Community Post

We thank New Zealand Post's Community Post for supplying BotSoc with 250 "Community Post" postage-paid envelopes to be used for furthering the work of the Society.

*Jane Humble, Treasurer*

### Kelburn Tunnel Portal Planting

This year's planting, including some kowhai, will be in July or August, after weeds spraying. If you live in the area and would like to be involved, ring Barbara on 475-7149.

### Isobel Morice: 1909–2003

We are sad to hear the news of Isobel's death on 18 June.

An obituary will appear in the next issue.

*The Committee*

### Articles for web site

We welcome articles for consideration for inclusion on our web site: [www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz](http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz)

Please send your article to [pennyc@clear.net.nz](mailto:pennyc@clear.net.nz).

OR post it to Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10 412, Wellington, attention: Penny Currier and Julia White;

OR fax it to Barbara Mitcalfe 04 475 7149.

### 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

### WBS Bulletin

We welcome articles for consideration for the next issue of the Bulletin. Members with interesting observations on field trips, and memories of other special occasions, are invited to submit articles.

Please send your article ASAP to John Sawyer, Editor, WBS Bulletin, Department of Conservation, PO Box 5086, Wellington. Ph 04 472 5821, fax 04 499 0077, e-mail: [jsawyer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz)

### Wellington Botanical Society

President:	Chris Horne	475 7025 (ph/fax)
Secretary:	Barbara Clark	233 8202      233 2222 (fax)
Treasurer:	Jane Humble	971 6970
Auditor:	Peter Beveridge	237 8777

#### Submissions

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

Address: PO Box 10-412, Wellington 6036

Web site: [www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz](http://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. Ph/fax 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.

### Meetings

BotSoc meetings are usually held at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month at Victoria University, W'gton – Lecture Theatre 101, ground floor, Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade. Enter building 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.

**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 1 September 2003**

# 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, PO Box 10-412, Wellington 6036, ph 233 8202.

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

## Day trip gear

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

## Overnight trip gear and food

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, Glucose<sup>3</sup>, Ginger, Including Nuts.

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

<sup>2</sup> Optional

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

## 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. NOTE: anti-histamines NOT included, because of short shelf-life
- 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 p.m.

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.

## **FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS: JULY–DECEMBER 2003**

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

### **Saturday 5 July: Field trip**

### **Gibbs' Covenant and Butterfly Creek**

We will have a conducted tour of George and Keena Gibbs' covenant and then botanise in Butterfly Creek. See the newly described Eastbourne Hills *Libertia edgerlii* (*Libertia* aff. *grandifolia* Druce), *Drymoanthus flavus* and mistletoe. We will record sightings of these and other special plants and invasive weed species. Meet: junction of Puriri Street/Muritai Road, Eastbourne at 9.00 a.m. Leader: Rodney Lewington 475 3145, deputy leader: Pat Enright 938 7537.

### **Monday 21 July: Evening meeting**

### **NZ—Ark or submersible substrate?**

**Speaker:** Dr Hamish Campbell, palaeontologist and geologist at the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences and Te Papa, presents modern thinking on the geological history of New Zealand and its implications for the origins of our flora.

### **Sunday 3 August: Field trip NOTE NOT SATURDAY**

### **Karori Sanctuary**

Botanise the valley floor and hillside forest with a range of interesting plant communities at Te Mahanga track and around the upper lake. Help with planning BotSoc interpretative sites on this route. Meet: 10 a.m. at Visitor Centre at south end of Waiapu Rd, just past Karori tunnel. Catch No 12 Karori Park bus: dep Lyall Bay 9.10 a.m., Courtenay Place 9.30 a.m.; alight first stop past Karori Tunnel. Sanctuary 6–10 minutes walk. Bring Lunch. Co-leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149 and Chris Horne 475 7025. Cost \$6 for non-members of Sanctuary.

### **Monday 18 August:**

### **1. Annual General Meeting**

### **2. AP Druce Memorial Lecture: Paengaroa Reserve, Taihape: its botany & setting**

**Speaker:** Colin Ogle, a distinguished botanist who has worked with DOC and the NZ Wildlife Service before that; past president of BotSoc, editor of the Botsoc Bulletin; a protégé of the late Tony Druce and a major contributor to the field of botany in NZ. Colin has been active in managing Paengaroa Reserve until recently. For its size, Paengaroa Scenic Reserve at Mataroa near Taihape, is one of the most important reserves in NZ. It is managed as one of DOC's six Mainland Islands. Tony Druce introduced many BotSocers to its treasures including thirty-three species of divaricating shrubs and nine species in the 2002 list of threatened and uncommon plants.

### **Saturday 6 September: Field trip Wilf Mexted Scenic Reserve; Larsen Crescent Reserve; Redwood Bush**

Explore and help update species lists for Wilf Mexted Scenic Reserve, a small 1.6 ha island of bush in a gully; Larsen Crescent Reserve, a 0.5 ha regionally significant remnant site containing impressive stands of matai and tawa and mature totara; and the 10 ha of Redwood Bush next door, whose conservation significance is its remnant tawa forest, uncommon around Wellington.

Leader: Richard Herbert, Vice-President, Friends of Tawa Bush Reserve Ph 232 6828.

Meet: 9.30 a.m. at the Information Board at entrance to Wilf Mexted Reserve at top of Collins Avenue, Tawa.

Parking available along lower end of Woodman Drive near reserve. Catch 9 a.m. train from Wellington Station on Paraparaumu line to Linden, arriving 9.18 a.m. Phone Richard Robertson, 232 8676 if you need to be met at station.

### **Monday 15 September: Evening meeting**

### **'Not enough water'—plants of deserts and other dry places**

**Speaker:** Dr John Dawson, a well-known author of several botanical books illustrated by photographer Rob Lucas. Currently Senior Research Associate at Victoria University.

### **Saturday 4 October: Field trip**

### **Waterfall Road Bush**

Walk through 80 ha of private bush with large northern rata, rimu, totara, three species of *Nestegis*, *Mida salicifolia* and an interesting range of ferns and orchids. Terrain rugged in parts. Boots. Leader: Pat Enright, 498 7924, deputy leader: Olaf John 479 7605. Meet: Paekakariki station at 9.00 a.m. Catch 8.00 a.m. Saturday train on Paraparaumu line from Wellington. Car to Waterfall Road.

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

## Saturday 18 October: Field trip

## Te Marua workbee

PLEASE NOTE THIS EXTRA FIELD TRIP IN YOUR DIARY NOW

BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and revegetation work in this important matai/totara/maire remnant in Kaitoke Regional Park. With the aid of a grant from Wellington Regional Council, we have been able to hire a contractor to speed the task of weed control, but our biennial workbees must continue so that we keep ahead of reinvasion by weeds, particularly around the plantings. Please come to help with this important work and also help with more plantings. Bring: gloves, kneeler, weed bag, and your favourite weeding tools e.g. trowel, hand fork, loppers, pruning saw, pinch bar. Meet: Upper Hutt Station carpark at 9 a.m., or Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. (250 m north of Te Marua Store and 50 m off SH2 along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park). Catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. Maps R26 and Upper Hutt street map. Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard 526 7450; Sue Millar 526 7440

## Monday 20 October: Evening meeting

### Out of sight and out of mind—our disappearing indigenous freshwater plant communities

**Speaker:** Vicky Froude, principal for Pacific Eco-Logic, an ecological consultancy company working in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. Few New Zealanders would recognise a lake indigenous freshwater plant community and so there is little recognition of how severely these communities have been damaged by declines in water quality and increases in alien biota. This talk will outline what is happening to NZ lake submerged plant communities and describe the development of a new tool—LakeSPI (Lake Submerged Plant Index) designed to quickly measure changes in lake ecological condition.

## Saturday 1 November: Field trip

## Carey Gully, Owhiro Bay Catchment

Botanise regenerating, coastal forest and extensive manuka shrublands in this steep-sided valley which WCC Southern Landfill is expected to eventually fill to the 260 m contour. See the unnamed Cook Strait endemic “*Hoheria Tararua*”, etc. Boots essential for this steep, off-track, all-day tramp. Meet: Brooklyn wind turbine carpark, Hawkins Hill Road, 9 a.m. Co-leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe 465 7149, deputy leader Chris Horne 465 7025.

## Monday 17 November: Evening meeting

### 1. Science Fair winner presentation

### 2. Onslow College Arboretum presentation

**Speaker 1:** A presentation will be made by the recipient of BotSoc’s Award for the winner of the native plants’ section of the Wellington Secondary School’s Science Fair. Details will be provided when they become available in August.

**Speaker 2:** Deidre Burke, garden designer, will make a presentation on plans and work in progress for the development of an Arboretum at Onslow College. Ideas, suggestions and questions are sought from members for this ambitious venture worked on by committed members of the community and the College.

## Saturday 6 – Sunday 7 December: Field trip

## Maungapakeha Taipo

Trip leaders Jeff and Jenny Doring will lead us to Len and Chrissy French’s 41 ha of covenanted, regenerating bush 35 km from Masterton. Accommodation in shearers’ quarters. Pot luck dinner. Details in next Newsletter.

## Wednesday 31 December, 2003 – Sunday 11 January 2004: New Year’s Field trip West Coast and Murchison

31 Dec – 6 Jan: Kokiri Lodge, 8 km east of Stillwater, near Greymouth.

6 Jan – 11 Jan: Mataki Lodge, Tutaki Valley, 33km east of Murchison.

Botanise West Coast forests, Nelson Lakes National Park, and Lake Matiri/Thousand Acres Plateau. If you would like to be the organiser of food supplies—we can provide you with ideas for menus and quantities—please contact Barbara Clark ph 04 233 8202/fax 04 233 2222, or Chris Horne ph/fax 04 475 7025. Make your ferry bookings soon after they open on 1 July (Interislander), and about 1 October (Strait Shipping). More details, and registration form, in next Newsletter.

