



Seasons greetings!

We wish you all enjoyable
botanising in 2005.

Joyce Stretton, President



Northern rata. Photo: John Braggins.

BotSoc committee news

At its meeting on 24 November, the committee decided that because of the provisions of the Privacy Act, it should not circulate a membership list to members without obtaining permission from all members. This can be done readily only by adding a yes/no box to the forms "Application for membership" and "Renewal of membership". A list could then be produced omitting the names of any member who insisted on anonymity. Sadly this will take some time, but it will, as in other societies, enhance social interaction, as well as being of practical value.

Joyce Stretton, President

Wellington Conservation Board

We congratulate BotSoccer Geoff Doring of Carterton who has been appointed to the board by Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation. Geoff joins BotSoc's nominee on the board, Bev Abbott, and another BotSoccer, Dr Maggy Wassilieff.

Articles for web site

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

Please send your article to:

Richard Herbert,
8 Duval Grove,
Redwood,
Wellington
ph 232 6828
fax 381 4518
e-mail herbert.r@xtra.co.nz

Manawa Karioi Society Revegetation Programme Work Bees

Second Sunday each month,
starting at 10 a.m.

Lunch provided.

*Potted locally-sourced
native seedlings welcome.*

Thank you.

Contact:

Morgan Cox ph 383 9987 or
Sally Bowman ph 934 7041

Wellington Botanical Society

President:	Joyce Stretton	934 2437	
Vice-Presidents:	Chris Horne	475 7025	475 7253 (fax)
	Leon Perrie	381 7261 (w)	
Secretary:	Barbara Clark	233 8202	233 2222 (fax)
	e-mail: kevin.clark@clear.net.nz		
Treasurer:	Rodney Lewington	475 3145	
Auditor:	Peter Beveridge	237 8777	
Submissions			
Co-ordinator:	Chris Horne	475 7025	475 7253 (fax)
Address:	PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6036		
Web site:	www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz		
Bulletin Editor:	John Sawyer	470 8427	499 0077 (fax)
	DOC, PO Box 5086, Wellington		
Newsletter Editor:	Chris Horne	475 7025	475 7253 (fax)
	28 Kaihuia St, Northland, Wellington 6005		

Annual Subscription: ordinary \$32; joint \$42; country \$26; student \$20.
Send your subscription to Treasurer, WBS, Box 10 412, Wellington 6036.
New subscribers: Please complete form at the back of this 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, the first weekend
in February, and at Easter.

ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS

Ideas please

We welcome your ideas about:

- places to visit on field trips
- topics and speakers for evening meetings
- information or photographs for BocSoc web site

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, so that he/she can tell you of any changes and/or particular requirements. If you cannot ring in advance, you are welcome to join on the day.

Clothing for field trips

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

Day trip gear

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

Overnight trip gear and food

As well as the day trip gear listed above, bring torch, spare bulb and batteries, candle, mug, plate, knife, fork, spoon, small towel, soap, tooth brush, tent, fly, poles and pegs, groundsheet, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, liner and stuff bag. Bring bread, butter/margarine, biscuits, fresh fruit and scroggin. SCROGGIN = Sultanas, Chocolate or Carob, Raisins, Orange peel, Glucose³, Ginger, Including Nuts.

1 = wool, polypropylene or polarfleece as applicable.

2 Optional

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

BotSoc equipment

In addition to the gas stoves, billies, kitchen utensils, flies etc., used on long field trips, the following are also available:

- 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.

Health and safety

- You are responsible for your own first aid kit. If you have an allergy or medical condition, please carry your own anti-histamines and medications, tell the trip leader of any problems you may have and how to deal with them.
- You are responsible for keeping with the party. If you have any doubts about your ability to do this, you must check the trip conditions with the trip leader, who reserves the right to restrict attendance.

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.

Transport reimbursement of drivers

We encourage the pooling of cars for trips.

- **Passengers:** Please pay your share of the running costs to your driver. We suggest 10c/km/passenger.
 - If a trip on the inter-island ferry is involved, please pay your share of the ferry fare.
 - If you change cars mid-trip, leave a *written* note for your driver.
- **Drivers:** Please ensure that you know where you are going, and who is in your car;
 - Zero the odometer at the start, and agree on a return time;
 - Account for all your passengers before you come back;
 - Collect contributions towards transport costs.

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.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS: JANUARY–JUNE 2005

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 22 January: Field trip

Pakuratahi forest/Climie ridge

Botanise from Tane's Track through largely unmodified podocarp/broadleaf/beechn forest to Spot Ht 614, then south through ridge-crest goblin forest to North Climie. Descend Climie road past groves of magnificent mountain cabbage trees. Meet 8.30 a.m. at Tunnel Gully Recreation Area lower car park prepared for a full day trip with 700 m climb. Catch 7.05 a.m. train from Wellington to Upper Hutt, then take no 112 Te Marua bus to terminus. Maps S27 Lake Wairarapa and R27 Wellington. Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025, Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

Saturday/Sunday 5/6 February: Field trip

Lowes Bush & Te Pamu bush

Day 1: Lowes Bush. Botanise this magnificent area described as 'the largest and most intact area of kahikatea swamp forest distinctive for its size, maturity, ecological diversity and condition within Wellington Conservancy, if not the entire North Island' and 'the best representative of the once extensive podocarp swamp forest of the Wairarapa plains'. Boots essential, likely to be wet. Meet 9.00 a.m. in park alongside Wild Oats Café, north end of Carterton shops, corner of Belvedere Rd and SH2. Map S26 Carterton. Accommodation indoors and out. Potluck dinner Saturday.

Day 2: Te Pamu bush. Botanise 87 ha of private forest in the Tararua foothills due to be convenanted in the near future. See tawa, beech, totara, kamahi-dominant forest and regenerating plant communities.

Leader: Pat McLean ph 021 148 0259, e-mail: mojomclean@hotmail.com. Wellington contact Dave Holey 566 3124 for transport offers/share.

Saturday 12 February: Field trip

Dench garden workbee

Co-leaders: Arnold and Ruth Dench, 37 Lyndfield Lane, Newlands, ph 477 4420.

Monday 21 February: Evening meeting

Recent research by Te Papa on New Zealand's ferns

Speaker: Leon Perrie, Curator of Botany, Te Papa. Leon will talk about the use of DNA analyses to investigate (1) the origins of NZ ferns, (2) taxonomic relationships within *Polystichum* and *Asplenium*, and (3) the status of the cultivated hen and chickens fern.

Sunday 27 February: Daytime workshop

An interactive computer key for NZ ferns

NOTE: not Saturday

Coordinator: Patrick Brownsey, Curator of Botany, Te Papa. Patrick will demonstrate his new fern key, and we will help him test it. This is a chance to learn about computer-based keys, which are beginning to supersede the traditional bifurcating key. A two hour workshop will be held at Victoria University in the morning and then repeated in the afternoon. Bring along ferns you would like to identify. Places may be limited, so please contact Leon Perrie (mailto: LeonP@tepapa.govt.nz; 04 381 7261) to reserve a spot and/or to find out more.

Saturday 5 March: Field trip

Southwest Kaukau

Explore the steep gullies and spurs on the flanks of Kaukau. Likely species to be found include *Dracophyllum longifolium*, *Clematis forsteri*, *Trichomanes colensoi* (unc), *Blechnum colensoi*, *Microtis oligantha*, *Pterostylis banksii* and possibly other orchids. Steep terrain—boots essential. Meet 9 a.m. top of Vasanta Avenue, Ngaio.

Map R27 and street map. Co-leaders: Ian Goodwin 475 7248, Chris Horne 475 7025.