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## New biodiversity website

A new website is making it easier to keep track of efforts to save NZ’s flora and fauna. The efforts of government departments to halt the decline of native species are brought together in [www.biodiversity.govt.nz](http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz)

The website includes progress reports and case studies of work on land, in freshwater and marine environments, to meet the aims of the NZ Biodiversity Strategy launched in 2001. It has been developed by DOC, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Ministry for the Environment.

Source: Environz/take taiao aotearoa. 2/03. Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN.

## New protected areas

- Waiopahu proposed scenic reserve. 1130 ha. Kapiti Area. Indigenous forest on the western flank of Tararua Forest Park. Protects major access route into the park, and access to the new Waiopahu Hut.
- Makaretu covenant. 10 ha. Kapiti Area. Public foot access to the true left of Makaretu Stream, adjoining the proposed Waiopahu Scenic Reserve.

David Bishop  
Community Relations Officer, Statutory Land Management  
Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation  
Box 5086, WN. Ph 04 472 5821, fax 04 499 0077

## EVENTS

- 1. ECO Conference – Getting Results for the Environment.** 27-29 June. Awataha Marae, North Shore, AK. Contact Ginnaya Turner, Conference Co-ordinator, ph 09 630 6317; [registrations@eco.org.nz](mailto:registrations@eco.org.nz) Guest speakers include Mike Peters - NZ Ecological Restoration Network; Annie Wheeler – DOC; Dr Morgan Williams – Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment; Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation.
- 2. Matiu/Somes Island Planting Days.** *Sundays: 20 July, 17 August, 14 September.* Free travel by East-West Ferry, 8.30am from Queens Wharf; 9.15am from Days Bay. Ring Alex Kettles 569 6208 or Stan Butcher 567 7271.
- 3. NZ Plant Conservation Network, inaugural meeting.** 2 August. Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington. Registration fee of \$45 includes one year's trial membership. Kapiti Island field trip 3 August, fee \$50. Subscriptions: individual - \$45; unwaged/student - \$35; NGO or community group - \$90; corporate - \$250. NZPCN, Box 16 102, WN. Contact: Mike Oates, ph 04 801 3627, [Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz)  
John Sawyer, ph 04 472 5821, [jsawyer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz)  
Tim Park ph 04 472 6626, [tpark@qe2.org.nz](mailto:tpark@qe2.org.nz)  
Barbara Mitcalfe, ph 04 475 7149.
- 4. Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust – planting days, Kaiwharawhara Valley.** *Every Saturday until end of August.* Meet 9 a.m. at Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN. Ring Jonathan Kennett/Bronwen Wall ph 472 5891. [www.owb.co.nz](http://www.owb.co.nz)
- 5. 19th John Child Bryophyte Workshop.** 11-16 September. Kokako Lodge, Hunua Falls, Hunua Ranges, 50km SE of Auckland. Contact J Child Workshop 2003, c/o Mei Nee Lee, Botany Department, Auckland Museum, AK.
- 6. Otari-Wilton's Bush Open Day and Native Plant Sale.** 14 September, 9.30 a.m. Guided tours on the hour, from Information Centre/Te Marae o Tane. BotSoc and other organisations displays. 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN. Ph 475 3245.
- 7. Greening the City: Bringing Biodiversity back into the Urban Environment.** 22 – 24 October. Chateau on the Park, Christchurch. Contact David Moyle, Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture, 6 Winslow St, CH 8005. Ph 03 358 8914, fax 03 358 1363, e-mail [d&amoyle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:d&amoyle@xtra.co.nz)

## PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. *FOOTnotes.* Issue 19, 5/03. WN Crimson Trail launched; dune protection options; pest plant control; etc.
- 1b. *A restoration plan for Mangere Island, Chatham Islands group.* IAE Atkinson 2003. 60p.
- DOC, Wellington Conservancy, Box 5086, WN. Ph 04 472 5821, fax 04 499 0077.**
2. *Mount Bruce News.* 3/03. Pukaha/Mt Bruce restoration; etc.
- Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre, RD 1, Masterton. Ph 06 377 0723.**
- 3a. *Science publications 1987-2002 – Titles in print.*
- 3b. *Science Publications 2002.* Catalogue.
- 3c. *ConScience.* No. 46, 2/03. Future research directions for the Species and Ecosystems under Threat Portfolio, 2003 onwards, continued in No. 47, 5/03.
- 3d. Forest biodiversity assessment for reporting conservation performance. RB Allen, PJ Bellingham, SK Wisser. *Science for Conservation* 216. 49 p. \$25.
- 3e. Landscape indices as measures of the effects of fragmentation: can pattern reflect process? D Rutledge 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series* 98. 27 p. \$7.50.
- 3f. Rata litterfall and canopy conditions, Whirinaki Forest Park, NZ. GP Hosking 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series* 103. 12 p. \$6.
- 3g. Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) in Wellington Conservancy (excluding Chatham Islands). JWD Sawyer, BG McFadgen, P Hughes 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series* 102. 17 p. \$7.50.
- 3h. Aerial spraying of pampas grass in difficult conservation sites. I Popay, SM Timmins, T McCluggage 2003. *Science for Conservation* 219. 78 p. \$30.
- 3i. Predicting vegetation condition and weed distributions for conservation management: a case study in the central South Island, NZ. J Overton, A Lehmann. 2003. *Science for Conservation* 220. 57 p. \$30. A 3-page summary is available.
- 3j. Threatened plant survey in Kaimanawa Forest Park and Tongariro National Park. AS Lund. 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series* 117. 14 p. \$6.
- 3k. Significance of peatlands in Southland Plains Ecological District, NZ. BR Clarkson. 2003. *DOC Science Internal Series* 116. 20 p. \$7.50.
- DOC Science Publishing, Box 10 420, WN. Fax 04 496 1929. E-mail [science.publications@doc.govt.nz](mailto:science.publications@doc.govt.nz).**
4. *Protecting and restoring our natural heritage – A practical guide.* June 2001.
- DOC, Box 47 195, CH.**
5. *Open Space.* No.56, 12/02: Focus on lower North Island – covenants: sand dunes/west of Levin; primary totara forest/Tiraumea – Wairarapa; Pigeon Bush/Rimutaka Hill – NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust; broadleaf forest/Tinui Valley – Wairarapa; lowland swamp and lakes/Matahiwi – west of Masterton; kohekohe forest near Raumatī South; six duneland/wetlands/Waikanae – Te Horo area; wetland – Pukerua Bay; regenerating forest/Otaki Gorge; swamp kahikatea and mature beech forest – Stokes Valley; pukatea and silver beech forest/Naenae; regenerating forest, Long Gully – Wellington; tawa and hinau forest – Pauatahanui; mahoe and kohekohe forest – Korokoro; etc; planting natives in your garden and covenant; Weed profile: Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*); succession under gorse and kanuka. No.57, 4/03: Weed profile: *Bomarea caldasii*; identifying matai and kahikatea; Aiden Bichan, new Regional Representative in Wairarapa; etc.

**Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Box 3341, WN. Ph 04 472 6626; e-mail [qe2@qe2.org.nz](mailto:qe2@qe2.org.nz)**

6a. *Community Newsletter*. 3/03. Friends of Maara Roa – Cannons Creek Valley restoration, and arson damage; planting days in regional parks; etc.

6b. *Your Land: Our Help – A guide to biodiversity protection and management assistance for private landowners in the Wellington region.*

**Greater Wellington regional council, Box 11-646, WN. Ph 04 384 5708; [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)**

7a. *Branch Out*. Vol. 8: Autumn 2003. Water of life – Project Kaiwharawhara; plants versus recreation; eradicating possums on Miramar Peninsula; revegetating the city; drafting Outer Green Belt management plan; caring for the South Coast; calendar of work bees, and events; list of groups working on restoration projects.

7b. *Green and Promised land – Wellington's Town Belt*

7c. *Kaiwharawhara Catchment Community Resource Kit*. 3/03.

7c. *Bringing back the birds and the bush*. Leaflet.

**Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Ph 499 4444, [www.wcc.govt.nz](http://www.wcc.govt.nz)**

8. *NZ Botanical Society Newsletter*. Back issues: No.1 (8/85) – No.46 (12/96), \$2.50 each; No. 47 (3/97) – No.50 (12/97), \$3 each; No. 51 (3/98) onwards, \$3.75 each.

**NZ Botanical Society, c/o Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, CH 8001.**

9a. *Caring for Our Trees and Bush*. 28 p.

9b. *Tree and Bush Protection – policies...and your responsibilities*. Leaflet.

North Shore City Council, PBag 93 500, Takapuna, North Shore City.

10a. *Meanings and Origins of Botanical Names of NZ Plants*. Marie Taylor. 2002. \$27 incl p&p.

10b. *A Dictionary of Maori Plant Names*. J Beever. 1991. \$7.50 incl p&p.

Auckland Botanical Society, c/o Kerry Bodmin, Box 60 316, Titirangi, Waitakere City. Ph 09 836 8000 extn 8777.

11. *Establishing shelter in Canterbury with nature conservation in mind*. 22 p.

**Environment Canterbury, Box 345, CH. Ph 03 365 3828. [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)**

12. *Travis Wetland Nature Heritage Park*. Pamphlet.

**Christchurch City Council, Box 237, CH. Ph 03 941 6840.**

13a. *Crimson Trail*. Pamphlets: Wellington; Mt Maunganui; Otago/Southland; Auckland City and Sea.

13b. *Rata Trail*. Pamphlets: West Coast; Golden Bay.

13c. *Sample a great NZ red*. Postcard.

**Project Crimson Trust, Box 34 214, Birkenhead, AK. Ph 09 480 8864, fax 09 480 8865, e-mail [info@projectcrimson.org.nz](mailto:info@projectcrimson.org.nz)**

14. *NZ Plant Conservation Network*. Brochure.

**NZPCN, Box 16 102, WN. Contact: John Sawyer 04 472 5821, e-mail [jsawyer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz)**

15. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin*. No.48, 9/02: Notes on the cultivation of NZ native plants in a Wellington suburban garden; rediscovery of a nationally rare tussock in Makara Foreshore Reserve, Wellington; restoration of small-flowered mistletoe/*Ileostylus micranthus*; comparison of some related plants of Norfolk Island and NZ; large-leaved milk tree/ewekuri in the Wellington region; plant checklists of Wellington Botanical Society for areas in the lower North Island; etc. \$6 incl p&p. Some other back issues available - \$3 incl p&p. Enquiries welcome.