Saturday 12 March: Field trip

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Share your knowledge of native plants and communities with others on this trip which is BotSoc's contribution to Wellington City Council's FEELING GREAT STEPPING OUT! walk promotion this month. Botanise this wonderful remnant of Wellington's original native forest. Co-leaders: Barry and Sue, ph 476 6536. Map R27 and pamphlet. Meet 8.45am Mairangi terminus, opp. Izard Park, Wilton. Catch 8.20 a.m., no. 23 Mairangi bus from Courtenay Place (if wet postponed to Saturday 19 March).



Monday 21 March: Evening meeting

Global warming and alpine plants

Speaker: Dr Stephan Halloy from Crop & Food, Dunedin, will talk about the results of long-term monitoring done by GLORIA (Global observation research initiative in alpine environments) at the altitudinal limits of life in the Andes of Peru and in New Zealand. GLORIA is an international project to measure the impact of global warming on alpine vegetation.

Friday 25 March–Monday 28 March: EASTER TRIP**Rimutaka Forest Park**

Botanise Paua Ridge to Tapokopoko, 843m, and its montane beech forest, also parts of old Five Mile Track. Meet 8.30am Catchpool car park. Pot luck dinners. Accommodation: Waerenga Hut – fees \$10 per night. Map R27.

Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025, Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

Saturday 9 April: Field Trip**View Road/South Headland Reserve****NOTE: second Saturday**

Botanise and compile a species list for this prominent headland of interglacial marine terraces with steep flanks jutting into Cook Strait on Wellington's south coast. Existing vegetation consists of a mixture of native and adventive species, including Conservation Site 2F extending to Houghton Bay on its seaward side. Check out species that have colonised its foreshore—Te Raekaihau Foreshore reserve—since its uplift out of the sea by the 1855 earthquake. BotSoc are seeking Scenic Reserve status for this coastal headland and foreshore when Wellington City Council begin the classification process. Meet 9 a.m. at carpark on Te Raekaihau Foreshore Reserve next to public toilets. Catch no. 12 bus to Lyall Bay, and walk south along Queens Drive to Te Raekaihau Point. Map R27 and street map. Co-leaders: Sunita Singh, Gavin Dench 387 9955.

Monday 18 April: Evening meeting**The Warm Autumn Rain... Mushrooms and Boletes in NZ**

Speaker: Geoff Ridley, Science Manager (New Organisms), Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA). At certain times of the year mushrooms and boletes can be a conspicuous part of most types of vegetation in New Zealand yet most people know little about them. This talk will introduced the ecology, taxonomy and how to begin to identify these fungi.

Saturday 7 May: Field trip**Fungi foray**

Leader: Geoff Ridley, Science Manager (New Organisms), ERMA, will follow up on Monday's talk with a trip into the Five Mile Track, Rimutaka Forest Park for a look at fungi and bolete specimens.

Monday 16 May: Evening meeting**Members' evening**

Please share your slides and photographic displays taken on BotSoc trips; your paintings, drawings and your favourite botanical readings. Plant specimens would add to a memorable evening.

Sunday 22 May: Daytime workshop**An interactive computer key for *Hebe*****NOTE: not Saturday**

Coordinator: Mike Bayly, Research Scientist, Te Papa. Mike will demonstrate his computer-based interactive key to *Hebe*. A two hour workshop will be held at Victoria University in the morning and repeated in the afternoon. Places may be limited, so please contact Leon Perrie (e-mail: LeonP@tepapa.govt.nz; 04 381 7261) to reserve a spot and/or find out more.

Saturday 4 June: Field trip**Te Marua workbee**

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 Greater Wellington Regional Council, we have been able to hire a contractor to speed the task of weed control, but our biennial workbees must continue so that we keep ahead of reinvasion by weeds, particularly around the plantings. So please come to help with this important work 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. (250m north of Te Marua Store and 50m 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 Paraparaumu and Upper Hutt street map. Co-leaders: Glennis Shepperd 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

Monday 20 June: Evening meeting**Lichens**

Speaker: Bill Malcolm, photographer and author of plant books. Details in next newsletter.

EVENTS

1. **Pataka Museum, Porirua.** “Shade House” – Maureen Lander’s unique installation focuses on ferns as emblems of NZ identity. Lander collaborated with poets Briar Wood and Robert Sullivan on this exhibition. Ends 30 January.
2. **Nga Uruora Kapiti Project Inc.** Workbee and plant sales: 1st Saturday each month at Paekakariki School Nursery; 1st Sunday each month at Pukerua Bay School Nursery. Ph 04 905 6583, nukapiti@hotmail.com www.kapitibush.org.nz
3. **Botanical drawings of Nancy Adams.** Otago Museum, Dunedin, to 18 January; Ashburton Art Gallery 24 January –14 March.
4. **What native plant is that? 16 February – 19 March.** Two lectures, three Saturday field trips and a Saturday workshop. Tutor: Dr John Dawson. Enrol at Community Education, Onslow College ph 477 1118, or e-mail commed@onslow.school.nz. Detailed information at Otari-Wilton’s Bush/Te Marae o Tane Information Centre, 160 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington.
5. **Percy Scenic Reserve open day.** On SH2 200 m north of Korokoro traffic lights. 27 March at 10am, 11am, 12 noon, 1pm.
6. **Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust seminar programme.** 1 March – Liverworts, Rodney Lewington; 8 March – Mosses, Barbara Polly; 15 March – Filmy ferns, Patrick Brownsey; 22 March – Lichens, Barbara Polly. Otari-Wilton’s Bush/Te Marae o Tane Information Centre, 7.30pm. Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust, 160 Wilton Road, Wilton, Wellington. Subscription: double/family \$15; individual \$10; student/unwaged \$5.
7. **Otari-Wilton’s Bush Trust workbees.** 8.30am every Thursday; 9am second Saturday each month. Meet: Information Centre/Te Marae o Tane, 160 Wilton Road, Wilton. Ring Jonathan Kennett or Bronwen Wall 472 5891, e-mail jonathan@kennett.co.nz
8. **Southern Environmental Association workbees.** Every Saturday 2-5.30pm at native plant nursery, lower Murchison Street, Island Bay.
9. **Trelissick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group workbees.** Usually 1st Sunday and 2nd Tuesday each month. Ring Frances Lee, ph 479 2600.
10. **Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves workbees.** 2nd Sunday each month 1.30-4pm. www.tawabush.wellington.net.nz, or ring Richard Herbert 232 6828.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. **Identifying pre-dispersal seed predators and seed dispersers of shrubby tororaro (*Muehlenbeckia astonii* Petrie).** G Udy 2004. *DOC Science Internal Series 186*. 10 p.
- 1b. **Predicted potential natural vegetation of NZ.** M McGlone, S Walker, J Leathwick, C Briggs. (Poster). Hard copies from: *Hope Allum, DOC, Northern Regional Office, PO Box 112, Hamilton*. Electronic copies from: *Craig Briggs, Landcare Research, PBag 3127, Hamilton*. E-mail: briggsc@landcareresearch.co.nz for details.
- 1c. **Identifying freshwater ecosystems of national importance for biodiversity: criteria, methods and candidate list of nationally important rivers.** WL Chadderton, D Brown, T Stephens 2004. 112 p.
- 1d. **Wetland types in NZ.** PN Johnson, PJ Gerbeaux 2004. 184 p.
- 1e. **Restoration plan for Korapuki Island (Mercury Islands) NZ 2004-2024.** DR Towns, IAE Atkinson 2004. 52 p.
- 1f. **Ecology, management and history of Whirinaki Conservation Park, NZ: an annotated bibliography.** AE Beveridge, MC Smale, BR Christensen, GA Steward 2004. *DOC Science Internal Series 193*. 140 p.
- 1g. **Indirect effects of marine reserve protection on NZ’s rocky coastal marine communities.** NT Shears, RC Babcock 2004. *DOC Science Internal Series 192*. 48 p.
DOC Science Publishing, PO Box 10 420, Wellington. Fax 04 496 1929, e-mail science.publications@doc.govt.nz. Check Science and Research at <http://www.doc.govt.nz> under Publications.
- 2a. **FOOTnotes.** No.22 12/04: saving Wellington’s precious native plants; children add to native bush on Chathams; Eastern Wairarapa’s PNA report completed; feral goats removed from western Tararuas; Pauatahanui Inlet residents join Weedbusters campaign; etc
- 2b. **Rimutaka Forest Park environmental education resource.** Access at www.doc.govt.nz. Workshop for teachers early in 2005 – register interest by phoning 472 5821.
Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation, PO Box 5086, WN.
3. **Wellington Conservancy recreation opportunities review – Submissions analysis and decisions.** 10/04. 44 p.
Southern Regional Office, Department of Conservation, PO Box 13 049, CH.
4. **Open Space.** No.62, 11/04: woody vegetation helps hold soils; riparian management; the importance of connectivity in a working landscape; annual report; team effort in managing covenants; know your natives - swamp maire/maire tawake; as at 1/10/04, Wellington Conservancy had 153 areas of indigenous vegetation on private land, totalling 4695 ha, protected in perpetuity by QEII Open Space Covenants; description of covenanting process; etc.
Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, PO Box 3341, Wellington. Ph 04 472 6626, fax 472 5578, freephone 0508 732 878, e-mail qe2@qe2.org.nz, www.qe2.org.nz
5. **Regional Pest Management Strategy – Operational report 2003-2004.**
Greater Wellington Regional Council, www.gw.govt.nz, or inspect at GWRC offices.
6. **Branch Out.** Vol.14: Spring 2004. Profile – Isobel Gabites; Owhiro Bay car park upgrade/plantings; commemorative tree plantings; Oku Street Reserve, Island Bay; restoration of Botanic Garden bush; Mt Victoria upgrade/plantings; *Libertia peregrinans* from Otari to Horowhenua; more tui in Wellington; etc.
Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington

7. **Trilepidea**. No.12 11/04: need to protect the flora and landforms on Mt Burnett, and add area to Kahurangi National Park; Network threatened plant web site ranked no.1 in NZ and no.13 in world; *Carex dolomitica* – plant of the month; “What’s happening to *Hebe*?” by Phil Garnock-Jones; Flora of NZ – course at University of Waikato 11-25/2/05; comments on new names and new taxa in *Gentianella* by PJ de Lange; etc.

NZ Plant Conservation Network, PO Box 16 102, WN.

8. **NZ Wilderness**. 10/04: “Sanctuary on traffic island” – re plantings of threatened plants on Petone Esplanade, using stock raised at Percy Scenic Reserve, Petone.
9. **True Colours**. 12/04: Project Crimson’s first 14 years; work with pohutukawa and other native plants on East Cape; pohutukawa’s value in erosion control on Bay of Plenty coast; etc.

Project Crimson, PO Box 301 027, Albany, Auckland. Ph 09 414 0466. E-mail: info@projectcrimson.org.nz; www.projectcrimson.org.nz

- 10a. **Carex in Auckland – A field guide**. Chris McKain 2004. 50 p. \$15 incl p&p.
- 10b. **Meanings and origins of botanical names of NZ plants**. Marie Taylor 2002. \$27 incl p&p.
- 10c. **A dictionary of Maori plant names**. J Beever 1991. 75 p. \$7.50 incl p&p.
- 10d. **Wild plants in Auckland**. Alan Esler 2004. P.O.A.

Auckland Botanical Society, c/- Kerry Bodmin, PO Box 60 316, Titirangi. E-mail: Kerry.Bodmin@waitakere.govt.nz

11. **Botany of the Waikato**. \$15.

Book Order, Waikato Botanical Society Inc, c/- Department of Biological Sciences, University of Waikato, PBag 3105, Hamilton.

12. **Profile**. No.30 10/04. Forest restoration and heirloom permaculture – Dean Baigent-Mercer, Far North; Eco-building and re-forestation – Michael and Keryn Squires, Nelson; etc.

Prometheus Ethical Finance, 27 Tennyson St, PO Box 969, Napier. Ph 06 835 7138, fax 06 835 1628, e-mail ethical@prometheus.co.nz, www.prometheus.co.nz

13. **Walk Korokoro**. Pamphlet. History of Korokoro tracks, with ecological notes. Send S.A.E. to:

Ruth Mansell, 34 Titirimoana Rd, Korokoro, Petone.

- 14a. **Oho Mai Puketi**. No.2, 11/04: pest animal control; native plants; etc.
- 14b. **Oho Mai Puketi – Awaken Puketi**. Fundraiser pamphlet. Donations welcome!

Puketi Forest Trust, PO Box 257, Kaeo, Northland 0471. Ph 09 405 0074.

15. **Pipipi**. No.23 10/04: conservation problems; gorse control along boundary fences; new owner of neighbouring 1000 ha property involves Hugh Wilson in “land-use option audit”; native flora and fauna; weeds; etc. Donations to trust welcome!

Hugh Wilson, Maurice White Native Forest Trust, Hinewai Reserve, RD 3, Akaroa 8161.

16. **Waiwawa Reserve, Coromandel – every drop is precious**. Pamphlet to raise funds for purchase of reserve – donations welcome!

NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, PO Box 80 007, Green Bay, Auckland 1007

17. **Forest & Bird**. No.314, 11/04: “The remote Ruahine” – Shaun Barnett explores a rich enclave of native plants and wildlife in the northwestern Ruahine Ra; conservation of Castle Hill; the kinship of plants; etc

Forest & Bird, PO Box 631, Wellington Ph 04 385 7374. www.forest-bird.org.nz

18. **Small-leaved shrubs of NZ**. H. Wilson & T. Galloway. 1993. 307 p. \$35 incl p&p.

Manuka Press, PO Box 12-179, Christchurch

SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR

- 1a. Kaitoke Regional Park draft management plan.
- 1b. Queen Elizabeth Park – Intention to review management plan.
- Documents from Trecia Smith, Parks and Forests, Greater Wellington Regional Council, PO Box 11 646, WN, ph 04 381 7753, fax 04 385 6960, www.gw.govt.nz. Submissions by 31 Decembe to parks@gw.govt.nz.
2. Marine reserve proposal for Nugget Point/Tokota. Document from Department of Conservation, Coastal Otago Area Office, 77 Stuart St, PO Box 5244, Dunedin, ph 03 477 0677, fax 03 477 8626, e-mail: nuggets@doc.govt.nz. Submissions by 31 March.

SUBMISSIONS MADE

- Te Marua Bush: recommendations for management, as a submission on the Kaitoke Regional Park draft management plan. 12/04 to Greater Wellington Regional Council.
- Te One Bush, Kawhatau Valley, Mangaweka: need for sycamore destruction, and protection as a High Value Conservation Area. 12/04 to Horizons Regional Council
- Rata trees in Hutt City, especially recovering tree in Jenness Grove, and ailing tree in Daly Street which has had a building constructed around it. 12/04 to Hutt City Council.
- Wellington Botanic Garden: recommendations for planting, tagging and monitoring of black maire seedlings; the monitoring to involve WCC and DOC databases. 12/04 to Wellington City Council.
- Mount Victoria upgrade: native plant species suggested. 12/04 to Wellington City Council.
- Draft annual plan: proposed initiatives. 11/04 to Wellington City Council.
- Waterfall Road bush, Raumati South: need for protection from pest animals. 11/04 to Greater Wellington Regional Council.