**Wellington Botanical Society, Box 10 412, WN.**

16. *The use of 1080 to control possums and other pests – A resource document*. Wren Green. 5/2003. Published by the Animal Health Board and the Department of Conservation. 49 p.

**Animal Health Board (Inc), Box 3412, WN; DOC, Box 10 420, WN.**

17. *Greater Wellington – Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022*. 136 p.

**Greater Wellington – the Regional Council, Box 41, Masterton.**

18. *Otari-Wilton's Bush News and Views*. June 2003: Chair's report 2002-03; staff report; Trust's submission on WCC Draft Annual Plan, etc.

Subscriptions: Double/family - \$15; Individual - \$10; Student/unwaged - \$5.

**Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton WN 6005.**

## SYNOPSIS OF SUBMISSIONS

It is now 10 years since I took on the role of Submissions Coordinator. In that time I have tried to keep BotSoc's fully informed of BotSoc's position on the local, regional and national issues which affect NZ's indigenous vegetation. I've decided that it's now time to hand over the role to another/others, and this will happen after August. Many thanks to the series of presidents and other botanists who have patiently agreed to (often last-minute) consultation.

**GARRY POOLE, C.E.O. W.C.C., re ISLAND BAY DUNE WALKWAY, March**

**Thanked** him for his intervention and **congratulated** Council on reversing a situation which otherwise would have seriously damaged a significant, natural feature; **looked** forward to seeing the interpretive panels which will enhance people's appreciation of our few remaining Wellington dunes and their associated, indigenous, sand-binding plants.

**WHITIREIA PARK BOARD: MANAGEMENT OF WHITIREIA PARK. 28 January**

**Reaffirmed** that our main interest in Whitireia Park lies in preserving its ecological values; strongly **supported** the Management Plan's emphasis on maintaining informal, passive and spontaneous recreational use of the Park; **strongly opposed** increasing commercial activities or any move to exploit commercially Whitireia's exceptional natural values.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENT SELECT CTTEE: MARINE RESERVES BILL. 31 January**

**Stated** that the purpose of the Bill should be to preserve, restore and protect marine ecosystems and landforms because of their intrinsic values; re criteria for establishing marine reserves, **suggested** a broader range of criteria than the solely scientific; **proposed** in principle, the concept of vertically-integrated terrestrial/marine reserves, such as a continuum of coastal escarpment together with its associated foreshore and undersea ecosystems; **suggested** that there is a need for legislative measures to give temporary protection (similar to a Heritage Order), which could be applied to protect a specific marine area in an emergency or for a specific period of time.

**HONORABLE CHRIS CARTER, MINISTER OF CONSERVATION, re CONSERVATION VALUES AT RISK AT PERCY SCENIC RESERVE:** **Expressed** serious concern at the continuing problems at the Reserve which are putting at risk these nationally-important, indigenous plant collections; **outlined** our long association with the Reserve and **offered** to assist in whatever way possible to ensure the welfare of the collections.

## **TRANZ RAIL LTD, re PEST PLANTS ON RAILWAY CORRIDORS, March**

**Expressed** concern about e.g. pampas; **requested** information about their pest plant control strategy.

## **TONGARIRO/TAUPO CONSERVANCY, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION,**

**re TREE LUPIN INFESTATION CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND, March:** **Reported** extensive infestations of tree lupin/*Lupinus arboreus*, near the sides of the road on State Highway 1 along the Desert Road to a point south of Waiouru; **explained** that tree lupin, *Lupinus arboreus* is exacerbating the already adverse impacts of a range of other weed/pest plants; **asked** for prompt action to remove them before seed dispersal; **received** a very positive response and helpful advice.

## **WAIRARAPA COASTAL STRATEGY GROUP. 16 March**

**Response to questionnaire “The Coast – What’s Important To You?”.** **Explained** our activities in the Wairarapa; **expressed** disappointment with the environmental impacts of subdivision: excessive vegetation clearance and land development, the impacts of offroad vehicles, pest plants and pest animals, feral animals and stray stock, on indigenous ecosystems and natural landforms; **recommended** District Councils encourage and offer rates relief to landowners protecting such features on private land.

## **GREATER WELLINGTON – THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WETLAND ACTION PLAN, April**

**Welcomed** the inclusion of our suggestions previously submitted in the draft Wetland Action Plan.

## **WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL’S PROPOSED DESIGN FOR THE WILTON WALKWAY, OTARI - WILTON’S BUSH, April**

**Supported** the selection of the name “Wilton” for the walkway; **suggested** some modifications, mostly to do with measures to protect the surrounding vegetation, all of which have been accepted; (Note: The work is almost completed).

## **GREATER WELLINGTON – THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, DRAFT REGIONAL PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN, May**

**Suggested** strengthening some sections to highlight indigenous natural values; **recommended** that concession-holders be required to post bonds, refundable if their activities cause no damage to natural features, indigenous ecosystems, or facilities; **suggested** that the criteria for assessing and prioritising the Parks’ ecological values be set out in the Plan; **suggested** buffer plantings as an effective way to protect areas of ecological value; **supported** the establishment of ecological corridors; **suggested** that as well as pest plants, other invasive plant species should be controlled; **suggested** that Council investigate the feasibility of establishing a nursery dedicated to the propagation of indigenous plants appropriate for restoration and amenity plantings for each of the Regional Parks; **opposed** planting alien plant species in the Parks; **opposed** permitting horse-riding in areas of indigenous vegetation; **opposed** motorsport vehicles and vehicles used off sealed roads, because they are incompatible with the expressed desires of most Park users, as well as with the natural and amenity values of the Parks.

## **WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2003/2004 – WCC’S LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN, May**

**Recommended** adding numerous weed species to those which Council currently manages; **supported** the Plant-a-Tree Scheme and the upgrade of Cobham Drive foreshore provided that the plantings are of appropriate, locally-sourced, indigenous species; **recommended** that measures of the success of habitat development be citywide rather than restricted to Karori Wildlife Sanctuary; **commended** Council on their decision to apply intensive weed control to Miramar peninsula; **recommended** that long-neglected Tapu Te Ranga Island be included in that strategy; **commended** Council for setting up and funding the environmental grants scheme; **noted** that the 1993 Botanic Garden Native Forest Management Plan has not been fully implemented, and **recommended** that it be implemented this year; **welcomed** the development and implementation of a comprehensive interpretation plan for the Botanic Garden and Otari-Wilton’s Bush, the implementation of the Botanic Garden base plant data management system, and the re-design of the website; **commended** Council on culling goats in Te Kopahou Reserve; **recommended** a bylaw to ban the farming of goats in the Wellington southwest, to assist the restoration of indigenous ecosystems.

## **PORIRUA CITY COUNCIL DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION, May**

**Suggested** that the City’s Vision Statement be strengthened to include the natural environment; **recommended** that the following projects be funded in 2003-2004: erosion control, including riparian margins, by planting locally-sourced indigenous species; **reiterated** our concern about planting pohutukawa and boobialla; **supported** the work of the Titahi Bay Ratepayers and the Progressive Association in partnership with Porirua City Council, to remove exotic coastal vegetation and replace it with indigenous species; **asked** that the \$10,000 grant which PCC has contributed annually to the Park’s upkeep be continued.

## **HUTT CITY COUNCIL DRAFT LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN, May**

**Supported** the use of State of the Environment reporting and a variety of environmental projects, including Jubilee Park upgrade, Eastern Hills Revegetation, and Ferry Road pine tree removal; **recommended** that funds be allocated in this financial year for a management plan for Percy Scenic Reserve, and its rare, indigenous, unusual and alpine plants of threatened status, including the A.P. Druce Collection; **recommended** that funds be allocated this year, for the preparation of an educative brochure about Percy Scenic Reserve and its collections, and another about Jubilee Park; **recommended** that funds be allocated this financial year, for the removal of exotic trees from Percy Scenic Reserve and Jubilee Park; **complimented** HCC on continuing Tony Silbery’s excellent examples of the horticultural use of indigenous plants on Petone Esplanade, on roundabouts and on median strips; **expressed** concern at Council’s intention to plant alien palm species on High Street; **suggested** alterNATIVES.

## Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award

Wellington Botanical Society invites applications for an Award of up to \$2000 to encourage and assist applicants to further knowledge of the New Zealand indigenous flora, and to commemorate the 50th Jubilee of the Society.

### Purpose of the Award

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

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

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

### Applications for the Award

Applications should be made in typescript to: Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10-412, Wellington, by 31 October 2003.

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

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

### Selection

The award will be made to one or more applicants selected by a subcommittee nominated by the general committee of Wellington Botanical Society. Award(s) will be made, and applicants informed of the results in writing, by 24 December 2003.

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

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

*Barbara Clark,  
Secretary*

## Matiu matters

Last season's plantings on Matiu/Somes Island suffered badly from the drought, with a loss of over 80%. The major planting in the Quarantine Paddock was also affected by grazing sheep breaking through the insecure electric fence. Trees planted in previous years showed signs of stress but recovered well. The three plant nurseries have their own watering systems, and now hold some 7000 locally-sourced seedlings ready to be planted when the soil is sufficiently moist. The May planting was cancelled, and the 22 June one will need more rain before it can proceed. By then, we expect that DOC will have installed a sprinkler system over part of the new planting area in the Quarantine Paddock. The planting of successional species in the shelter of the well-grown pioneer species may

have to wait until July. BotSocers are warmly invited to help in the group plantings. See the "Events" section in this Newsletter.

Red-crowned parakeet/kakariki were liberated on 7 June with due ceremony. They were all males, to test whether they would remain resident, and to see if they have an adverse effect on the vegetation. If successful, pairs will be brought from Kapiti Island in 2004.