GRANTS

Wellington City Council community grants. Grants are for projects that will directly benefit Wellingtonians, and help to make our city a better place to live. Ring Grants Team Leader, Deborah Hope, ph 801 3127, for advice. Full criteria are listed on application forms available from Grants Coordinator, ph 801 3539, or from reception desk, Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield St, Wellington. Or from www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants. Applications by 31 January.

Forest & Bird Wellington Branch 75th anniversary grants scheme. Grants are for activities and projects that will benefit, directly or indirectly, the natural environment of Wellington city. Activities may include pest control, habitat restoration and restoration, species recovery, research, signage and interpretation, and environmental education and advocacy. Limited grants of up to \$500 will also be considered to provide 'seed money' to assist the establishment of local community groups to protect and enhance the city's ecological values. A total grant pool of \$5000 is available. The committee will consider applications on their merits, while taking account of the need to spread its support across as many activities as reasonably practical to maximise the benefits to the city. Application forms from Colin Ryder, 20 Prospect Tce, Johnsonville, Wellington 4, or ryderc@extra.co.nz. Applications close 31 January. The generosity of Blanche Arthur, through her legacy in 2003, has enabled the branch to offer these grants.

Project Crimson annual funding round. Funding is for rata restoration and protection projects, also, in northern half of North Island, pohutukawa restoration and protection projects. The land can be private or public, provided there is value to the wider public from the work. In return for grants, the trust asks that signage provided by it is displayed at the project site, the trust is advised of planting workshops, and the progress of the project. Application forms from www.projectcrimson.org.nz, or by ringing Project Crimson at ph 09 414 0466, or e-mail info@projectcrimson.org.nz. Applications close 1 March.

Biodiversity Condition and Advice Fund. Funding is for private landowners to improve indigenous biodiversity on their land. Projects can include fencing and pest control. More information, project criteria and application forms from www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/condition.html. Applications open in February.



Keep Watch for new whitefly

It's Biosecurity New Zealand's mission to reduce the risk to New Zealand from introduced unwanted pests and diseases. But it is not always obvious whether an organism is actually new to New Zealand, as many of our unique organisms are not known to many people, including scientists.

Potentially, one such insect is a recently discovered, unnamed whitefly found infesting some species of *Melicytus* in Christchurch. Biosecurity New Zealand is now investigating other regions to see how widely distributed this whitefly may be and is particularly interested in the Wellington/Wairarapa and Marlborough/Nelson districts.

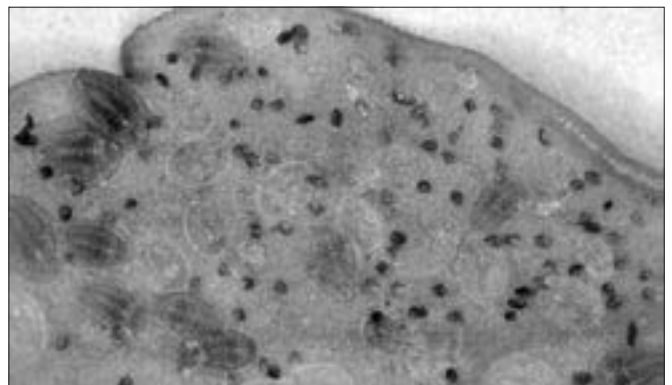
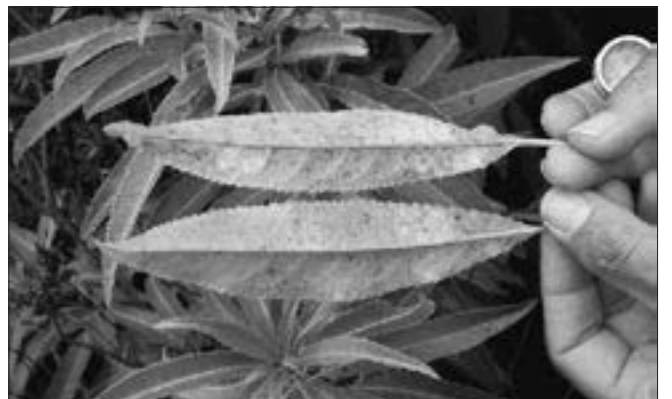
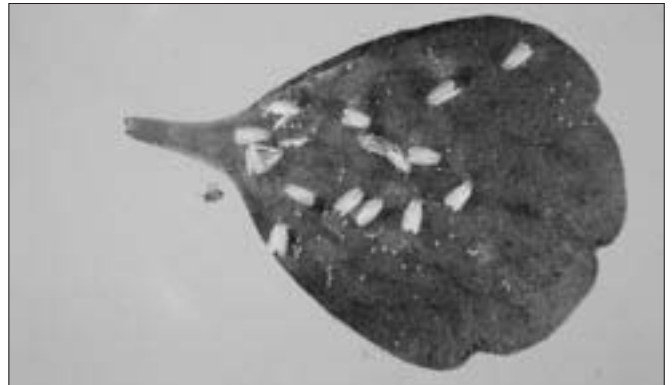
If you are out and about, or if you have *Melicytus* in your garden, have a close look to see if whitefly is present. Another clue may be the presence of black sooty mould which grows on sugary secretions excreted by immature whiteflies. It is the nymphs or pupae stuck to the underside of the leaf that are required for identification. If what you see looks similar to the pictures below or at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/whitefly, please collect a leaf sample into a plastic bag, place in a non-breakable container and send to:

Freepost 120201
Whitefly Survey
MAF Laboratory,
PO Box 24,
Lincoln, Canterbury 8152.

Please include your contact details, the date and location of collection, and the species of *Melicytus*.

Keep Watch and we can all protect New Zealand.

Top: Whitefly adults on *Melicytus obovatus*. Centre: Whitefly on *Melicytus lanceolatus*. Bottom: Immature whitefly stages on *Melicytus*



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

Highlights of committee meeting

24 November

- Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves Inc: invitation to botanise Fyvie Reserve, Tawa.
- Project Crimson function to celebrate NZ Christmas trees.
- ECO's resource management services project.
- Request for *Hieracium lepidulum* location data.
- Damaged rata trees in Hutt City.
- Mt Victoria summit upgrade: species to suggest to WCC for planting.
- Kaitoke Regional Park management plan review.
- WCC draft annual plan: suggestions for initiatives to be included it.
- Draft programme of evening meetings and field trips for January – June 2005.
- "Weedbusters" campaign in Trelissick Crescent, Ngaio.
- Loder Cup 2005: nominees suggested.
- Membership list: distribution to members discussed.
- Brochure: need to update and reprint it discussed.

Nothofagus; The five taxa of NZ beeches, with a brief note on the three Australian taxa

Menzies searched for *Silver* from Fiordland to the Ureweras
From Nelson to the Ureweras *Fusca* was seeing *Red!*
Truncata found *Hard* going around Nelson and points
northward
And there, too, toothless *Solander* saw double, and saw
Black!
But from a *Cliff* down in Fiordland, from a *Mountain* out to
sea
He saw *Guns* and *More*, and on that shore, saw *Cunningham*,
yes he!

(Based on Peter Wardle's work, but some of the ranges could be
aberrant!) Bernie Salmon

Trapping predators

If you want to increase pest animal control on your property by killing stoats, rats and hedgehogs, you may wish to consider the DOC 200 trap. It was designed by Phil Waddington and DOC staff members, Ian McFadden and Darren Peters. The trap is available in batches of 10, and cost \$18.80 each plus GST and freight. Freight on a box of 10 sent by NZ Couriers would be \$8.86. The trap comes with instructions on how to build a tunnel to contain it. Information valid as at 16/12/04.