The few surviving Cook's scurvy grass, *Lepidium oleraceum*, were lost during excavations for the new composting toilet. About 100 plants from Mana Island seed were planted four years ago; all failed, with the exception of those that survived under the macrocarpa west of the wharf.

*Stan Butcher*



Matiu/Somes Island. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.



## New Open Space Covenants

The QE II National Trust has registered the following Open Space Covenants in the Wellington region this year:

- 2.35ha lowland primary modified tawa-titoki forest; lowland primary modified; kahikatea-totara-matai forest, on hillslope, Bideford Rd, Masterton.
- 0.1582ha lowland primary podocarp/hardwood forest; totara/matai-titoki forest on floodplain, Underhill Rd, South Wairarapa.
- 5.25ha lowland secondary riparian totara-kanuka forest on river terrace, South Wairarapa.
- 6.85ha lowland modified primary palustrine harakeke flaxland on wetland swamp, Norfolk Rd, Carterton.
- 2.74ha lowland modified primary palustrine harakeke flaxland on wetland swamp, Wiltons Rd, Carterton.
- Linkwood Bush, 3.4ha lowland secondary podocarp & hardwood forest remnant: lowland modified primary totara-kowhai-kanuka forest on terrace riser, Rock Rd, South Wairarapa.
- Wairua Ngahere, 13.6ha semicoastal modified primary (rimu)/tawa-titoki forest on bedrock hillside, Reikorangi Rd, Kapiti Coast.
- 4.75ha lowland primary modified palustrine pukatea/pasture treeland on colluvial hillslope; lowland modified primary kahikatea-titoki/pasture treeland, Puketiro Rd, Masterton.
- Millenium Natural History Reserve, 5.229ha lowland revegetated palustrine scrub on wetland swamp, Hillcrest St, Masterton.
- Doyle Tora, 7.7ha coastal modified primary karaka-ngaio- (wharangi) forest on bedrock hillslope, Tora Rd, South Wairarapa.
- 4.6ha lowland primary black beech/kamaha-kahikatea forest; secondary manuka-totara forest and wetlands, Carterton.
- Keane-Lang Bush, 11.6685ha lowland modified primary totara-rimu forest in gully; lowland exotic pasture grassland on hillslope, Masterton.
- 1.1ha semicoastal modified primary kohekohe – (titoki) forest on bedrock hillslope; coastal exotic pasture grassland on bedrock hillslope, Main Rd North, Kapiti Coast.
- 1.5305ha lowland secondary kanuka-kowhai forest on stream terrace, Ahiaruhe Rd, Carterton.

Please refer to the Publications section, item 5, in this Newsletter, for information about other recently registered covenants.

*Tim Park*  
QEII National Trust  
PO Box 3341, Wellington  
E-mail: [tpark@qe2.org.nz](mailto:tpark@qe2.org.nz)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.nz](http://www.nationaltrust.org.nz)  
04 472 6626 (office)  
027 218 2552 (mobile)

## Condolences

We offer our sympathy to Rae Collins on the loss of her husband Cren. Rae and Cren farmed in Taranaki for many years, before retiring to Plimmerton.

*The Committee*

## Kaikoura Island needs your help!!

The Department of Conservation, Auckland Regional Council and Auckland City Council all have an interest in the island, but individually they are unwilling to buy it. The politicians must be convinced that they should all contribute to its purchase. The NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust is determined to be the catalyst that secures the island for the public.

The Trust urges BotSoccers to help by making your opinions known to the relevant authorities. Letters, phone calls or e-mails will show there is wide public support for this purchase. The press have suggested the island as an alternative to the Government's proposed memorial to Sir Peter Blake. The Trust has a neutral position on this matter.

Kaikoura Island, 564ha, seventh largest in the Hauraki Gulf, is important historically, culturally and environmentally. Years of human impact have degraded the island, but it has enormous potential for ecological restoration. Indeed over the last 50 years it has restored itself so that the natural forest cover has re-established. Pest animals remain, but they can be eliminated to provide a secure habitat for endangered species, including brown teal.

You may wish to contact Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation, Parliament House, Wellington (post free), [ccarter@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:ccarter@ministers.govt.nz)

If you make a submission, please send a copy to [kaikoura@nznfrt.org.nz](mailto:kaikoura@nznfrt.org.nz)

*Adapted from e-mail from:*

*Dr Brian Davis*

*Chair, NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust*

[www.nznfrt.org.nz](http://www.nznfrt.org.nz)

## OBITUARY

### Betty Fitzgerald 1917–2003

Betty Fitzgerald died on 15 April in her 86th year. She was a longtime member of the Society who had taken part in many of its expeditions.

Betty came to New Zealand from England, via Australia, in the early 1940s. She worked first in the Nelson-Motueka area, and quickly developed a love of the bush and the mountains. Coming to Wellington, she soon became familiar with the Tararuas, in which mountains she met Frank, whom she married. They set up their home in Days Bay, later building a house of their own, in which they have remained.

Betty was known for her literary taste and her ability with languages and, at one time, set up and managed a translation service. Her main language, after English, was German. She was involved in many community projects in Days Bay, and was an enthusiastic gardener, sharing her produce with her many friends. She tramped over much of New Zealand, and quite a bit elsewhere in the world, but of course was particularly acquainted with the local hills.

Above all, Betty and Frank were hospitable, and many people have stayed in their little annex, popularly known as the "mouse house". Betty will be sorely missed by Frank, by her two daughters and the grandchildren, and by a wide circle of friends, both here and abroad.

*EW (Ted) Williams*

## Exotic palms get the thumbs down

In the last decade, Lower Hutt City Council has set a wonderful example for other local authorities in the horticultural use of native plants, including endangered species. Plantings of note include those on Petone Foreshore, in Eastbourne, and on median strips and on roundabouts.

The news that exotic palm trees are to be planted along High Street, to match those already along Queens Drive, Laings Road, and Margaret Street, is disappointing. There are several native tree species which could be used, thus continuing the important work done in the 1990s by former supervisors based at Percy Scenic Reserve, Tony Silbery and Robyn Smith.

It would be a pity if Lower Hutt were to abandon its pro-native plant policy in such high profile sites. It would emulate cities such as Gisborne and Napier which have detracted from their New Zealand ambience because of the use of exotic palms along their streets.

*Chris Horne, President*

## Swamp Maire Rescue



*Syzygium maire*. Photo: Allan Sheppard.

Swamp maire, *Syzygium maire*, are not common in Wellington ecosystems, so it is fortunate that representations by John Campbell of ERANZ, Graham Laws of Greater Wellington regional council, DOC, and the Conservation Board succeeded in convincing Transit NZ of the special significance of a swamp maire site at Mangaroa Saddle, then under threat and by now probably under tarseal. Thanks to their efforts and the cooperation of Transit NZ, the swamp maire trees, saplings and seedlings on the site have been rescued. BotSoc helped find suitable places to relocate the saplings and trees in Kaitoke Regional Park, and helped collect seedlings. DOC arranged for the relocation of some saplings and trees to a small reserve in the vicinity. GWTRC agreed to reimburse Upper Hutt Forest and Bird for the cost of growing on the seedlings for planting back in suitable sites in the Park. The adult trees will be sawn off at about 1 m height and with large quantities of surrounding soil, will be transported by a digger and replanted in their new sites, where it is hoped they will soon form coppicing growth. Regrettably the fine kahikatea and several large northern rata in the vicinity were unable to be saved.

*Barbara Mitcalfe.*

## New Zealand Plant Conservation Network established



The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network has now been incorporated and a committee appointed, chaired by Mike Oates. The vision of the network is that: *no indigenous species of plant will become extinct, nor be placed at risk of extinction, as a result of human action or indifference, and that the rich, diverse and unique plant life of New Zealand will be recognised, cherished and restored.*

Members of the Network will collaborate to protect and restore New Zealand's indigenous plant life and their natural habitats and associated species. This will be achieved in various ways such as through:

- dissemination of information about indigenous plant species
- coordination of ex-situ management of threatened plants
- plant conservation training programmes
- undertaking conservation activities to protect threatened plants

It is to be established in part as a contribution towards implementing the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Plant Conservation Strategy. Membership will comprise a range of people, community groups and organisations throughout New Zealand. Reasons for establishing such a network are that:

- Plant conservation practice will be improved.
- There will be increased efficiencies in achieving plant conservation outcomes, and overlaps in work will be minimised.
- Increased resources will be generated to focus on plant conservation priorities.
- More information will be freely available to those involved in plant conservation.

An inaugural meeting of the Network is to be held at Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington on Saturday 2 August 2003. More information about this meeting and how to register, will be sent out in the near future. Please show this article to others who may be interested in the Network. For further information about the Network, membership or the forthcoming inaugural meeting please contact:

Mike Oates ([Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz))

John Sawyer ([jsawyer@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jsawyer@doc.govt.nz))

Tim Park ([tpark@qe2.org.nz](mailto:tpark@qe2.org.nz))

Barbara Mitcalfe (ph 475 7149)

## Condolences

We offer our sympathy to Jane Wright, BotSoc committee member, and formerly supervisor, Otari-Wilton's Bush, on the tragic loss of her husband, Brian Wright, on 16 March.

We wish Jane well in her new life in Auckland, where she is looking after plant propagation for Auckland Regional Council.

*The Committee*

## TRIP REPORT

### 7 September 2002: Otari-Wilton's Bush

This was a combined trip with Botany students from Victoria University. The weather was good, and so was the attendance of twenty-nine people.

From the Wilton Bush Road entrance, we went up the valley to near the Troup Picnic Area, then up the True Left of Bledisloe Gorge, to the more gradual valley beyond the bridge over the stream. Here we saw large pukateas that must be original, many gully tree ferns, and some aged mahoes. From here we went down the other side of the gorge and turned onto the upper Blue Trail, stopping in the two conifer groves and, in particular, admiring the 800 year old rimu. Continuing beyond it, the forest becomes quite low and is dominated by kohekohe. Some of the group diverted to an exit in Karori, while others followed the Lower Blue Trail back to the Troup Picnic Area.