Traps can be obtained direct from the manufacturer, Curtis Metal Products Ltd: PO Box 22 131, Otahuhu. Ph 09 270 3335, fax 09 270 3338, e-mail: sales@curtissprings.com.

If you would like to buy a trap (\$22.05 each incl GST and freight, and are prepared to collect it at a BotSoc meeting, or on a field trip, or from 28 Kaihuia Street, Northland, please contact me at ph 475 7025, **AND** if there is enough interest to order the minimum number of 10 traps, I will order them.

Note: Phil Waddington and Joy Waddington own Te Oranga Whenua QEII Open Space Covenant in Stokes Valley. We botanised their forest on 4 May 2002, and saw some of Phil's trap designs at work.

Chris Horne

Otari-Wilton's Bush news

Extreme weather in August caused anguish for staff. The wild garden and the fernery were particularly hard hit. The February storm felled a hinau in the wild garden and the August storm felled a rewarewa just behind the large rock stack at the back of the alpine garden. Most of the hinau and rewarewa trunks are now part of the garden. In the fernery a tawa fell over and on its way down, crushed two smaller mahoe and ripped a large epiphytic *Griselinia lucida*, puka, from the neighbouring tawa. Initially I thought the fallen tawa had also crushed a wonderful stand of *Blechnum fraseri*, but luckily only one was broken. Other ground ferns were crushed and will take time to recover. The fernery is now considerably lighter and will be less humid during the summer months. We will be keeping a close watch on the ferns to see how they fare.

Arnold and Ruth Dench, of Newlands, have generously offered to have their collection duplicated and added to the Otari collections. This is a long-term project which involves cataloguing and propagating the plants. When ready, they will be mostly used in the alpine and rock gardens.

Six selected cultivars from the Rene Orchiston flax collection have been planted at the Churchill Drive entrance, the northern picnic area and beside Kaiwharawhara Stream along Wilton Bush Road. These have been specially selected by Saani Scott, a weaving tutor at Te Wananga O Aotearoa, and will be available for harvesting, by permit, for local weavers. Rene Orchiston travelled the country for 30 years selecting the best flax cultivars to preserve them at a time when interest in weaving was at a low point and the art of weaving was dying out. Now with the huge resurgence in interest, these plants are proving to be a wonderful resource.

Michael Bayly and Alison Kellow from Te Papa have donated many species of *Hebe* that were used for identification purposes while studying the *Hebe* genus at Te Papa. Most of the plants will be re-propagated and added to the collections. The Department of Conservation has donated two rare native gentians from Charleston on the West Coast.

A new boardwalk and viewing platform has been installed around the huge northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta*, which will hopefully protect its roots from trampling and deter people from walking on the garden.

The first stage of a major overhaul of the 'Brookie' rock garden has just been completed. It is well worth a look if you are a fan of this area. Boggy margins have also been added to the rock garden pond and been planted with *Clematis quadibracteolata*, *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera*, *Schoenus pauciflorus*, *Rumex neglectus* and *Carex litorosa*. The second stage will start early next year.

A new propagation house is to be purchased for the nursery. This will be a 6m x 4m plastic skin house with a roof vent, benches and misting system for cuttings. Staff and volunteers are looking forward to utilising this for the collections and revegetation work.

If you live in Wellington, you may have noticed that the Otari staff have burst into print. A series of articles are being written and published in the gardening section of Saturday's *Dominion Post*. Subjects covered have included edge effects on bush, *Hebe speciosa*, *Euphorbia glauca*, *Peraxilla tetrapetala*, *Marattia salicina*, *Pterostylis banksii* and *Pachystegia rufa*.

Robyn Smith
Curator manager
Otari-Wilton's Bush

EVENING MEETING REPORT

15 November 2004: Global plant conservation in New Zealand – a way forward into the 21st century

Speaker: John Sawyer, Technical Support Officer, Wellington Conservancy, DOC.

NZ has been internationally recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, especially because of our flora. Eighty percent of our native plants are endemic, i.e., they are found nowhere else in the world. Thus we have a special responsibility to care for them in the wild. Centres of Plant Diversity ranks NZ 21st out of 25 centres of Plant Diversity.

With the pressures of growing populations and urban sprawl, it is no wonder that we are losing native plants and their habitats. John urged us to be more innovative about plant conservation.

John described the structure of the Threat Classification System defined by the NZ Plant Conservation Network; see www.nzpcn.org.nz. Each plant species is considered by a panel of experts, and classified according to the following categories:

The most acutely threatened species

Nationally Critical e.g. *Tecomanthe speciosa*, *Carmichaelia muritai*, *Olearia gardneri*

Nationally Endangered e.g. *Leptinella nana*/pygmy button daisy, *Brachyglottis huntii*/Chatham Island Christmas tree

Nationally Vulnerable e.g. *Muehlenbeckia astonii*/shrubby tororaro, *Aciphylla diffebachii*, *Hebe barkeri*

The chronically threatened species

Serious decline e.g. *Dactylanthus taylorii*/wood rose

Gradual Decline e.g. *Desmoschoenus spiralis*/pingao

The uncommon species

Range Restricted e.g. *Atriplex billardierei*, *Xeronema callistemon*/Poor Knights lily

Sparse

Other categories are

Extinct e.g. *Trilepidea adamsii*, *Lepidium obtusatum*

Coloniser

Vagrant

Data Deficient

The distribution of species according to their endangered classification as listed in the following table, shows that endangered species represent a high proportion of the total vascular flora of NZ, represented by 2345 taxa.

Threat classification	Described taxa (2345)	Indeterminate or Undescribed taxa
Extinct	4	2
Acute	121 – 5%	54
Chronic	97 – 4%	12
At risk	502 – 21%	89
TOTAL	724 – 31%	

As well as threatened plants, there are also some threatened plant communities, e.g.:

- Dunes
- Ephemeral wetlands
- Geothermal scrub
- Scree scrub
- Coastal cliffs

John then described the HIPPO effect:

H – Habitat loss

I – Introduced species (exotic and invasive)

P – Pollution

P – Population growth

O – Over-consumption (Over-harvesting)

Threats to natural vegetation succession caused by human activities include:

- Lack of renewal of manuka scrubland owing to increased control of fire has resulted in a reduction of greenhood orchid habitat;
- Control of fires in wetlands has changed the natural germination cycle of some plant species;
- The spread of diseases from exotic plants to native species, e.g. white rust/*Albugo candida*) commonly found in Brassicaceae garden crops will also attack *Lepidium oleraceum* agg. in cultivation.

John described the eight Ps, each a work area in DOC:

- Planning
- Protection (highest priority)
- Pests
- Planting
- Promotion
- People
- Partnership
- Patience

Offshore islands are a traditional option for native plant conservation in NZ, but traffic islands and road reserves are now being used in the Wellington region for plant species recovery projects. Traffic islands work because councils have to plant them anyway, they provide insurance populations of threatened plants should wild populations be destroyed, plant material for revegetation projects, and a research and educational resource. They are well protected by the roads that surround them. Browsing animals are usually unable to access them, and council staff keep them free of weeds.

The use of traffic islands for plant conservation originated in Lower Hutt, where several organisations work together to ensure that rare native plants do not die out. One of the success stories is *Muehlenbeckia astonii*/shrubby tororaro. There were only 44 plants left in the wild, and male and female plants were so widely scattered that they could not produce seed. Now plants on traffic islands produce seed used to grow plants for return to the wild, or planted in urban areas such as Petone Esplanade. Here there are other threatened plants

adapted to coastal conditions, e.g. *Euphorbia glauca*, *Hebe speciosa* (Port Waikato), and *Discaria toumatou* matagouri. Threatened plant species grown on traffic islands can be valuable components of a plant conservation programme, as well as contributing to an attractive urban landscape.

So “what does the future hold?”, John asked. Early NZ naturalist and director of the Dominion Museum, Walter Reginald Brook Oliver said on 18 July 1938 – “I want you to protect NZ’s plant life”.

How do we do this?

As individuals, we can survey, make ourselves aware of endangered species and threats, and check our gardens, neighbours gardens, and garden centres for potential threats. As a society, Wellington BotSoc should be seen as the Tane Mahuta of botanical societies and provide an example for others to follow. Some examples of activities that BotSoc should be involved in will help to protect our native flora:

Locally

- Bring in students as younger members to educate the next generation
- Undertake pest control and planting
- Expand, link and buffer existing restoration areas
- Lobby for the use of appropriate, locally sourced native species

Nationally

- Lobby for better native plant protection
- Lobby for the protection of important plant community areas
- Liaise with other botanical societies
- Support the NZ Plant Conservation Network strategy
- Seek national funding from the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information Systems (TIFBIS) programme to put BotSoc’s Bulletins and Newsletters on-line as a readily accessible, indexed resource.

So what can we conclude?

- Plant conservation is multidisciplinary
- There is a need for improved global conservation strategies
- Threatened native plants are a serious problem that needs urgent and sustained action
- If we can’t do it in NZ, there is little likelihood that it can be achieved elsewhere in the world.

*This present moment
That lives on to become*

*Long ago
Gary Snyder*

*From report by Richard Herbert.
For more detail, see our web site.*

Weedbusting on Matiu/Somes

On 7 November, a group continued the removal of karo/ *Pittosporum crassifolium*, from the island. Karo is a NZ native, but is not native to the island, and has become an ecological pest. [Ed: Its natural range is North Cape to Poverty Bay (*Flora of NZ* Vol. 1 p 314-5)].

Source: Matiu Matters, 11/04. Newsletter of Matiu Somes Charitable Trust, Wellington Tenth Trust, ph 473 2502

Boobialla ... and pohutukawa in Wellington

During our Lower Hutt rata walk on 11 December we noticed several street plantings of *Myoporum insulare*, boobialla, an Australian relative of our native ngaio. Since the boobialla was in the midst of otherwise all-NZ native plants, it was probably planted in error, as NZ ngaio.

Regrettably boobialla has been planted extensively over many years by local authorities in the general Wellington region, but because it hybridises with our NZ native ngaio, *Myoporum laetum*, there is a risk that *M. laetum* will be lost as a species.

This situation is analagous to that of *Metrosideros robusta*, northern rata, which is at risk from hybridisation with *Metrosideros excelsa*, pohutukawa, which is not naturally occurring in the Wellington region. Such pollution of the gene pool can surely not be considered natural when it is human induced.

Barbara Mitcalfe.

Leptinella nana

Further to my last report on trying to establish a new population/s of *Leptinella nana* on the south cliffs of Titahi Bay, only three sites have persisted; one for four years and two for three years. I have come to the conclusion that at least one site will continue to persist and probably the other two sites will, but I am not entirely certain.

Given this, I have sent a species record sheet to John Sawyer at Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation.

The very best site is the original one, which is in an erosion hollow. Although the site faces north, it has low *Ozothamnus* and *Poa cita* providing shade through the hottest part of the day. This site contains eight patches of the *Leptinella*. It retains moisture the longest of any of the sites. The only problem with this site is a *Crassula* that keeps germinating. I trialled this combination in a pot at my house, and the *Leptinella* copes well provided it establishes first. I will, however, continue to weed the plantings on the cliff and give the plants a chance to produce offspring.

I am not sure if any of the plants are new, but have been given some great feedback and advice from members of the *Leptinella nana* advisory group on monitoring the plants. Hopefully, I will be able to establish if new plants are germinating. Some of the patches flowered this spring.

I planted six new plugs of *Leptinella* this winter, two in the existing original site and four in new sites, as I believe I should keep trying new sites. It was a bit of a worry to discover some spent fireworks close to one of the sites recently, and it makes me realise we need to have several new sites established in case the hillside goes up in flames.

Robyn Smith

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.

TRIP REPORTS

Trip report, 6 November 2004: Gibbs Covenant and Butterfly Creek

On a fine, calm morning we gathered outside George and Keena's home admiring their beautiful garden of native species, while George described the process of covenanting and managing this extensive, Eastbourne ecosystem. Soon we made our way up the slope, enjoying an expansive view over the harbour. Trackside, under a canopy of beech and manuka were several *Pittosporum rigidum*, a puzzle for some until they scraped the bark and used the smell test, or later saw the tiny, black-purple, pendulous flowers like miniature karo flowers, confirming the genus *Pittosporum*. The two mingimingis *Leptecophylla juniperina* and *Leucopogon fasciculatus* were common under the beeches. Flowering on the bush margin were *Diplodium (Pterostylis) trullifolium*. The carnivorous *Drosera auriculata*, the dainty fern *Lindsaea linearis*,

and the sedge *Lepidosperma australe* were uncommon. At our scroggin stop Owen added *Grammitis ciliata*. As we climbed, George cleared the Timms traps which must be keeping possums well under control, because shortly we were admiring a large, unbrowsed mistletoe, *Ileostylus micranthus*. George has propagated from this mistletoe, achieving success after many attempts. At our lunch spot near the ridge, we sat among plentiful tufts of *Libertia edgariae*, its flowers comparatively large for these little plants. The Gibbs covenant is a stronghold of this taxon named after botanist Elizabeth Edgar. In this vicinity were a few delicate, pink *Caladenia* aff. *carnea* orchids, and tufts of flowering *Drymoanthus adversus*. On our descent eastward to Butterfly Creek we noted a matai which we estimated to be many hundreds of years old. A bare

area under karaka trees appeared to have been frequented by pigs foraging for fruit on the ground. Discussion centred on whether pigs would be susceptible to karakin, the poison in the fruit. As we returned down the western side of the ridge we noted several, beautiful, blue-purple, spotted-flowered *Thelymitra* (*T. nervosa?* = *decora*) trackside. Many thanks to George and Keena for a fascinating day botanising their covenant.

Participants: Bie Baker, Rosie Doole, Richard Herbert, George (leader) and Keena Gibbs, Ian Goodwin, John and Margaret Harper, Jan Heine, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Gordon and Sheelagh Leary, Frank Yonghong Li, Barbara Mitcalfe (scribe), David Moss, Alicia and Lilly Moss-Baker, Donella Moss, Owen Spearpoint, Mick Parsons, Joyce Stretton.

Saturday 4 December 2004: 'Stuart Creek', Ohau Valley, Tararua Range

A light drizzle soon cleared as we botanised upstream on a gentle gradient, past ferny banks draped with mosses and liverworts. Abundant *Blechnum colensoi* attested to the year-round moistness of this catchment. Both pukatea, *Laurelia novae-zelandiae*, and hutu, *Ascarina lucida*, were present, providing us with an ideal opportunity to distinguish one from the other: the shrub, hutu, is aromatic and has rounded

stems, noded where the leaves emerge; the tree, pukatea, has tetragonous, grooved, purplish stems. Occasional kahikatea, sapling rimu and Hall's totara, and large miro represented the podocarps. Moisture-loving kamahi, fuchsia, toro, pate and putaputaweta were abundant, and during our lunch break Ann Graeme spotted a terrestrial *Raukaua edgerleyi*. In the shrub class, both horopito species were common, also *Neomyrtus pedunculata* and *Alseuosmia pusilla*. Herbaceous plants noted were *Nertera depressa* and *N. villosa*, plentiful *Jovellana repens* and occasional *Viola filicaulis*. When we emerged on the Waiopahu Track some

of the party descended to the cars while five others continued up-track, finally descending to the Ohau River Track and back to the cars.