Tony Lawson, who has explored Otari-Wilton's Bush extensively, provided a species list. John, Barbara and Chris reced the route on 1 September and added some species to the list. Tony's list forms a good basis for further searching and, in particular we would welcome assistance with listing the mosses, liverworts and lichens.

Leaders: Dr John Dawson and Prof Phil Garnock-Jones, Victoria University; Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne, BotSoc.

*John Dawson*

### Otari-Wilton's Bush news

In April, a 1500m<sup>2</sup> area of botanically significant forest was purchased by Wellington City Council for addition to Otari. It was part of the grounds of Wilton House. It has some large tawa, totara, and several large-leaved milk tree (*ewekuri*, *Streblus banksii*) in the valley of a small tributary of the Te Mahanga branch of Kaiwharawhara Stream. The forest is visible from Churchill Drive, on your left when descending from Wilton Road.

Source: Otari-Wilton's Bush News and Views, June 2003.

Note: see "Events" section for information about Otari/Wilton's Bush open day, native plant sale, and guided tours on Sunday 14 September.

## TRIP REPORT

### 7 December 2002: Palliser Ridge Station, South Wairarapa

This was a combined trip with Wairarapa Branch, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society

We met at Jim and Marilyn Law's Burnside Station homestead, north of Pirinoa village, to study an aerial photograph of the 880 ha property. It comprises parts of three adjoining farms which the Laws bought to make into an economic unit, with areas of indigenous vegetation to be fenced off, and possums and goats removed.

The 1973 NZMS 1 N165 map does not show any bush in "Moikau Gully" (Whangaimoana Stream) or in its tributary, "Appletree Gully", but there are now extensive areas of regenerating forest, one with a pre-European pukatea.

On a terrace above Moikau Gully, we saw mounds once used for growing kumara, and a former whare's fireplace. The site has been carbon-dated as c. 1400AD.

We botanised part of Moikau Gully, seeing hinau, karaka and tawa in the canopy, and a possible ngaio/boobialla hybrid by the track. After climbing a spur, then descending to Appletree Gully, we came to the highlights: a large pukatea, rewarewa, tall kanuka, and several kowhai, also three nests of wild bees. Returning via the steep True Right side of Moikau Gully, we found several

wetland and fern species. We added about 20 indigenous plants and 7 adventive plants to the preliminary list prepared during a recce on 30 November. We have now listed about 110 native plants, including 9 dicot lianes, and 30 ferns.

We heard, or saw, the following birds: (native species) fantail, grey warbler, shining cuckoo, tui; (introduced species) California quail\*, chaffinch, eastern rosella, goldfinch, greenfinch, magpie, peacock\*, pheasant\*, redpoll, skylark, starling, yellowhammer.

People from the Wellington area stayed overnight at Jim and Marilyn's woolshed. Sunday was a wild, wet, southerly, so we abandoned botanising and returned home.

We thank Jim and Marilyn for permission to visit their property, and for their hospitality, and congratulate them on their work to protect these important ecosystems.

**Participants:** Margaret Aitken, Eileen Brindle, Geoff and Jenny Doring (co-leaders), David Gawith, Bryan, Robyn and Ian Halliday, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe, Sheila Stapleton.

\* these species were bred and released by Jim Law.

*Jenny Doring*

## Conservation Information Centre

### Government Buildings, Lambton Quay

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

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

General enquiries tel: 04 472 7356



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



Left: *Streblus banksii*. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

# TRIP REPORT

## 2–12 January 2003: Bay of Plenty

What a wonderful summer trip this was! We had two base camps: five days at Rocky Valley Christian Camp, Rea Rd, near Katikati, then six days at Murphy's Holiday Camp, near Matata. Like last year's summer trip, having two base camps reduced the amount of driving we had to do. We thank Tauranga-based Graeme Jane and Gael Donaghy for booking our accommodation, arranging a most varied programme of field trips, producing supplies of copies of the plant list for most trips, and vegetation descriptions, botanical highlights, and maps of the areas to be botanised. We thank Joyce Wilson for ordering the food supplies for both locations, and for preparing the menu for each meal. We thank all those who came on the trip, for their company, and for their support of that great BotSoc tradition, the New Year's field trip.

We had the first camp to ourselves, after a youth group left giving us access to the full range of facilities at this spacious site, near a stream flowing off the Kaimai Range. The second site, next to a beach, was quite different, yet worked well for us, once we had settled in. The many others in the motor camp proved to be thoughtful people, so there were no late-night parties or noisy music. An outstanding feature of it was the rubbish disposal system. The platform near the kitchen had 44-gallon drums for aluminium or tin cans, compostables, glass, paper or cardboard, and recyclable plastics (nos. 1 and 2); nearby was a drum for wastes which could not be recycled. The result of this scheme is that 86 percent of the wastes produced by campers are recycled, and only 14 percent goes to a landfill. How many city dwellers can beat that achievement?

If there was a disappointing aspect to the field trip, it was the storm which prevented our trip to Mayor Island/Tuhua. This was more than offset by its three-day duration, which meant that if we had reached Tuhua, we would have been marooned there, and missed some of the trips planned for us by Graeme and Gael!

Chris Horne

### 2 Jan: Tuahu Track–Te Rereatukahia Hut from Springs Road

Just as we were gearing up to start our first day's botanising, Chris Hopkins appeared at the road end, having just arrived from Wellington. In fine, humid weather we sweated buckets scrambling up on to the Kaimai tops, briefly enjoying a view over the Waikato. The species list prepared by Graeme Jane was very useful and we made a number of additions including a seedling *Beilschmiedia tarairi*, the only taraire seen over the whole 10-day trip. We Wellingtonians were surprised to see the sedge *Morelotia affinis* looking so much more robust than we are accustomed to. The climbing fern *Lygodium articulatum*, mangemange, and *Asplenium lamprophyllum* were new to some, as was *Blechnum fraseri*, swaying like a tiny palm on its slender, metre-high trunk. Another surprise was finding trackside, *Blechnum nigrum* which in Wellington we find only in darkest, dampest places. At higher altitude the beautiful *Ixerba brexioides* made its appearance and one *Raukaua edgerleyi* was spotted at lunch 1. Among northern tree species was *Litsea calicaris*, and to our amazement the shrub *Brachyglottis kirkii*, kohurangi, was common, trackside, unbrowsed - so where were the possums?? The last part of our descent took us through a cathedral-like kauri grove, with all stages of growth represented.

NOTE: In case readers of the September issue of the Newsletter think I hate pohutukawa, I hasten to say that throughout the 10 day trip, it was a pleasure to be able to appreciate *naturally-occurring pohutukawa* flourishing as a forest component or as a cliff-hanger on steep, coastal escarpments.

Barbara Mitcalfe

### 3 Jan: Mt Te Aroha slopes – trip 1

“The Lower Third”—no, it is not about pranks in the girls' dorm, but about “Five on a plant hunt”, the five not being madly enthusiastic about seeing the view from the summit.

We listed the native plants we saw—there were 29 species of trees,

representing 28 genera. This seemed a particularly rich assortment in an altitudinal range of 300 m. We saw 8 shrub species, but only a quarter of the fern species Graeme Jane had on his list, but then none of us were experts at identifying the many filmy ferns.

We were disturbed to see the fringe of the reserve invaded by so many weed species. One in particular, eleagnus, is a rampant, smothering climber. Pines are beginning to block the view of Te Aroha town and beyond, from the viewing platform.

From our lunch spot at Bald Spur, we had a wide view over the flat Hauraki Plains. We all enjoyed the first excursion into the bush this summer trip, especially because we were looking at many plants which do not grow in our home areas. For two of us, this is Dunedin.

Audrey Eagle

### 3 Jan: Mt Te Aroha summit – trip 2

The 900 m climb from the hot pools at Te Aroha to the trig (952 m) was a great day's botanising. We passed through puriri-kohekohe forest, manuka-bracken shrublands, mahoe-kanuka forest, tawa-tawari forest, and silver and red beech forest, both beeches at their northern limit.

Additions to the plant list included mountain cabbage tree, wharangi, *Pseudopanax laetus*, tawherowhero/*Qunitinia serrata*, rasp fern/*Doodia australis*, the filmy ferns, *Hymenophyllum ferrugineum*, *H. pulcherrimum*, and *H. revolutum*, and the sundew, *Drosera peltata*

Chris Horne

### 4 Jan: Aongatete Loop track and side trips – trip 1

We eight keen, but not too energetic, botanically interested “specimens” first botanised the 15 minute loop, taking 2 hours! We were impressed by a 35 m emergent pukatea with wide-spreading buttresses, and huge kohekohe and puriri trees. Our enthusiasm was infectious. We shared knowledge, and mistakes in identification were graciously corrected, as we learnt many new aspects of our flora and fauna.

At last we began the real loop track, where we ticked the plant list provided

by Graeme and Gael, and made some additions: *Coprosma arborea*/tree coprosma/mamangi, *Trichomanes reniforme*/kidney fern/raurenga, *Earina mucronata*/spring orchid/peka a waka. The orchid was in flower on windfalls.

After our second lunch, while returning to the lodge, we saw a tall nikau in flower, with last year's fruiting stalk still present, visible through binoculars. *Corybas trilobus* spider orchid was an abundant groundcover at one site. At the lodge, four returned to camp, while the rest, en route to swim in the river, saw *Thelymitra* sp./sun orchid/maikaika with swelling seed capsules, *Pterostylis banksii* greenhood/tutukiwi producing seed, and a patch of *Corybas* sp. with tiny leaves, some fresh green, some mauve, possibly *C. oblongus*<sup>1</sup>, a few having remnants of a flower with swelling ovaries well elevated above the leaf.

What was the highlight of the day? For me it was the great people around me, the good humour pervading, and the laughter of familiar voices.

PS: A certain fern was said to blush when a few brave bathers exposed themselves to it. Dare I reveal its name? It was *Lindsaea viridis*.

1 *The Nature Guide To NZ Native Orchids*. Ian St George. 1999. Page 70.

Emil Schmieg

#### 4 Jan: Puketutu – Te Hunga from Upland Road – trip 2

We 13 set off intending to get to the forest proper, and not botanising for the first 1.5 hours. However, we did note *Schizaea bifida*/forked comb fern in the manuka, and very tall *Cyathea medullaris*/mamaku regenerating in an area of senescent podocarps and numerous rimu seedlings. with almost 2 m tall *Blechnum fraseri*, like mini-tree ferns. On the return, we finally recognised the differences between *Coprosma arborea*/mamangi and *C. spathulata*, when we found them growing side by side.

The goal for the day was the fog forest on Puketutu (814 m) ridge. This required a steady clamber up a long spur through tawa and *Ixerba brexioides*/tawari. The track came and went, hidden in places by kiekie and *Gahnia*.

On the flat ridge-crest, the vegetation changes to *Libocedrus bidwillii*/NZ cedar/pahautea with *Gahnia*, and enough mud to make travel interesting. A single kauri, c. 30 cm

d.b.h., and a large population of *Grammitis pseudociliata*, a strap fern, grows in this dwarf forest. With educated searching we found the filmy ferns, *Hymenophyllum malingii* and *H. lyallii*, on the cedars. Allison was lucky to add *H. armstrongii*.

The find of the day was *Pittosporum kirkii*, perched on a tawari track-side as we descended the spur to Upland Road. Graeme spotted the fruiting capsule opened to reveal shiny black seed. This is a rare find anywhere, and unusual in the Kaimai Range.

Rodney Lewington

#### 5 Jan: Waihi Beach and Orokawa Bay Scenic Reserve

We reached the 486-ha Orokawa Bay Scenic Reserve from the north end of Waihi beach, where we noted with approval one of Coastal Care BOP's plantings of pingao, spinifex, ngaio, *Euphorbia glauca*/shore spurge/waiuatua, and other native sand-dwellers.

We did a well-timed rock scramble between waves, and a short walk along a narrow strip of sand, to the start of a 2-hour track around the headland, shared with walkers, joggers and anglers.

A large coastal sedge, *Cyperus ustulatus*/giant umbrella sedge/upoko tangata, growing just above high tide, immediately caught our attention, as did the herb, *Peperomia urvilleana*. Then we saw several plants of the locally rare *Pimelea tomentosa*. Towering pohutukawa dominate this part of the reserve, which being close to an urban area, is infested with introduced pasture weeds and garden escapes. The middens with remains of shellfish are evidence of pre-European occupation. After lunch at the bay, we went up a valley towards William Wright Falls, 45 minutes away. The change in the bush was dramatic, with huge puriri replacing pohutukawa as the dominant tree, nikau abundant in the moister conditions, ferns galore – and very few weeds!

Val Smith

#### 6 Jan: Wairoa Dams Track – trip 1

This day we moved from Rocky Valley Christian Camp, Katikati to Murphy's Holiday Camp, Matata. We woke to rain, and a doubtful forecast, so Gael and Graeme kindly suggested that we eat lunch at their home.

A hardy group spent 2 hours on the

track to Wairoa dam, from the end of Lindemann Road, and were rewarded by clearing skies. The highlights were vigorous, young *Brachyglottis kirkii* (no possums?), a dense understorey of *Lycopodium deuterodensum*/a club moss/puakarimu, masses of an orchid, *Drymoanthus adversus* epiphytic on kamahi, and our first sighting of the fern, *Lindsaea linearis*.

Darea Sherratt

#### 6 Jan: Waikareao Walkway, Tauranga – trip 2

Route: Maxwells Road – Daisy Hardwick Walkway – McCardles Bush – Don Stewart Walkway – Waihi Road

This route around an estuary of Tauranga Harbour, is partly on land, and partly on boardwalks among mangroves, *Avicennia marina*/manawa, here near their southern limit. Graeme and Gael's plant list included some pest plants and many other adventives, spilling over from people's gardens nearby. The interpretation panel describing the mangrove community was of great interest, particularly to those of us from areas beyond the southern limit of mangroves. We learnt that mangroves produce more leaf litter than any other plant of similar size. Of the numerous trees we added to the list, no doubt some were planted, as part of the revegetation work around the extensive shoreline of Tauranga Harbour.

Chris Horne

#### 7 Jan: Matata Scenic Reserve

This reserve contains 491 ha of coastal forest. The landscape has been shaped by erosion cutting through thick deposits of volcanic ash, leaving sharply defined ridges and spurs, and occasional lines of bluffs of consolidated material.

Pre-European Maori occupied the reserve. We saw two fosses, 30 m apart. These trenches, dug at right angles to a ridge, were used by Maori for defence. Much of the reserve was burnt during Maori occupation. The regenerating forest is estimated to be 80 years old.

We botanised two ridges and the lower part of a dry gully. The interior of the forest was well lit, and enhanced by flowering pohutukawa. Other canopy trees among the pohutukawa were kamahi, rewarewa, kanuka (20–22 m high), and at higher elevation, hard beech.

The reserve has the largest stands of black and hard beech in the district. Plants of interest were: *Lycopodium deuterodensum*, which in places formed extensive patches near the track; *Gaultheria oppositifolia*/a snowberry/niniwa, which, with its large leaves, could at first glance be mistaken for tutu; *Tmesipteris lanceolata*/a fork fern, with its leaves in one plane; the erect *Toronia toru*; *Lycopodiella cernua*, and *Doodia australis*/rasp fern/pukupuku.

Adventive plants which the Department of Conservation should remove include: *Pinus radiata*—mature trees, and the smaller ones spreading on bare ground and on bluffs; *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus* along tracks close to the reserve margins; and *Tradescantia*, Japanese honeysuckle and blackberry at the entrance to the reserve.

Chris Hopkins

### 8 Jan: Waimangu Thermal Area

This trip was well worth the long drive to south of Rotorua, and the entrance fee, for which we got a group discount.

We botanised the specialised flora of the thermal area, while marvelling at the hot springs, fumaroles, geysers, volcanic craters and silica terraces. Across Lake Tarawera rose Mt Tarawera, which erupted violently in 1886, in the process forming Waimangu Thermal Area. Since then, plants have recolonised much of the land, including numerous pest plants and other adventive species which should be removed. All six gymnosperm trees and 13 of the dicot trees and shrubs on the plant list are alien species, an indication of the amount of work which needs doing!

Among the ferns we saw were: *Cyclosorus interruptus*, *Dicranopteris (Gleichenia) linearis*, *Hypolepis dicksonioides* and *Nephrolepis* “thermal”.

Chris Horne

### 9 Jan: Raparapahoe Track, Te Puke

Route: SH2 near Te Puke – No. 4 Road – No.3 Road

We decided that on this very wet day we would visit a small forest remnant near Te Puke, mainly to see the giant ground fern, *Marattia salicina*/king fern/para. Some were growing on a cliff face, out of reach of pigs; others were on the gorge floor, the juveniles looking rather like angelica, under the

predominantly tawa forest. The tawa are 30–40 m, apparently drawn up by the light to get to the level of the top of the cliffs. The downpour, and dense canopy, foiled attempts to find *Trichomanes* sp./bristle ferns, despite the use of torches in the middle of the day!

The entrance to this forest is unprepossessing, with garden wastes, and *Pinus radiata*. In the gorge itself, montbretia and *Tradescantia* are widespread. It would be a shame if this hidden gem were overrun by pest plants and other adventives from the surrounding orchards and farmland. This forest warrants more attention from botanists, and from its managers.

We dashed through the rain to the wonderful salt-water hot pools at Mt Maunganui, before going to eat lunch at Gael and Graeme’s, then see their photographs of West Australian flowers.

Rodney Lewington and Penny Currier

### 10 Jan: Whirinaki Forest

This was another long drive that was well worth it. To see Whirinaki is to see one of our most awe-inspiring podocarp forests.

We botanised from the River Road parking area to Te Whaiti Nui a Toi Canyon, hearing kaka and kakariki, and photographing the water rushing between ignimbrite rock walls. Our last sortie was around the circular track in the Fort Road Recreation Area in the advancing dusk.

Our thanks to the native forest campaigners who saved what remains of these ecological and visual gems in the 1970s and 1980s.

Chris Horne



*Marattia salicina*. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

### 11 Jan: Ohope Scenic Reserve, Ohope

Between the entrance to Whakatane Harbour, and Ohope Beach, on prominent headlands, are Kohi Point Scenic Reserve and Ohope Scenic Reserve. From the parking area above Kohi Point we could see Whale Island in the Bay of Plenty, and as we walked north, we looked down on the narrow entrance to the harbour. Between the headlands is the beautiful beach at Otawairere Bay where we had lunch, admiring the pohutukawa trees clinging to the cliffs.

The Kohi Point is an historic site called Kapu te Rangi, the site of Toi’s pa. The occupation was in two phases, pre-1350, and post-1350. We saw earthen ramparts and midden remaining from the distant past.

The botanical highlights included the ring-stemmed dwarf mistletoe, *Korthalsella salicornioides*, growing on manuka, *Pimelea cf. urvilleana*, *P. tomentosa*, *Pittosporum colensoi*, the maidenhair fern, *Adiantum hispidulum*, and broad-leaved sedge, *Machaerina sinclairii*. Pest plants and other adventives were common, including radiata pine, barberry, hawthorn, willow-leaved hakea, two species of privet, brush wattle, gorse, moth plant, snakefeather/climbing asparagus, etc.

The Department of Conservation’s workload in pest plant control is enormous, and from our experience this summer, much more money and time must be devoted by Government to prevent our precious reserves from being overwhelmed by alien plants and animals.

Chris Horne

**Participants:** Ted Abraham, Beth Andrews, Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Penny Currier, Roger Currier, Gael Donaghy, Harold Dutton, Audrey Eagle, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Graeme Jane, Allison Knight, John Knight, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Moira Parker, Eml Schmiege, Darea Sherratt, Barbara Simpson, Neill Simpson, Val Smith, Harry Stimpson, Beryl Tuppen, Joyce Wilson.

## TRIP REPORT

### 18 January 2003: Rimutaka Forest Park

On a warm, overcast day, we botanised the Whakanui Track, from Sunny Grove, Wainuiomata, to the Mt McKerrow Track junction, and returned via Nikau Creek to Hine Road.

The track first passes through black and hard beech forest, then as the altitude and wetness increase, broadleaf species replace the beeches, including some fine pre-European rimu, northern rata, and miro. Many kakakaha/*Collospermum hastatum*, *C. microspermum* and kowharawhara/*Astelia solandri*, perch in the canopy trees.

Near the McKerrow Track junction, in more harsh climatic conditions, silver beech and kamahi dominate. Windfalls are common. Regeneration includes mountain flax/harakeke, and broad-leaved bush tussock/*Chionochloa conspicua* ssp. *cunninghamii*, which with the wind-shorn canopy, add a subalpine touch to the landscape.

We lunched at the track junction, compared plant lists, then retraced our steps to take the route down a spur to Nikau Creek. The lower part of the spur is covered by open hard beech forest with numerous epiphytes e.g. *Collospermum hastatum*, *Astelia solandri*, Easter orchid/*Earina autumnalis*, lady's slipper orchid/*Winika cunninghamii* and fork fern/*Tmesipteris tannensis*

The valley of Nikau Creek, in the middle section, is wet, and has regenerating broadleaf forest with nikau palms. The lower valley is drier, and tall kanuka (est. 60–70 years old) form much of the canopy. Many of the sixty species of fern recorded for the trip are found here.

Ferns of interest included the bristle fern/*Trichomanes colensoi* and *T. endlicherianum*, waterfall fern/*Blechnum colensoi*, black hard fern/*B. nigrum*, and rusty filmy fern/*Hymenophyllum ferrugineum*.

A total of 203 native species were recorded for the trip. We finished at Hine Road at 5.30 pm

**Participants:** Margaret Aitken, Lyn Ayres, Penny Currier, Pat Enright, Olaf John, Chris Hopkins (leader), Chris Horne.

Chris Hopkins

## TRIP REPORT

### 1–2 February 2003: Wharekauhau Stream, Ocean Beach/Palliser Bay; Battery Stream, South Wairarapa

Botanising one of the windiest spots in Palliser Bay, in the face of a stiff nor'wester was a challenge accepted by ten intrepid BotSoccers on an otherwise warm and sunny day.

The first stage covered the lower third of Wharekauhau Stream. The two sides differ dramatically owing to the different deposits exposed in the cliffs. The true left bank/cliff consists mainly of brown marine sediments, and the true right of grey, terrestrial, lacustrine and stream sediments.

The cliffs of marine deposits are wet in most places with seepages resulting in surfaces covered with vegetation. The run-off at the foot of the cliff is forming a wetland which hosts mainly weeds. This may be temporary, phenomenon because the main stream has been diverted by a mound of collapsed cliff upstream.

The cliffs on the true right are mainly dry with scattered clumps of vegetation and collapsed mounds at the base. Among the angular gravel on the braided bed of the stream were *Raoulia tenuicaulis*, *R. glabra* and *Senecio lautus*.



*Senecio lautus*. Photo: Barbara Mitcalfe.

We ate lunch sitting on boulders reputed to be from ice-age scree, where we went to see some mature *Coprosma crassifolia*. Sadly, they were half dead though we could see how grand they had been. Four members returned to their vehicle from there.

We then continued upstream to the unnamed Hoheria Stream, a tributary of Wharekauhau Stream. Sheltered in a hidden gully were mature kanuka and several "Hoheria Tararua", adults, saplings and seedlings. A flowering specimen was taken for Te Papa's herbarium. Here the group decided to continue botanising up the gully instead

of the upper reaches of the Wharekauhau Stream.

As we proceeded up the stream it narrowed and became impassable so we climbed the steep true right face through beech forest to a grove of kanuka on a terrace for a scroggin break. We then sidled up the gully but this proved very difficult owing to the density of scrub. However we saw many interesting plants including the divaricating *Pittosporum divaricatum* and *Gahnia pauciflora* which grew in abundance as did Spanish heath.

On the spur, east of spot height 264, the dense low vegetation and high winds which impelled us to go down through tall kanuka to a farm road. We then descended through a series of high terraced paddocks to the beach.

On Sunday, the plan to botanise the coast around Mukamukaiti was abandoned because of the gale, in favour of Battery Stream. Permission to cross private property was kindly given by one of the owners, Annette Shaw. We drove through several large paddocks dotted with magnificent ti kouka and totara and surrounded by low bush at the base of rising slopes. A walking track beyond the fenceline took us through a small plantation of young *Pinus radiata* juveniles with a variety of native species making a comeback in their shelter. This merged into a section of mixed-age beech species. We noted trackside, a *Myosotis* sp. and *Schizeilema trifoliolatum*.

Following a track through a mixture of native scrub and weed species, we came to the dry stream bed of Battery Stream. Some 500 m upstream the water disappeared into the gravel. Our biggest disappointment here was to see the stream lined on both sides with willows, said to continue almost to its headwaters. From this point we returned to our cars and made a brew in a real 'Thermette'.

**Participants:** Arnold, Gavin and Ruth Dench, Pat Enright, Barbara Mitcalfe, Olaf John, Sunita Singh, Kate Zwartz and Chris Horne.

Sunita Singh

Ed: we thank Sunita for the cosy accommodation in and around her bach near Corner Creek.

# TRIP REPORTS

## 23 March 2003: Huntleigh Park forest remnant

This trip was BotSoc's contribution to Wellington City Council's *Stepping Out!* programme of walks in March. The Council's objective was to provide people with a wide range of outings each week. Our trip was a course in native plant identification for the 14 participants, and a chance to make them aware of the benefits of joining BotSoc.

We used a plant list prepared by

Barbara in 1996, and BotSocers, Pat Enright and Olaf John in 1994–98. It listed 119 native plants, which we numbered to help people to find a botanical/Maori/common name quickly. It also listed 29 adventive plants by botanical and common name. The system worked well.

This forest, between Ngaio and Crofton Downs, is impressive, and

because of its network of tracks, a good place for teaching plant identification. We thank the Girl Guides' Association for permission to use a track on their land, near the WCC part of the forest.

We thank Andy Nelson, Recreation Wellington, Wellington City Council, for the invitation to run a field trip in this programme.

*Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe,  
co-leaders*

## 5 April 2003: Eastern Hutt Hills

We gathered on Sierra Way, off Blue Mountains Road, Upper Hutt, to be welcomed by Sheelagh and Gordon Leary, and Patricia Tankersley, to their forest-clad properties. We used a comprehensive plant list prepared by them, Pat Enright, Peter Beveridge and Olaf John

We spent the morning botanising down the 1.6-km drive to the Leary's home, seeing regenerating shrublands, hard and black beech forest, and broadleaf forest with podocarps and northern rata. The drive was built for

logging 40 years ago—fortunately the operation was not particularly destructive, so the forest is impressive. The banks of the drive featured numerous species of fern, and a *Coprosma microcarpa* which was the object of discussion..

After "elevenses" at the Leary's, including freshly-baked, tasty biscuits, we walked a series of tracks, including a visit to a big rimu, to reach Patricia's deck for lunch. Behind the house we admired a pokaka with intermediate foliage, on the spur up to the drive saw

the biggest black beech most of us had ever seen, and nearby saw a small-leaved milk tree/*Streblus heterophyllus*.

We thank Sheelagh, Gordon and Patricia for permission to visit their properties, and for their hospitality.

**Participants:** Flora Christeller, Barbara Clark, Gavin Dench, Jenny Dolton, Helen Druce, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, Gordon Leary, Sheelagh Leary, Cath Mathews, Barbara Mitcalfe, Donella Moss, Sunita Singh, Patricia Tankersley

*Chris Horne*

## 18–21 April 2003: Aorangi Forest Park, North Block

Eight members joined this trip to southern Wairarapa, based at DOC's comfortable Waikuku Lodge. We visited Dry Creek and Blue Creek on the way in, the limestone bluff on Mr Druzianic's property (PNA site 3310) and Grey Cliffs QEII Covenant (PNA site 2706) on the way out. The Saturday trip was to the Mount Ross Ridge and on Sunday a circular walk via the Old Mill Road, and Sutherland Flat.

The Friday and Monday visits were uneventful. We added a very few new species to the plant lists prepared by Pat Enright.

Blue Rock Stream has a good representation of Wairarapa native plants with a variety of habitats although the understorey is rather eaten out.

The Dry River area opposite the Pakohe Limeworks deserved more time and the additions included several *Hymenophyllum* species and *Sophora microphylla*. Here we also found both *Polystichum neozelandicum* and *P. oculatum*—two of the three species that are in publication and have been previously grouped under *Polystichum richardii*. Elsewhere on this trip we

found only *Polystichum neozelandicum* smooth shield fern.

At Grey Cliffs a climb from stream to the ridge added, among others, *Lindsaea linearis*, *Lastreopsis glabella*, *Carmichaelia australis*/NZ broom and *Huperzia varia*. But we failed to find *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme* and *Asplenium appendiculatum*, which are "special" to this reserve.

Some clambering on the limestone at the Druzianic property added a single *Shefflera digitata* that had avoided browsing, but we hunted in vain for *Urtica linearifolia*/swamp nettle.

Saturday saw six of us crossing the east branch of the Turanganui River above Sutherlands Hut and making our way past *Urtica ferox* to Averills Hut. A long slog up the well-marked Mt Ross track, occasionally blocked by tree falls, brought us to the main ridge. The "Loop Track" route was then along the ridge generally NE through beech forest along a reasonably clear track. The next kilometre was through small-leaved coprosma and *Pseudowintera* scrub sometime over our heads and more often forming a carpet at chest level that hid

the track and the few blazes. Route finding was not helped by the low visibility in the mist. This slowed progress and more time was lost before we found the route down the spur to the river and the road "home". The last hour was in the dark, but we avoided a night out thanks to Gordon Leary's nose for a route, and some work with the GPS, compass and map.

Botanical interest turned on finding species not recorded on the Aorangi Range list. *Melicytus lanceolatus*/mahoe wao and a single plant of *Tmesipteris tannensis*/fork fern were added.

*Sticherus cunninghamii*/tapuwae kotuku/umbrella fern was added on the following day when we walked the Old Mill Track, passing through the patches of red and later black beech and regenerating bush. Toetoe was the other notable species—it flourishes across the track in many places, particularly near the old mill site, making progress slow and wet.

An enjoyable long weekend but made rather arduous by the poor state of the tracks and signage.

*Rodney Lewington*



## TRIP REPORT

### 4 May 2003: Kaukau – Skyline Walk – Bell’s Track

The main aim of this trip to Mt Kaukau and beyond was to study the composition of the springy, wind-shorn shrublands along this wind-swept Te Wharangi ridge of the Outer Green Belt.

We met at the Woodmancote Road entrance to Khandallah Park, and were pleased to be joined by Dr John Dawson, Research Associate at Victoria University, and a well-known author of botany books. The day had dawned fine and calm, but by the time we reached the top of Kaukau, a strong wind was blowing. It increased in velocity enough during the morning to induce us to cut the trip short, and descend Bell’s Track to Ngaio, instead of the pylon track to Chartwell and into Otari.

All the springy clumps we examined consisted of a mixture of small-leaved, divaricating shrubs, interlaced with climbing and scrambling plants. The **divaricates** were: *Coprosma areolata*/thin-leaved coprosma, *C. propinqua*, *C. rhamnoides*, *C. rigida*, *C. rotundifolia*/round-leaved coprosma, *Melicytus crassifolius*, *Olearia solandri*/coastal tree daisy, *Ozothamnus leptophyllus*/tauhinu, *Raukaua anomalus*. The **climbers** were: *Clematis forsteri*/small white clematis, *Metrosideros perforata*/clinging rata, *Rubus cissoides* and *R. schmidelioides*/bushlawyers. The **scramblers** were *Acaena anserinifolia*/piripiri, *Fuchsia perscandens*.

We lifted some of the looser parts of the clumps, and were rewarded by the sight of numerous ripe berries not visible from the outside: *C. rhamnoides* – dark red; *C. propinqua* – translucent pale blue; *M. crassifolius* – opaque white. What creatures eat the fruit we wondered?

We thank Pat Enright for providing a comprehensive plant list. We added one species to it, *Poa cita*, silver tussock.

**Participants:** “J.S.” (Bach), Penny Currier, John Dawson, Barry Dent, Sue Freitag, Vicki Froude, Janet McCallum, Barbara Mitcalfe, Joyce Wilson (leader).

Joyce Wilson

*Melicytus crassifolius*. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

## TRIP REPORT

### 7 June 2003: Private forest blocks, Moonshine Road, Upper Hutt

We spent a lovely day botanising the two blocks, one owned by Ian Flux and Merryl Park, and the other by John and Meg Flux. The contiguous properties, totalling about 40 ha, on the north side of Moonshine Road, on a True Right tributary of the Hutt River, have been approved for covenanting by the QEII National Trust, and are proceeding toward registration. We congratulate the owners on taking this step to protect with Open Space Covenants, in perpetuity, this fine forest.

We met opposite 196 Moonshine Road, and divided into three groups. To list as many plant species as possible, the groups walked different routes to the lunch spot at Ian and Merryl’s house. One group walked up Moonshine Road, then along the long drive; another group walked up “Moonshine Creek”; another group tramped via a series of spurs and gullies. On the return trip to the cars, most of us went down through a pine plantation, then a steep spur to “Moonshine Creek”, down the creek and up to Moonshine Road.

Most of the land is steep, and ranges in altitude from 100–400 m above sea level. Ian and Merryl have lines of possum bait station which they keep filled, and are also concerned about goats, rodents and mustelids infesting the forest.

The result of our endeavours in the forest on these soon-to-be permanently protected properties is a list of about 138 native plants and about 79 alien plants. Copies of the lists will be sent to the owners, and with their permission, to QEII National Trust, Greater Wellington regional council, Department of Conservation, and Upper Hutt City Council.

One group of six botanised a route which climbs a steep, south-facing talus face and sidles in and out of gullies. Ian showed us some of the 100 cyanide bait stations which they bait monthly. Possum numbers are steadily declining on this route, and Ian is about to start another line of stations.

The slopes support regenerating podocarp/broadleaf forest with emergent rewarewa and an emergent, probably pre-European matai. Canopy components are hinau, black maire, totara and northern rata. Kiekie, thickets of supplejack, and clumps of *Astelia solandri* and *Lastreopsis hispida* flourish in the moist conditions. All four liane ratas are present. Further up we were surprised to see two red beeches, d.b.h. c. 18 cm, possibly planted, since there were kauri in the general vicinity. There were several large black beeches. Later, under pines, we saw two large pokaka c. 15 m high with est. d.b.h. 70 cm, and a magnificent, kaumatua kahikatea, est. 1.5 m d.b.h.

We thank Ian, Merryl, Meg and John for permission to visit their properties, and for their hospitality, including ginger cake from the car boot at the end of the trip!

**Participants:** Beth Andrews, Fiona Bancroft, Peter Beveridge, Rae Collins, Penny Currier, Gavin Dench, Pat Enright, Ian Flux, John Flux, Meg Flux, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Olaf John, Sheelagh Leary, Cath Mathews, Barbara Mitcalfe, Donella Moss, Merryl Park, Emil Schmieg, Allan Sheppard, Glennis Sheppard, Sunita Singh.

Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe



## A global strategy for plant conservation

This article was adapted from a paper given by Kingsley Dixon, David Given and Tim Pierce at the Australian Network for Plant Conservation conference in Geelong, Australia in February 2003.

For more information see: <http://www.biodiv.org>

Since the Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified in 1992 there has been a continuing decline in the status of the world's plant life. This has resulted in a new global initiative to specifically address plant conservation. It is led by Botanic Gardens Conservation International, in collaboration with technical and professional bodies around the world.

They have proposed a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation with sixteen targets designed to guide conservation of threatened species and ecosystems. The strategy recognises that effective, long-term conservation will involve a wide range of partners—governments, institutions, NGOs, and local communities. The strategy has well-defined and achievable goals for integrated (*ex situ* and *in situ*) conservation of plant diversity, linked to targets for research, information management, public education and awareness to attain these goals. The sixteen targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation are provided below. In New Zealand there is now a need to work towards national implementation of this strategy. This will mean developing:

- (a) Plant conservation targets for Australasia.
- (b) Baseline data and indicators to monitor progress towards achieving the targets.
- (c) A mechanism for coordinating work to achieve the targets.

### **Target 1: A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.**

A working list of known plant species is fundamental to plant conservation. How many species exist and which are being lost? For many organisms there are working lists but the challenge remains to continue taxonomic work, especially of neglected organisms.

### **Target 2: A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.**

Globally, over 60,000 species have been evaluated for conservation status according to internationally accepted Red List criteria, of which 34,000 are classified as globally threatened with extinction.

### **Target 3: Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.**

There is a considerable body of research but little affects conservation management. Achievement of this target will require more research, greater synergy between research and management agencies, and exhaustive 'on ground' testing of management options.

### **Target 4: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.**

In general, forests and mountain areas are well represented in protected areas, while natural grasslands, wetlands, lowland forests and coastal and estuarine ecosystems, are poorly represented. The target implies an increased representation of different ecological regions in protected areas, and greater effectiveness of protected areas.

### **Target 5: Protection of 50% of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.**

The most important areas of plant diversity can be identified by criteria such as endemism, species richness, uniqueness of habitats, presence of relict ecosystems, and the value of ecosystems services. Where are these places in New Zealand?

### **Target 6: At least 30% of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.**

Conservation of plant diversity is an integral part of any form of land management and so protection is required, in the production landscape, for

indigenous species. Management must also avoid significant adverse impacts on plant diversity in surrounding ecosystems.

### **Target 7: 60% of the world's threatened species conserved *in situ*.**

This is seen as a step towards effective *in situ* conservation of all threatened species but how is "conservation *in situ*" defined? Is it sufficient to conserve one population of many, or even a single individual, or does the target imply 'effective' conservation that includes most significant genetic variation in the species?

### **Target 8: 60% of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10% of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.**

This will require a greater level of commitment to ex-situ management of threatened plant species in New Zealand.

### **Target 9: 70% of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated local and indigenous knowledge maintained.**

This requires that the genetic diversity of economically valuable plant species and their wild relatives are fully protected.

### **Target 10: Management plans prepared for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.**

Many of New Zealand's major alien species that threaten plant communities and associated habitats are already subject to management. This is a good quantitative target whose achievement can be monitored. It also implies that the management plans are being implemented.

### **Target 11: No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.**

This will mean continued vigilance over international trade in endangered plant species and monitoring of plant trade in so far as they relate to CITES.

### **Target 12: 30% of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.**

Sustained management integrates social and environmental considerations, such as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and the participation of indigenous and local communities. It is expected that global markets will ask more and more for evidence and certification relating to export production including nature conservation and ecological sustainability criteria.

### **Target 13: The decline of plant resources, and associated local and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices, that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.**

Plant diversity underpins livelihoods, food security and health care and this target is consistent with one of the widely agreed international development targets, namely to "ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed".

### **Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes.**

Communication, education and the raising of public awareness about the importance of plant diversity are crucial for the achievement of all the targets of the strategy. This target refers to both informal and formal education at all levels. This is not a quantitative target and so is achievable within the short term.

### **Target 15: The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this strategy.**

An achievable goal, through development of training and development programmes for volunteers, community and government throughout New Zealand.

### **Target 16: Networks for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.**

Networks provide mechanisms for information exchange and development of common policies, coordination of effort among many stakeholders, optimise the efficient allocation of resources, and can minimise duplication. See article in this issue on the first meeting of the proposed New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (story on page 10).

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