Sincere thanks to Bernie Salmon for providing tent sites at Waitarere on Friday and Saturday nights.

Participants: Ted Abraham, Caitlin Arden, Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Gavin Dench, Ann Graeme, Bryan Halliday, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, (leader in the field), Steve Hunt, Pat McLean, Barbara Mitcalfe (scribe), Bernie Salmon, Sunita Singh.

A report on the Sunday 5 December trip to Himatangi Scientific Reserve, Foxton will be published in the next newsletter. Editor.



Raukaua edgerleyi.
Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

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

Saturday 11 December 2004: Hutt City rata walk

This timing was as good as it gets for rata, with most of the significant trees in flower, and fine, mild conditions making it a perfect day. Only 400m from our start point Barbara's sharp eyes gave us a "new" find at 4 Bellevue Road, while a few feet above, an unconcerned kereru fed on puriri berries. Shortly after, a magnificent rata was seen in Penrose St, in optimum bloom, and Cyrienne, its "owner" gave us an interesting garden tour.

After this, Totara Crescent, Puriri Street and Ngaio Crescent revealed that they were true-to-name. A small traffic island with uncommon natives was botanised en route to Woburn Railway overbridge, where binoculars saved our legs from walking to view the well known Whites Line East rata. Eleven "new" naturally occurring rata were also noted in Haywards Reserve, where Rosie advised us they had been planting rata in a cleared area near the ridge crest. The Waiwhetu Marae area revealed five more local trees and gave us a closer view of the Haywards Reserve sightings.

We then walked north beside the stream, to the Birdwood Stret area. Binoculars confirmed about another nine or so rata thriving on the lower, mid-eastern foothills, the highlight of the trip, auguring well for further natural rata proliferation.

At this juncture Michael Kopp from the *Hutt News* arrived. After

some discussion he drove us back to the magnificent rata (a protected tree) outside St Paul's Church in Waiwhetu Road, where photos were taken. After being dropped back to Waterloo we botanised several traffic island plantings with a wide range of uncommon native shrubs and ground-cover plants. These included *Hebe townsonii*, *H. topiaria*, *H. albicans*, *H. speciosa*, *H. macrocarpa* var. *latisejala*, *Olearia lineata*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, *Chionochoa flavicans*, *Libertia peregrinans*, *Brachyglottis huntii*, *Carmichaelia stevensonii*, *Carmichaelia* sp., *Sophora* sp., *Carex testacea*, *Pseudopanax ferox*, *Teucrium parvifolium*, *Fuchsia procumbens* and *Leptinella* sp.

Occasionally, other uncommon natives and several juvenile rimu showed their face in private gardens. Shortly we passed the historic, well-kept residence of the late Sir James Hector who is commemorated in the *Hectorella* genus and several *hectorii* species. We then crossed the Hutt River to Jenness Grove where a lovely southern rata (the only one seen) will shortly be in flower. As we returned we sadly witnessed the Daly Street CBD rata in poor health. This has now been followed up by a BotSoc letter to Hutt City Council.

Participants: Rosie Doole, Michael Kopp, Dave Holey (leader/scribe), Barbara Mitcalfe (deputy leader), and Joyce Stretton. *Apologies:* Stan Butcher, Chris Horne.

Pigeon Bush Reserve

Pigeon Bush Reserve is owned by the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust. At 1157 hectares it is the largest of their reserves. It lies between Rimutaka and Tararua forest parks and borders most of the south side of SH2 from near the Rimutaka summit down to about 1.2km from Featherston (apart from a narrow strip beyond the deep bend, which is forest park land). It extends right over the range and much of it goes right down to the Wairarapa-Wellington railway line. Pigeon Bush Reserve links Rimutaka and Tararua forest parks, providing an assured corridor for wildlife, and is especially significant in being the only protected *lowland* forest link between the forest parks.

Management of the reserve relies on the control of goats and possums. The regenerating forest is on rugged, steep country which still includes large areas of gorse and stunted manuka on the warmer faces. The southern moister slopes and valley bottoms are developing well. It makes the control of noxious animals very difficult. Goat hunters spent 16 man days ground hunting with dogs to get 66 goats and one deer last year. This was a good result for the type of terrain and vegetation. The hunters reported vegetation in some areas was fairly well eaten out. Plans for more time this coming summer are advanced, provided funding can be obtained. Recreational hunters keep pig



Northern rata at Daly St, Lower Hutt, in poor health. Photos: Barbara Mitcalfe.



Northern rata in flower outside St Paul's Church, Waiwhetu Road, Lower Hutt.



Manuka. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

numbers under control. The Trust received funding from the Biodiversity Fund to help with goat culling and some fencing, but future funding is not yet known. Greater Wellington Regional Council undertakes regular possum control and monitoring which is funded by Council and the Animal Health Board (as part of bovine TB control). The farmland perimeter control this year has been very effective with a residual trap catch of 0.04%—13 random lines each of 10 traps for 3 nights and only one possum caught!

Development of tracks within the reserve is progressing but is dependant on the labour of the honorary ranger and other volunteers. While there is access from Featherston – Cross Creek Road (tourist signpost Western Lake Road) across farmland to Prince Stream – Whare Gully, it is unfortunately limited to Trustees. The current track development is the cutting of a route from SH 2 ‘deep bend’ up to the ridge and then down the headwaters of Prince Stream past waterfalls to the main stream, and eventually linking with Whare Gully.

The New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust is still purchasing land for reserves. The most recent acquisitions are Omoana Reserve in southern Taranaki, Opoutama Wetland Reserve in Hawke’s Bay and Ross Bishop Reserve in the King Country. Trustees were also behind the drive to purchase Motu Kaikoura near Great Barrier Island for conservation. This will be managed by a separate Trust. The Trust is considering or negotiating for blocks in the Coromandel and the lower South Island.

The Trust now has 22 reserves to manage, and with pests and weeds, a block of bush is not able to be left to its own devices. We have had considerable assistance from the Biodiversity Fund for some of our reserves, but for a limited period. If you would like to help, please send a donation. Many people are now setting up a regular automatic payment which provides a source of funds for day-to-day management of our reserves.

Please send any donations to:
New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust,
PO Box 80 007,
Green Bay,
AUCKLAND 1007.

For information about setting up an automatic payment, please contact the Trust Secretary, either via the above address or e-mail: j.dart@xtra.co.nz.

The Trust is also pleased to announce the appointment of another Wellington Trustee, Tim Porteous, who is the Biodiversity Coordinator at Greater Wellington Regional Council

Phone: 381 7774; E-mail: Tim.Porteous@gw.govt.nz

Jenny Rattenbury continues as a Trustee in the Wellington area. Phone: 389 6525; E-mail: jennyrat@xtra.co.nz

On reserve operating matters contact David Burson, honorary ranger.

Phone: 479 6863; E-mail: davidburson@xtra.co.nz

David Burson, Trustee

Postscript

Goat hunting in Pigeon Bush Reserve is coordinated with DOC and their programme for the adjoining Rimutaka Forest Park. Since writing the article, DOC has advised that, based on the 66 goats killed in 2003, the man-days for 2004–05 should be increased to over 50! Unfortunately, that cost cannot be financed. However, any financial support received will be spent on increased hunting time.

MAVIS MELVILLE DAVIDSON (NÉE GEDYE) 1910–2004

Mavis Davidson, a foundation member of our Society, died on 29 May 2004 after a lifetime of extraordinarily varied and fruitful activity.

She was born in Poverty Bay and, after some further education in Auckland, worked for a while in Auckland and Wellington as a shorthand typist/ledger keeper. In 1940 she started studies at Victoria University of Wellington for a science degree. Like many others she was sidetracked by WWII. Mavis served in the WAAC in Coastal Artillery for several years before going back to Victoria, where she graduated with a B.Sc. in 1946 and completed an M.Sc. in zoology in 1950. She worked for a while in the T.A.B. organisation and in 1958 entered the Forest Service as a biologist.

Before long she was doing major research into sika deer and spending long periods in the field in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges. She became an acknowledged expert (if not “the” expert) on this subject. She retired at 65 and with her husband, Bill, shifted to Leigh in North Auckland where, from time to time, she was visited by quite a few friends. Bill died in 1990.

Interwoven with her education and working career, were tramping and mountaineering. Mavis joined the Tararua Tramping Club in 1934 and tramped and climbed over a great deal of the New Zealand back country. She led the first all-women ascent of Mt Cook in 1953. She held office many times in the Tararua Club and in the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ. She co-authored two books on New Zealand mountains and contributed notes and articles to many New Zealand journals and other works. Her major writings, however, were the fruit of her research on sika deer in many New Zealand and other publications. Mavis was also an expert photographer, illustrating much of her own works and reports.

Her name lives on in the specific name for the fungus *Hygrophorus mavis*. (although the species description “silky, white, dry and fragile” hardly fits the Mavis Davidson we knew.)

She was a great tramping companion and general conversationalist. There was not much about the bush and mountain and their inhabitants that Mavis did not know, and about many other things besides. Bill, usually carrying his axe and sometimes her axe, could enlighten one also about a variety of outdoor matters. His pet subject was tracks—the laying and use of them. We have particular memories of Mavis discoursing on such esoteric matters as the origins of “scroggin” and the great rain god “Hughie”.

New Zealand has lost an outstanding citizen and a great “Character”, the thought of whom brings a warm glow to the memory.

For more detail of Mavis’s life and career see the *Dominion Post* obituary of 10 June 2004 and the tribute by A.D. Thomson in the New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter of December 1997. The use of information from these publications is gratefully acknowledged.

Ted Williams

In the October Newsletter the right hand column of values was inadvertently omitted.

The following is the complete account for the year ended June 2004

Wellington Botanical Society Inc.
Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 30 June 2004
General Accounts

2003	Expenditure	2004	2003	Income	2004
2,813	Printing and Stationery	3,535	3,013	Ordinary	3,807
873	Post and telephone	244	562	Country	1,344
1,128	Meeting expenses	370	65	Student	87
807	Sundry expenses	127	630	Group	857
200	Subscriptions to other organisations	388	316	Arrears	1,066
			4,586	Total Subscriptions	7,161
600	Depreciation on equip.	521			
			1,377	Interest on investment	1,629
			1,000	Wgton. Conservancy grant	
113	Purchase of Publications		87	Sales Tony Druce Trip Book	321
	Opening stocks "Wellington Cloak"	125	206	Sale of other publications	108
	Transfer to Student Award Fund	880	125	Closing stock of "Wellington Cloak"	25
847	Surplus for year	3,055			
<u>7,381</u>		<u>9,244</u>	<u>7,381</u>		<u>9,244</u>

Jubilee Award Fund

2003	Expenditure	2004	2003	Income	2004
			29,765	Opening Balance	31,906
100	Science Fair Award	100	696	Donations	757
-	Jubilee Award	2,000	382	Plant Sales	294
31,906	Closing Balance	32,290	1,163	Interest on Investment	1,434
<u>32,006</u>		<u>34,390</u>	<u>32,006</u>		<u>34,390</u>

Student Field Grant

2003	Expenditure	2004	2003	Income	2004
			7,831	Opening Balance	6,637
1,500	Grants to Students	500	306	Interest on Investment	298
6,637	Closing Balance	7,316		Transfer from general Account	880
<u>8,137</u>		<u>7,816</u>	<u>8,137</u>		<u>7,816</u>

Provision for Bulletin

2003	98145.451	2004	2003	98145.451	2004
			11,437	Opening Balance	8,553
2,921	Printing Bulletin		37	Sale of Bulletins	640
8,553	Closing Balance	9,193			
<u>11,474</u>		<u>9,193</u>	<u>11,474</u>		<u>9,193</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2004

2003	Liabilities	2004	2003	Assets	2004
			12,377	BNZ Current Account	2,836
				Less unrepresented cheques and late pay in.	-634
					2,202
2,010	Life Membership Fund	2,010	662	Computer less depreciation	530
31,906	Jubilee Award Fund	32,290	525	Fax Machines less depreciation and sales	420
			1,417	Display unit less depreciation	1,133
6,637	Student Field Grant Fund	7,316	30	Projector	30
			16	Stock of Bulletins	16
8,553	Provision for Bulletins	9,193	24	Camping Equipment	24
			125	Stocks of "Wellington Cloak"	25
			931	Sundry debtors	14
	Jubilee Award for 2003-4 awarded but not yet uplifted	2,000		Investments	
187	Sundry creditors	25	8,800	Tower	11,800
			10,279	National Bank	10,279
				BNZ Finance	41,729
36,239	Accumulated fund as at 30 June 2003		26,915	BNZ Finance Call account	415
	add surplus for the year		10,006	Westpac Call Account	-
		39,294	13,426	Westpac Term Investment	23,510
<u>85,533</u>		<u>92,128</u>	<u>85,533</u>		<u>\$87,734</u>
					<u>92,128</u>

Wellington Botanical Society Inc. – Membership Application

(For new members, **NOT** for renewal of existing membership)

I wish to join the Society

My name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr Phone (.....) (h)

My address Phone (.....) (w)
..... Fax (.....)

I would like to receive my newsletters by e-mail as a PDF Please tick if appropriate.

My e-mail address@.....

Signature Date:..... / / 200...

The membership year is from 1 July to 30 June. Dues received after 1 May will be credited to the following year.

Type of membership: Ordinary \$32; Joint (Family) \$42; Student \$20. All reducible by \$5 if paid by 30 November.

We welcome donations to support research into NZ native plants and to the Jubilee Award Fund.

Please make your cheque payable to Wellington Botanical Society Inc, and send it with this form to:

Wellington Botanical Society Inc., PO Box 10 412, Wellington

My cheque is enclosed for Ordinary membership \$
 Joint membership \$
 Student membership \$
 Donation \$
 TOTAL \$

Office use N/L Dec 03		
Action	Init.	Date
N/L, flyer etc		/ /
Ty. Address list		/ /
Ty Bank		/ /
Address label		/ /
Secretary		/ /

www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz



Wellington Botanical Society Inc. – Membership Application

(For new members, **NOT** for renewal of existing membership)

I wish to join the Society

My name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr Phone (.....) (h)

My address Phone (.....) (w)
..... Fax (.....)

I would like to receive my newsletters by e-mail as a PDF Please tick if appropriate.

My e-mail address@.....

Signature Date:..... / / 200...

The membership year is from 1 July to 30 June. Dues received after 1 May will be credited to the following year.

Type of membership: Ordinary \$32; Joint (Family) \$42; Student \$20. All reducible by \$5 if paid by 30 November.

We welcome donations to support research into NZ native plants and to the Jubilee Award Fund.

Please make your cheque payable to Wellington Botanical Society Inc, and send it with this form to:

Wellington Botanical Society Inc., PO Box 10 412, Wellington

My cheque is enclosed for Ordinary membership \$
 Joint membership \$
 Student membership \$
 Donation \$
 TOTAL \$

Office use N/L Dec 03		
Action	Init.	Date
N/L, flyer etc		/ /
Ty. Address list		/ /
Ty Bank		/ /
Address label		/ /
Secretary		/ /

www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz