

Wellington Botanical Society

Te Rōpū Manāki i Ngā Tamariki a Tāne,
o Te Whanganui a Tara



NEWSLETTER

April 2005

Last issue: December 2004

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BotSoc business card

Two cards are included with this Newsletter. They provide a ready reference to the BotSoc web site. Your committee suggest that you pass these to any relative, friend or colleague who expresses an interest in the Society and native plants.

Rodney Lewington

Robyn Smith leaves Otari

We are concerned and disappointed that Robyn has resigned as curator at Otari, when Otari was obviously benefiting from her presence. Robyn will continue to work there one day per week to manage the Druce and Dench collections, and the propagation house.

Robyn has accepted a part-time position at QE II National Trust as Wellington Region Representative. She will take over from Tim Park who is going to work for VSA in Tanzania.

Joyce Stretton, President

Going Native

We compliment *The Dominion Post* for publishing articles on native plants in the Magazine section of the Saturday edition, beginning last year. The articles, written by staff at Otari-Wilton's Bush and Te Papa, and members of Otari-Wilton Bush Trust, have covered topics such as *Asplenium xluacrosum*, white clematis/puawananga, kakabeak, toetoe, pingao, sea spurge/*Euphorbia glauca*, ngapuka/*Hebe speciosa*, kokomuka/*Hebe elliptica* var. *crassifolia*, rewarewa, mahoe, northern rata, red mistletoe, kamahi, and a description of the trees and tree ferns along Otari's canopy walkway.

The articles are of great interest and educational value. We look forward to the continuation of the series.

Chris Horne, Vice-president

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,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch provided.

Potted, locally sourced
native seedlings welcome.

Thank you.

Contact:

Sally Bowman ph 934 7041 or
Ross Gardiner (May-June)
ph 389 3771

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.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 20 August 2005

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: MAY–SEPTEMBER 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.

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

Saturday 7 May: Field trip

Fungal foray

Leader: Geoff Ridley, Science Manager (New Organisms), Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA), will follow up on Monday's talk with a trip to the Five Mile Track, Rimutaka Forest Park, for a look at fungi and bolete specimens. Meet: Catchpool carpark 9 a.m. Contact: Joyce Stretton 934 2437.

Monday 16 May: Evening meeting

Members' evening

Please share your botanical 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: Day-time workshop

An interactive computer key for *Hebe*

NOTE: This workshop has had to be been **POSTPONED** and will be rescheduled next year. Please refer to the next newsletter for details.

Saturday 4 June: Field trip

Te Marua workbee

BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and re-vegetation work in this important matai/totara/maire remnant in Kaitoke Regional Park. A grant from Greater Wellington Regional Council enables us to hire a contractor to help with weed control, but our biennial workbees must continue so that we keep ahead of re-invasion 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 Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

Monday 20 June: Evening meeting

Global warming and alpine plants

Speaker: Dr. Stephan Halloy, Scientist at Crop & Food, will describe research on the responses of alpine vegetation to climate change in the Peruvian Andes and NZ's Southern Alps. The research is part of an international long-term monitoring of mountain of vegetation changes through the Global Research Initiative on Alpine Environments (known as GLORIA). The GLORIA effort attempts to set the baseline for understanding the effects of climate change in alpine environments through a rigorously standardised method applied globally. Due to funding, sites are mostly concentrated in Europe. The sites described in this talk are the first in the Southern Hemisphere, and also include the highest in altitude (5250m).

Saturday 2 July: Field trip

Kaitawa Reserve, Raumati Escarpment Reserve

See native forest including swamp maire, pukatea, northern rata etc., wetlands and revegetation efforts in Kaitawa Reserve. Botanise Raumati Escarpment Reserve - see large-leaved milk trees, kokopu etc. in this coastal broad-leaved forest, near Mataikona Walkway. Meet: 9.45 a.m., Kaitawa Crescent entrance to Kaitawa Reserve. Catch 8.30 a.m. train from Wellington Station to Paraparaumu. Maps: R26 Paraparaumu and street map. Co-leaders: Graham and Judy Petterson 04 904 6762. Wellington contact: Chris Horne 475 7025.

Monday 18 July: Evening meeting

Wellington Botanic Garden native forest

Speakers: Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe. In 1875 John Buchanan listed 203 native plant species in the area now occupied by Wellington Botanic Garden. In 2003, Barbara and Chris were contracted by Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden to do a botanical survey and report on the condition of these 6 ha of native forest. Hear which species have survived and which have disappeared since 1875, and what is planned to help restore these heritage remnants to full health.

Saturday 6 August: Field trip

Wellington Botanic Garden native forest

Botanise the 5 areas of native forest remaining from the original forest cover John Buchanan studied in 1875. Meet: 9 30 a.m. Founders Entrance, Glenmore Street. Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025 and Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

Monday 15 August: Evening meeting

1. Annual General Meeting

2. AP Druce Memorial Lecture - the view from Tony's shoulders.

Speaker: John Sawyer, Biodiversity - Technical Support Officer, Department of Conservation, Wellington Conservancy, and President, New Zealand Ecological Society. That our understanding of the extraordinary world of New Zealand's native plant life is as complete it is, is largely because we are able to stand on the shoulders of Tony Druce. From plant lists to plant names, this presentation will describe aspects of Tony's legacy to plant conservation from someone who met him fewer than 10 times but whose work is affected by him daily. The talk will also describe possible futures for New Zealand plant conservation that Tony may have imagined but that are only now becoming a reality through the continuation of his life's work.

Saturday 3 September: Field trip

Ridge Track, Kaitoke Regional Park

See *Chionochloa conspicua*, terrestrial northern rata, beech/kamahia forest and manuka shrublands. Map S26, Carterton. Meet 9.30 a.m. at car park near Te Marua pumping station, Kaitoke Regional Park, Te Marua entrance from SH2. Leader: Leon Perrie 381 7261(w) 386 2618(h).

Monday 19 September: Evening meeting

Teaching an old conservationist new tricks

Speaker: Dr David Given, Botanical Services Curator for Christchurch City Council, and Associate Professor at the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation at Lincoln University. This talk will look at new developments as well as some of the key issues of conservation that we are facing while taking us on a ride through some of the lesser known treasures of landscape, ecosystems and species. Dr Given is especially passionate about the role of people, and in particular the unsung heroes and heroines that make things work 'on the ground', as well as the challenge of making New Zealand's global commitments take on reality at the local level.

Wednesday 28 December-Friday 6 January 2006: Field trip:

Ruahine Range & Hawkes Bay

Accommodation: Camp Wakarara, Wakarara Road, RD1, Ongaonga. More details in next newsletter. Maps: Ruahine Infomap 274-05; NZMS 262, Sheet 7 Hawke's Bay; NZMS 260, sheets U21 Kereru, U22 Ongaonga, U23 Dannevirke. References: *Hawke's Bay for the happy wanderer*, Sheila Cunningham; *Ruahine Forest Park - a guide to family walks, tramping tracks and routes*, Kathy Ombler; *North East Ruahine, Mid-eastern Ruahine*, DOC pamphlets.

EVENTS

1. Forum 3: Porirua's natural and built environment – meeting development demands while protecting our special places.

5 May, 7-9pm. Pataka, Norrie St, Porirua. Contact: Ben Peacey, Porirua City Council, ph 237 5089 or 237 1610.

2. **Plant care work party.** Otari-Wilton's Bush/Kaiwharawhara Valley. 14 May, 9 a.m. Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891. Meet: Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN.

3. **WCC Berhampore Nursery open day.** 21 May, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Buy native plants, and see BotSoc's and other groups' displays. Contact: Laura Wards, WCC, PO Box 2199, WN. Ph 472 5684, laura.wards@wcc.govt.nz

4. **Meet five of our very different tree fern species and hear their story.** 22 May, 2 p.m. Leader: Dr John Dawson. Meet: see 4. above.

5. **Planting at Kaiwharawhara revegetation site.** 4 June, 9 a.m. Leaders: Bronwen Wall, Jonathan Kennett, ph 472 5891. Meet: Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN.

6. **Arbor Day plantings.** 7 June: Queen Elizabeth Park – Mackay's Crossing entrance. 10 June: Battle Hill Farm Forest Park, Paekakariki Hill Road. Contact: Amanda Cox, GWRC, PO Box 11 646, WN. Ph 384 5708, amanda.cox@gw.govt.nz

7. **Importance and management of the Botanic Garden bush remnants, 1840-2005.** Seminar to mark the Botanic Garden's registration as an "historic place" 12 June, 9.30 a.m. – 4.45 p.m. Speakers: Marian Minson - "Pictorial record of W'gton's bush at the time of settlement"; Walter Cook - "Photographic record"; Winsome Shepherd - "Written record"; Maggy Wassilieff - "Town Belt"; Dr Geoff Park - "W'gton's bush remnants today"; Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne - Buchanan's 1875 paper and their 2003 botanical survey and report of the Botanic Garden's bush remnants;

Mike Oates and David Sole - "Managing the Botanic Garden's bush remnants today". Organised by Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden. Registration: \$28 incl. lunch; students \$20 incl. lunch. Send cheque payable to "Friends Seminars" to c/- Treehouse, Wellington Botanic Garden ph 499 1400, fax 499 1903, e-mail treehouse@wcc.govt.nz.

8. **Hunza wildflowers tour.** 18 June – 7 July. Brochures from Cathy Jones ph 03 546 9499. Itinerary etc. on Silk Road Adventures' web site www.silkroad.co.nz under Small Group Guided Journeys.

9. **Project Crimson community planting, Tinakori Hill.** 22 June. Help to plant 1500 northern rata seedlings. E-mail info@projectcrimson.org.nz.

10. **Wellington Conservation Board.** Meetings 24 June; 26 August; 28 October; 9 December. Contact Jeff Flavell, Community Relations Manager, DOC, ph 04 472 5821.

11. **Explore the Nature Trail through Job Wilton's original forest reserve.** 26 June, 2 p.m. Leader: Dr John Dawson. Meet: Te Marae o Tane, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN.

12. **Conservation Week.** 1-5 August. Theme: Everything is connected – emphasises the connections and need for balance between living things, and reminds us of the consequences of human activities, and our role of guardianship/kaitiakitanga of our environment. Contact: Jo Greenman, Wellington Conservancy, DOC, PO Box 5086, WN. Ph 04 472 5821, fax 499 0077, jgreenman@doc.govt.nz, www.doc.govt.nz

13. **NZ Plant Conservation Network conference – Restoring our threatened plant life – empowering our community.** 12-14 August. Canterbury Horticultural Society rooms, 57 Riccarton Ave, Christchurch. For more information see www.nzpcn.org.nz

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. **New-look Regional Offices and Research, Development & Improvement Division.** 2005. 4 p.
- 1b. **Science Publications 2004.** 21 p.
- 1c. **Developing effective partnerships between the Department of Conservation and community groups.** C.H. Wilson 2005. *Science for Conservation*. 54 p.
- 1d. **Ecology, management and history of Whirinaki Conservation Park, NZ: an annotated bibliography.** A.E. Beveridge, M.C. Smale, B.R. Christensen, G.A. Steward 2004. *DOC Science Internal Series 193*. 140 p.
- 1e. **Indirect effects of marine reserve protection on NZ's rocky coastal marine communities.** N.T. Shears, R.C. Babcock 2004. *DOC Science Internal Series 192*. 48 p.
- 1f. **ConScience.** No.50 2/05: Otari-Wilton's Bush; etc. 8 p.
- 1g. **Our World Heritage - discussion document: towards a NZ tentative list.** 2004. 28 p.
- 1h. **Biological control of weeds on conservation land: priorities for DOC.** DOC Science Internal Series 82. P. Syrett 2002. 28 p.
- 1i. **Feasibility of biological control of grey willow *Salix cinerea*.** H.M. Harman. DOC Science Internal Series 183. 29 p.
- 1j. **Biological control options for invasive weeds of NZ protected areas.** V.A. Froude 2002. *Science for Conservation 199*. 68 p.
- 1k. **Weedbusters!** Issue 4 01/05: native mistletoe saved from weeds; controlling climbers; blue morning glory/*Ipomoea indica*; Weedbusting in Waikato and Canterbury; etc. 4 p.
- Science & Technical Publishing Section, RD&I Division, DOC, PO Box 10 420, WN. Fax 04 496 1929, e-mail: science_publications@doc.govt.nz*
2. **Native plants of the Eastbourne hills – status and conservation management.** John Sawyer, Biodiversity Conservation Officer 2005. 44 p. DOC, PO Box 5086, WN. Ph 04 472 5821, fax 499 0077.
3. **A late quaternary phylogeography for *Metrosideros* (Myrtaceae) in NZ inferred from chloroplast DNA haplotypes.** R.C. Gardner, P. J. de Lange, D. J. Keeling, T Bowala, H. A. Brown, S. Wright. 2004. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 83*: 399-412.
4. ***Alternanthera denticulata* (Amaranaceae) in NZ: a new addition to the indigenous or naturalised flora?** P.B. Heenan, P. J. de Lange 2004. *NZ Journal of Botany 42*: 739-745.
5. **Chromosome numbers in *Kunzea* (Myrtaceae).** P. J. de Lange, B. G. Murray 2004. *Australian Journal of Botany 52*: 609-617.
6. **Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the NZ flora – 38. Counts for 50 families.** P. J. de Lange, B. G. Murray, P. M. Datson 2004. *NZ Journal of Botany 42*: 873-904.
7. ***Myrsine aquilonia* and *M. umbricola* (Myrsinaceae), two new species from NZ.** P. B. Heenan, P. B. de Lange 2004. *NZ Journal of Botany 42*: 753-769.
8. **Ecological regions and districts of NZ.** Published in 1987 as four books and four maps. Books now available as pdf files on DOC web site at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Publications/004~Science-andResearch/Miscellaneous>
9. ***Asplenium xlucrosus* nothosp. nov.: a sterile hybrid widely and erroneously cultivated as "*Asplenium bulbiferum*"** L. R. Perrie, L. D. Shepherd, P. J. Brownsey 2005. *Plant Systematics and Evolution 250*: 243-257.
10. **Open Space.** No.62 11/04: Taupo Swamp restoration; woody vegetation helps hold our soils – more evidence; riparian management; the importance of connectivity in a working landscape; QEII Trust annual report; team effort in managing covenants; maire tawake/swamp maire; about QEII open space covenants; etc. No.63 3/05: using NZ Plant Conservation Network web site; freshwater invertebrates; flammability of native plants; etc.
- QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, WN. Ph 04 472 6626, fax 04 472 5578, e-mail qe2@qe2.org.nz, www.qe2.org.nz*
- 11a. **The state of our environment – annual summary 2003 – 2004.** 20 p
- 11b. **Managing your bush block – A guide to looking after indigenous forest remnants in the Wellington region.** 2004. 53 p. (See pages 30/31 - Case study 4: Te Marua Bush – a partnership for protection).
- 11c. **Mind the stream – A guide to looking after urban and rural streams in the Wellington region.** 31 p.
- 11d **Controlling problem weeds in riparian zones – restore our riparian zones.** 2005. 24 p.
- Greater Wellington Regional Council, PO Box 11 646, WN. Ph 04 384 5708, fax 04 385 6960, www.gw.govt.nz*
- 12a. **Wellington's Outer Green Belt management plan.** 5/04. 175 p.
- 12b. **Branch Out.** Vol. 15: Summer 2005. 15 p.: Dr John Dawson's botanical writings; planting at Vogelmorn Park; Owhiro Bay quarry area; flax for weaving; Weedbusters campaign in Ngaio, WN; the importance of using locally sourced seed; new track in Redwood Bush, Tawa; the threat posed by goats; etc.
- 12c. **Priorities for ecological restoration of the Kaiwharawhara Catchment, Wellington City.** P. Blaschke, F. Forsyth, C. Anstey. 12/04. Report for WCC and Greater Wellington Regional Council. 58 p + 3 maps.
- Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, WN. Ph 04 499 4444.*
13. **Trilepidea.** No.13 12/04: Plant of the month – *Peraxilla colensoi*/scarlet mistletoe and *P. tetrapetalal*/red mistletoe; David Given awarded Sir Peter Scott medal; NZ indigenous plant checklist now on-line; success for *Tecomathe speciosa* on Three Kings group; etc. No.14 1/05: Marae-based plant conservation training course; Plant of the month – *Olearia adenocarpa*; role of botanic gardens in plant conservation; NZ Flora live – fact sheets for all NZ vascular plants now on-line; photos needed for web site; new species of *Myrsine* recognised, including *M. umbricola* from the Tararua Range; live plants of all NZ species of *Schoenus* sought; etc. No.15 2/05: Plant of the month – the weed *Berberis darwinii* Darwin's barberry; weed fact sheets live on web site; NZ adventive vascular plant list on web site; new plant records in Wellington region; "Adopt a Threatened Plant" schools project with Auckland Regional Council etc. No.16 3/05: Plant of the month – *Myosotis alboseicea*/yellow forget-me-not; Network conference 12-14 August 2005; fact sheets for 60 of most common plants now complete; dolomite mining, Mt Burnett, Golden Bay; phylogeny of NZ plants on Landcare Research web site; etc. No.17 4/05: Mt Burnett; tawari/*Ixerba brexioides*; NZPCN conference: NZPCN poster – A2; images of >1600 native vascular plant species now on web site www.nzpcn.org.nz; NZPCN Conservation Awards 2005; Sir Peter Elworthy covenant with *Olearia hectorii*; *Cyperus insularis*—new endemic sedge described from northern NZ;
- NZ Plant Conservation Network, PO Box 16 102, WN. News items or events to: events@nzpcn.org.nz*

14a. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter**. No.78 12/04: Carex specimens needed to complete nrDNA ITS sequencing for the NZ carices - pdelange@doc.govt.nz; indigenous planting on a site at Palmerston North after 50 years; etc.

14b. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter**. Back issues: Nos.1 – 46 @ \$2.50 ea.; nos. 47–50 @ \$3.00 ea.; nos. 51 onwards @ \$3.75 ea.

NZ Botanical Society, c/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Ave, CH 8001.

15. **The nature of plants – habitats, challenges, and adaptations**. J. Dawson & R. Lucas 2005. Craig Potton Publishing. 314 p.

16. **Restoring Kapiti – nature’s second chance**. Editor: K Brown. \$29.95. University of Otago Press. Ph 03 479 9094, e-mail amanda.smith@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

17. **Going native: making use of NZ plants**. Editors: Ian Spellerberg and David Given. Chapters written by many contributors. Canterbury University Press. Ph 03 364 2914, e-mail: kaye.godfrey@canterbury.ac.nz

18a. **Pukaha Mount Bruce web site**. www.mtbruce.org.nz

18b. **Pukaha Mount Bruce – NZ’s National Wildlife Centre for breeding threatened species**. Pamphlet. Mt Bruce NWC, RD1, SH 2, Masterton.

19. **Handbook of environmental law**. 2nd edition, 2004 (1st edition 1992). Editor: Rob Harris. Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. 608 p.

20. **Friends of Mana Island Inc. Newsletter**. 12/04: collecting seeds for revegetation on Mana; etc. FoMI Inc., PO Box 54 101, Mana.

21. **Mt Cook botanical prints – set of 4**. Hugh D Wilson. \$46 incl p&p. Hinewai Reserve, Long Bay Road, RD3, Akaroa 8161.

22. **Oho Mai Puketi**. Newsletter no. 3 3/05: impacts of rats; rat control; etc. Puketi Forest Trust, PO Box 257, Kaeo, Northland 0471.

23. **Auckland Botanical Society Journal**. Vol.59(2) 12/04: Restionaceae – a synopsis; Maureen E. Young, Honorary Life Member; etc ABS, 7 Boundary Rd, Papakura, AK.

24. **Bibliography of East Harbour Regional Park – its forests and waterways**. 2005. J.C. Heine & A.J. Heine (Editors). Mainland Island Restoration Organisation (MIRO). 37 p.

25. **Wild plants in Auckland**. A. Esler 2004. Auckland University Press. 218 p.

26. **Conservation Week 2004 – speech notes**: “The Treaty and conservation”, “Conservation What’s it worth”, “Conservation in the city – successes and challenges”, “The environmental crisis – a challenge to classical Christianity”, “The parables of nature”. t-j.abraham@xtra.co.nz, E.W. Abraham, 19 Jickell St, Hokowhitu, Palmerston North.

27. **Forest & Bird**. No. 315 2/05: popular plants in biosecurity scare (agapanthus, phoenix palm, English ivy); Mana Island restoration; flora and fauna of Red Hills, Marlborough; the threat of goats; a developing conservation ethic; etc. Forest & Bird, PO Box 631, WN. Ph 04 385 7374, fax 04 385 7373, office@forestandbird.org.nz

28. **The life-size guide to NZ native ferns**. A Crowe 2004. 32 p. Penguin Books.

29. **The NZ Pest Plant Manual including National and Regional Pest Plants**. 170 p A6, split-ring-bound. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

30. **A botanical survey of the indigenous forest remnants in Wellington Botanic Garden, Glenmore Street, Wellington**. 2003. Report by B.J. Mitcalfe and J.C. Horne for Friends of Wellington’s Botanic Garden. Available as a pdf from <http://wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz/publications.html>

31. **Weedbusters!** Issue 5 4/05: controlling weed trees; “aborta contorta” workbees in central North Island; etc. Weedbusters, PO Box 4055, Hamilton ph 0274 434 431, info@weedbusters.org.nz

32. **Canterbury Botanical Society Journal** 38. 2004 118 p. Mangarakau Wetlands; subalpine Banks Peninsula; mosses of Christchurch; mistletoes in South Westland; plants of Campbell and Enderby islands; plants “think”; drip tips, teeth and petioles as leaf modifiers; vegetation of Hawdon River fan, Arthur’s Pass; etc. CBS, PO Box 8212, CH.

GRANTS

1. **Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award**. This is an award of up to \$2000 to encourage applicants to increase knowledge of the NZ indigenous flora, and to commemorate the 50th Jubilee of the Society. Full details on next page. Applications close 15 Nov 2005.

SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR

1. **Hutt City Council Draft Long-term Council Community Plan 2003-2013 (incorporating 2004 amendments and proposed 2005 amendment), the draft Annual Plan 2005/06**. “Draft Community Plan” and summary from, and submissions to, Hutt City Council, PO Box 31 912, Lower Hutt by 16 May.

2. **Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan 2005-2006**. Document from, and submissions to: WCC, PO Box 2199, WN, ph 499 4444, www.Wellington.govt.nz, by 5 p.m. 20 May.

SUBMISSIONS MADE

22 December 2004, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC): KAITOKE REGIONAL PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN. Acknowledged how much we have appreciated the opportunity to work in partnership with GWRC in caring for Te Marua Bush; also **expressed** appreciation for the generous grants made by GWRC towards controlling weeds, and for servicing the possum bait stations; re Policy 2.6: **recommended the following for Te Marua Bush**:

- The existing joint management agreement begun in 1990 between Wellington Botanical Society (WBS) and (GWRC) continue.
- The Bush continue to be managed as an indigenous forest remnant, not as a landscaped entity.
- An ecological study be done to determine whether any plant taxa not currently present in the Bush, are appropriate for introduction to it, meanwhile any planting in/around the Bush, to include only those locally sourced and locally appropriate indigenous plant taxa already found in the Bush.
- The Bush be monitored yearly by an appropriately qualified botanist or ecologist who shall report on its health to the Manager, Parks and Forests Division, GWRC, according to criteria agreed by GWRC and WBS.
- Because of its barely sustainable size and its high edge-to- mass ratio, every possible opportunity be taken to extend the Bush by appropriate planting.
- Any indigenous plant material be removed from the Bush only by a person/persons with a current GWRC collecting permit.

- Any work undertaken in the Bush, be authorised in advance by GWRC and/or WBS, as appropriate.
- A notice describing the significance of the Bush be erected nearby, specifying that it is an offence to deposit rubbish there.
- In addition to the twice-yearly WBS workbees, weed and pest plant control be contracted out as of need.
- GWRC maintain and monitor pest animal control in the Bush.

17 March 2005, WAIRARAPA COMBINED DISTRICT COUNCILS' DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN: **Described** our long-term interest and involvement in botanising Wairarapa because of its distinctive, indigenous vegetation patterns and composition; **expressed** our concern that the draft plan appeared to offer insufficient protection to the region's wide range of indigenous ecosystems including wetlands both ephemeral and permanent, and hill country drylands, particularly taipos; **listed** reasons for retaining stands of manuka and/or kanuka; **asked** for the rules on clearance of vegetation to be redrafted so that no areas of indigenous vegetation would be cleared as of right; **recommended** they revise their criterion of canopy composition as virtually the sole determinant of the significance of a site; **recommended** taking an holistic approach and including all vegetation tiers in their assessments; **corrected** errors in the species lists; **recommended** that the Schedule of Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites include all publicly owned natural areas such as Carter Scenic Reserve, Lowes Bush, Nelson Square Reserve, the numerous privately owned taipos, and private indigenous plant communities such as Mt Percy, Fensham Reserve, Palliser Ridge Bush, Allans Bush, E Brindle's Covenant, etc, particularly those areas designated RAPs (Recommended Areas for Protection).

Damage to northern rata, Daly Street, Lower Hutt

Readers will remember Dave Holey's trip report on our 11/12/04 Rata Walk, in the December Newsletter. In it he mentioned the poor condition of this large, previously healthy northern rata. At the time, we noticed that about half of the crown was dead. Construction of the café so closely around the rata's trunk must have damaged its root system, and mortality has spread to the crown. In December, with the support of Stan Butcher, Chair of Lower Hutt Forest & Bird, BotSoc wrote to Hutt City Council to ask what could be done for the tree, but they replied that it was on private property, and therefore not their concern. It is to be hoped that an arborist will have been consulted by the owners, to advise on restoring the tree to health.

Barbara Mitcalfe

Northern rata returns to Wellington

For some years, BotSoc has been promoting the propagation and planting of *Metrosideros robusta*/northern rata in and around Wellington to replace the thousands of rata that were burnt during the colonisation era.

With the support of Project Crimson, Wellington City Council has now taken up the challenge, and this winter will plant 1500 northern rata over about 1,000m² of Tinakori Hill.

Barbara Mitcalfe

Wellington Botanic Garden registered

The NZ Historic Places Trust has registered the garden as an Historic Area under the NZ Historic Places Act. The garden was established in 1868 by Sir James Hector, the government's scientific adviser.

It then covered 5.2 ha (13 acres). In 1871, 21 ha (54 acres) of the Wesleyan reserve land was added. In 1875, John Buchanan prepared a list of native plants in the remaining forest. Today, the garden contains five areas of the former forest. These will be the subject of our evening meeting on 18 July, and a field trip on 6 August.

Editor

Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award

Wellington Botanical Society invites applications for an Award of up to \$2000 to encourage and assist applicants to increase 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 15 November 2005. 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 2005. 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*

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

Otari-Wilton's Bush news

The recent rain has been welcome as there was very little moisture in the soil and staff were spending a lot of time watering. The rain has enabled staff to plant an area adjacent to the Kauri Lawn where we had removed some frost damaged *Arthropodium cirratum*. The replacement plants are *Hebe diosmifolia* and *Libertia peregrinans*. On the other side of the path *Carex testacea* has been planted as a groundcover.

The resource consent for the new propagation house is imminent, so it won't be long before it will be built and new plants grown for the collections. Highest priority for propagation will be the 'Dench Collection'. Arnold and Ruth Dench, of Newlands, have kindly offered to allow Otari to propagate their collection.

The old propagation house will be roofed and used to house a duplicate collection of 'The Tony Druce Collection' currently held at Percy Scenic Reserve in Petone. This will help ensure plants are not lost from that collection while major roadworks which impinge on Percy Reserve, are carried out.

Three hectares have recently been purchased from the Ministry of Education. This land is adjacent to the Troup Picnic Area. The mature pine trees on the site will be felled next January and the picnic area will be re-developed. The portion of the Circular Walk will be re-routed through this area to enable easy access for pushchairs.

An upgrade of the Circular Walk is progressing well and is expected to be completed within four weeks.

The rock stack/waterfall area of the Alpine Garden near the carpark is to be redesigned, hopefully to keep children off it. Currently it is assumed by many people to be a playground and staff are often dismayed to see children climbing all over it. We may need to fence off that area temporarily until plants are well established.

Last year a boardwalk was built by the Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust around the old northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta*, to protect its roots from foot traffic. This boardwalk was opened on 28 February by the Minister of Conservation, Hon Chris Carter and the Minister for the Environment, Hon Marian Hobbs.

Robyn Smith



Newsletter by e-mail?

If you would like to receive your Newsletter by e-mail, and thus help us to reduce our postage costs, please advise our Treasurer: Rodney Lewington, WBS, PO Box 10 412, WN,

QE II Open Space Covenants

The Trust has recently registered the following Open Space Covenants on private land in the Wellington region:

- Kapiti Coast/Hobbs: 1.1 ha lowland secondary totara forest remnant.
- Kapiti Coast/Bryant: 3.8 ha semi-coastal flaxland swamp and kahikatea treeland.
- Kapiti Coast/Booth: 8.18 ha lowland lake and wetlands, with an area of scrub.
- Horowhenua/Stern: 0.6347 ha revegetated conifer-broadleaved forest and wetland.
- Tararua/McKenzie: 36.52 ha lowland rimu/tawa, miro/pigeonwood & horopito forest.
- Upper Hutt/Flux: 41.40 ha lowland modified primary forest and secondary forest.
- Upper Hutt/Flux and Park: 5.52 ha lowland secondary forest.
- Tararua/Ahradsen: 23.0 ha forest remnant.
- Horowhenua/Miles & Todd Whitehouse Trustees: 0.4 ha forest remnant.
- Masterton/Le Grove & Levy: 4.7 ha forest remnant.
- Masterton/Maunsell, Kershaw & Wylie: 4.7 ha forest remnant.
- Masterton/Wyeth & Gawith trustees: 3.1 ha wetland.
- South Wairarapa/Marsh & Woodhouse Trustees: 3.7 ha forest remnant.
- South Wairarapa/Handyside, Delatour & Kershaw: 9.8 ha forest, geological feature, wetland.
- Kapiti Coast/Alexander & Darke: 1.6 ha forest remnant.
- Kapiti Coast/Bloomfield: 0.6 ha forest remnant.
- Kapiti Coast/ Kapiti Coast District Council: 2.5 ha forest remnant.
- Kapiti Coast/Milne: 0.9 ha forest remnant.
- Kapiti Coast/Oakley: 0.2 ha forest remnant.
- Porirua/Jacobson & Muir: three wetlands – 0.2 ha; 0.4 ha; 0.4 ha.
- Wellington/Warren: 16.0 ha forest remnant.

As at 21/4/2005, there were 174 Open Space Covenants registered in the Wellington region, protecting 4698 ha of private land; and 2068 covenants protecting 70759 ha nationwide.

Recent appointments to the Trust include Technical Officers – Biodiversity, Kathryn Whaley and Stuart Kilmister.

Sources: *Open Space*, Nos. 61, 62, 63, and Dr Richard Allibone.

Left: The Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Marian Hobbs and the Minister of Conservation, the Hon. Chris Carter with a young visitor open the newly constructed boardwalk at Otari-Wilton's Bush.
Photo: Robyn Smith.

Over the hill

Once again the value of even a halfway decent fence was brought home after a visit to a patch of bush near Alfredton. The owner in this case put in a two-wire electric fence round a remnant that had been grazed for over 40 years.

Before the fence, when stock had full access, the understorey was completely devastated and the remnant was one of those “see through” patches where the trunks of the big trees stand bare against the soil.

The effects of stock access weren't confined to the amount of vegetation that they were able to consume—the damage to the understorey and the forest floor opened up the vegetation and allowed a whole range of weeds to colonise, further weakening the remnant.

Twenty-five years on the effects have been spectacular. The once bare forest floor now supports a wide range of seedlings, ferns and herbs, while the understorey has returned. The weeds are still there, but their hold on the remnant have been so weakened that they are only able to retain their places in the most well lit ridge crests, or where the stream had created the disturbance that weeds love.

Thanks to a couple of bits of wire and a regular dose of electricity, the decline of the vegetation over nearly half a century has not only been halted, it has been pretty well reversed.

BotSoc recently saw one such remnant at Lowes Bush—grazed for years and now fenced—but in this case the demise of the weeds is being given a helping hand with a long-term weed control project. *Cobaea scandens* and *Lonicera japonica* are just two of the interlopers that have been given a huge beating, and the ground that they once occupied can once again be colonised by native species.

Weeds can be a huge problem in forest remnants, but they can be beaten—sometimes it is as simple as stringing up a fence and then sitting back and watching the results. In other cases the severity of the problem and the value of the remnant is such that it is worthwhile putting in some extra effort to get then on their way in as short a space of time as possible.

The other thing that knocking out the weeds early does is to give the remnant some insurance against the things that nature can occasionally throw. Windstorms, drought and flood can all result in the death of canopy trees, and, if there is a source of weed seeds available, the natives can easily be outdone; before too long a once valuable bush patch starts to look decidedly tatty and second class.

Tony Silbery



Cobaea scandens/cathedral bells.

IRIS COULTER (NÉE MEAD) 1916–2004

The first BotSoc field trip Iris went on was recorded by A P Druce as being to Otaki Forks – Mt Hector, 15–17 March 1957, though our records show that she joined BotSoc in 1953 with the payment of a 7s 6d subscription. On the Easter 1959 trip to Waipatiki River and Patutu she brought her husband Jack, and her daughters Catherine and Joan. After 1959, Iris and Jack came regularly on field trips, sometimes bringing their family, their neighbours' children, and later their grandchildren.

Iris contributed botanically and socially to make each trip an enjoyable and memorable experience

She made the most of every opportunity to study, discuss and learn, and attended most of our evening meetings. She kept good records in a form that has been useful to other botanists. In 1991, Iris and Jack became compilers of the BotSoc Newsletter, putting the text on floppy disk for Jeremy Rolfe to format. The Coulter household was the venue for many happy social occasions, such as the 90th birthday party for Isobel Morice and Kingsley Brown.

Throughout her life, Iris had the misfortune to break a few limbs, whereupon with indefatigable spirit, she exercised and did everything possible to regain the use of all parts of her body. Her tolerance of cold, her fondness of turquoise clothing, and her sense of humour are among our lasting memories of Iris. Despite the difficulties of old age, her enthusiasm never dimmed. When almost blind, and limited physically, she would have Cath Mathews read aloud the names of plants from plant lists. She loved to hear the sound of the names, and would conjure up in her mind what each plant looked like, where it grew, and how it differed from other species.

Each Christmas Iris sent cards to her many friends, featuring news and a photograph of a plant or wilderness landscape from Aotearoa and other countries she had visited. Her final triumph was preparing the eighty 2004 Christmas cards for posting after her death. In it Iris wrote: “I am now 88 and nearly blind. But I have a gadget that projects the words I want to read enlarged onto a screen, so I will be able to read your messages myself this year. I still do cryptic crosswords, code crackers, learn poetry, and still enjoy talking books...”

Iris was a shining light and an inspiration to us all.

Helen Druce, with contributions from
Rodney Lewington, Catherine Docherty and Chris Horne.

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.

Summer field trips

This year our ten-day summer field trip will be based at Camp Wakarara, near Ongaonga, in western Hawkes Bay. From 28 December to 6 January 2006, we will be botanising in the Ruahine Range, and DOC reserves and private land on the plains.

To help you to suggest where we might go for future summer field trips, here is a list of areas we have botanised in recent years:

N = North Island S = South Island

- S 1985/86: Top Valley, Mt Richmond, Wakamarina, Onamalutu
- S 1986/87: Seddonville, Glasgow Ra., Mt Rochfort, Oparara
- S 1987/88: Hope Ra., Sunrise Pk., Matiri Ra., Lookout Ra.
- S 1988/89: Hells Gate, St Arnaud Ra.; Lees Valley, Wairau Mountains
- N 1989/90: North Auckland: Puketi; Ahipara; Cape Reinga; Surville Cliffs
- S 1990/91: Upper Wairau Valley/Marlborough
- S 1991/92: Central Otago – Kawarau River flats
- S 1992/93: Mt Peel/Mt Somers/MtDobson – Peel Forest, Western Canterbury
- S 1993/94: Craigieburn Ra., Arthur's Pass, Torlesse Ra. - Castle Hill Station
- S 1994/95: Cobb Valley
- S 1995/96: Lewis Pass – Windy Point
- N 1996/97: Waiouru/Volcanic Plateau/Tongariro NP - Tangiwai
- N 1997/98: King Country/Waikato – Rangitoto Station
- S 1998/99: Northwest Nelson – Geology House, Onekaka
- S 1999/00: Seaward Kaikoura Range; Hanmer Forest – Mt Lyford
- S 2000/01: Southland: Fiordland NP; Lake Manapouri – Borland Lodge
- S 2001/02: Mt Cook NP; Lake Tekapo; Mt Cook NP - Lake Pukaki; Lake Ohau area
- N 2002/03: Bay of Plenty: Kaimai Ra. – Te Puke; Whirinaki FP; Waimangu - Matata
- S 2003/04: West Coast - Kokiri Lodge; Murchison - Mataki Lodge
- S 2004/05: Mt Somers/Mt Peel/Mt Hutt – Staveley Camp

If you need more information about our past expeditions, the BotSoc Newsletter December 1989 contains a list by AP (Tony) Druce of summer trips back to 1974/75, Anniversary Weekend trips from 1962 to 1989, and Easter trips from 1956 to 1989.

Where else can we go? Your ideas are most welcome – please send them to our secretary, Barbara Clark, WBS, PO Box 10 412, Wellington, ph 04 233 8202, fax 04 233 2222, e-mil kevin.clark@clear.net.nz

Matiu Matters

Work continues in the Matiu/Somes Island Forest & Bird nurseries. Emphasis is on producing “successional” species for interplanting among the well-grown “pioneers”. There are over 4000 plants ready for planting this season. To prepare sites for them, the lower branches of ngaio are being trimmed, and lightwells created above the plants already growing well under the cover. Northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*) are growing well, those in the open doing better than those in shade. A section of garden beside Forest & Bird House has been prepared for planting rare and endangered regional species this year. The garden will be of educational value and will provide stock for propagation. Large-leaved milk tree/*Streblus banksii* planted in several areas years ago are up to 3m high. *Hebe elliptica* var. *crassifolia* of Titahi Bay provenance given to us by Olaf John are planted out and now in flower. They are all clones of one plant: we should look for other plants to widen the gene pool.

Kakariki, (red-crowned parakeet) are breeding well and can be seen or heard on most visits. Tuatara are readily seen on the tracks at night and are occasionally seen basking in sunlight. There has been no report of juveniles bred from the mature birds introduced in 1988. Do visit the island. The East by West ferry calls there three times daily if required.

Stan Butcher



Hebe elliptica var. *crassifolia*.
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Update on whitefly



In a previous newsletter article, Biosecurity New Zealand asked for assistance in searching for a new whitefly on *Meliclytus*. Since this request, a Landcare Research Ltd Scientist, Rosa Henderson, found uncatalogued specimens of the same whitefly on *Meliclytus micranthus* collected from Riccarton Bush, Christchurch, in 1954. Rosa's discovery clearly shows that the whitefly is not a new organism to New Zealand. It also suggests that the whitefly has more features in common with an endemic species than an exotic. Biosecurity NZ has decided to stand down its investigation given this new information. It has also advised that control of the whitefly, where it occurs in high numbers and causes damage to plants, is at the discretion of affected parties.

Biosecurity NZ thanks all those who have searched for this whitefly and would be happy to receive any new distribution records if reported.

TRIP REPORTS

5 December 2004: Himatangi Scientific Reserve (Paranui Bush). Map S24.

Paranui is a small remnant of forest and shrubland covering a complex of sand dunes and plains, at the corner of Paranui Rd and Block Rd east of SH1. It is notable for being one of the larger forest remnants in the Foxton sand dune district. The reserve comprises an amalgamation of west-east running parabolic dune ridges, a series of dune plains, and scattered dunelets at the head of the main sand plain.

We approached the reserve from the north, and climbed to the main dune ridge to view the dune topography and shrubland regeneration along the forest boundary. The ridge vegetation comprised mainly *Coprosma crassifolia*, *poataniwha/Melicope simplex*, mahoe, kanuka and lancewood, with patches of *Clematis* and leafless lawyer.

The eastern slope of the dune ridge is notable for the several very large titoki and hinau, a grove of wheki, *Griselinia lucida* and *Polystichum*,

and small hanging gullies and hollows. The canopy is largely mahoe, titoki, and poataniwha, with the occasional porokaiwhiri/pigeonwood, and epiphytic *Collospermum hastatum*. The soils in some hollows are unexpectedly peaty.

On the sand plain we traversed the forest to the southern boundary, and tunnelled our way back to the northwest through kiekie and kareao/supplejack. Impressive pukatea trees scattered across the sand plain often have extensive buttress systems, and are covered with kiekie and epiphytes. We found a freshly cut track used for possum control work, and stopped for lunch.

At the head of the sand plain, in a patch of large tawa and titoki, there is probably a swamp maire tree because we found a sapling there. We found a few kahikatea trees, and there are more outside the reserve.

On the way out we saw regenerating sand dune vegetation, and discussed the identity of some coprosmas.

We then examined a lone pokaka, and more *Fuchsia perscandens* to compare leaf morphology with more southern plants.

While it was wet and cold, and navigation tricky to the extent that route finding was sometimes my main priority, we had a good exploration, and found some challenging specimens to identify. It was good to maintain contact, learn about more plants, and enjoy being in the field.

Participants: Bryan Halliday, David Havell (leader), Chris Horne, Pat McLean, Barbara Mitcalfe, Mick Parsons, Bernie Salmon.

David Havell

Editor: We thank Vivienne Nicholls, DOC, Palmerston North, for providing a DSIR paper about the reserve.

28 December 2004 – 6 January 2005: Western Canterbury

Our summer camp, based at Staveley Campsite, on the western edge of the Canterbury Plains, was a success botanically and socially. We thank the following people:

- Bryony Macmillan, Canterbury BotSoc, for advice on accommodation, and sites to botanise;
- Warren Jowett, tour operator, and local farmers Peter Howden and Bill Land for advice on routes;
- DOC staff Nick Head for a collection permit for educational purposes, and Kennedy Lange for guiding us on Cameron River fan;
- Tom, Jen and Valerie McElrea, Washpen Falls, for advice on routes;
- Graeme, Gael, Rodney for plant lists;
- Gordon and Sheelagh for organising the menu and food purchases;
- Rodney for managing the accounts;
- Rodney, Darea, Allison and Graeme for providing microscopes;
- everyone who participated.

Joyce Stretton, President

Day 1, 29/12/04. Mt Somers: Bus stop route–Mt Somers Hut–Woolshed Creek. Map K36.

We woke to the pall of mist which was to greet us most mornings, but undeterred, we set off to climb from the Jig Road/Woolshed Creek car park to the tarns west of Mt Somers trig. Occasional mountain ribbonwood, *Hoheria lyallii*, and knee-high, shrubby, southern rata, *Metrosideros umbellata* grew trackside, the latter a useful comparison for us Wellingtonians who are used to northern rata. A sudden, sleety squall in the late morning forced us to fling on storm gear and struggle to stay upright on the spur crest, among snow totara/*Podocarpus nivalis* and *Melicytus alpinus*. Here, for some of the party, *Exocarpus bidwillii* with its spiky, orange twigs emerging from crevices, was a new plant. By lunchtime the squall was over and we sat among the tussocks just above the bushline to revise our route, confronted by the scale of the Mt Somers massif and realising the tarns would be beyond our reach that day. Some of the party stayed to botanise the boggy tussock area with its comb sedge/*Oreobolus pectinatus*, sedge tussock/*Schoenus*

pauciflorus, and the lilies *Herpolirion novae-zelandiae* and *Bulbinella angustifolia* flowering among the many forms of *Anisotome aromatica*, before returning to Staveley Camp. The rest of us did a long trek to Mt Somers/Woolshed Creek Hut, and the track down to Woolshed Creek, some going via the “ancient forest” remnant to see the large red beech trees, and then to the road end. Thus passed a ten-hour first day with lots of botanical interest.

Barbara Mitcalfe

Day 2, 30/12/04: Little Mount Peel/Huatekerekere. Map J37.

We started from Blandswood Road, Peel Forest, in sunny weather. The track led gently up Deer Spur, through lush forest with some big, old trees, including a NZ cedar/*Libocedrus bidwillii*, with epiphytic *Ileostylus micranthus*, and many large pokaka with d.b.h. up to 50 cm. At about 900 m we paused at a tarn with a pretty bank of flowering *Aciphylla* sp. and *Celmisia* sp. After passing through patches of rata-dominant forest, the track became steeper and we found it hot work, but were rewarded with wide views across the Canterbury Plains to the Port Hills.

We enjoyed being among the sub-alpines, as we slogged on up a steep pull towards the top. As the vegetation got lower, the temperature dropped, a wind rose, and we got some dramatic cloud action, with mist rising up both sides of the ridge track, often obscuring the trig (131 m), and the tiny shelter perched on a ledge below it. As we watched the cloud swirling, some people reminisced about the twelve BotSocers and two benighted, ill-equipped trampers squeezing into it, one snowy night in 1993. On the descent we had cold wind, heavy rain and thunder. Most of us descended by the same track but others descended a track on a spur west of Emily Stream. Other highlights of the day were: circling falcon; *Waireia stenopetala* in flower, and *Celmisia lyallii*.

Jill Goodwin

Day 3, 31/12/05: Ashburton Lakes. Map J36.

The Ashburton Lakes lie between the South Branch, Ashburton River/Hakaterere, and the Rangitata River. After two strenuous days, we appreciated a gentle exploration of the flats, University Endowment Land, either side of Hakaterere-Heron Road, on the TR of this branch of the river. In the morning we botanised a great variety of low shrub and prostrate plants so it took ages to progress more than 20 m from the cars because of the immense interest. Then we botanised toward the river. Highlights were *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides*, recorded by GPS, and a range extension for *Pimelea pulvinaris*, a compact cushion plant about 20 cm across, *Helichrysum depressum*, and *Hebe pimeleoides*, with tiny purple flowers.

For me, the highlight was seeing the bright mosaic patterns produced by a variety of cushion plants, and also the brightly coloured, and large (compared with the size of the plants) fruits of e.g. *Leucopogon fraseri* (orange), *Coprosma atropurpurea* (purple), *C. perpusilla* (red), *Coriaria plumosa* (black), and *Pimelea prostrata* (glassy white).

On the flats we also saw a pair of banded dotterel, black-fronted terns, black-backed gulls, a feral cat, and hare droppings, many full of native plant seeds.

We lunched at Lake Camp on Hakaterere-Potts Road, then botanised the shore of Lake Clearwater and found

bladderwort/*Utricularia monanthos*.

The Potts River/Rangitata River flats were covered with viper's bugloss/*Echium vulgare*, and eight kilometres across the great, braided river bed we could see Mesopotamia Station, scene of earlier BotSoc trips.

Richard Herbert

Day 4, 1/1/05: Awa Awa Rata Reserve. Map K36.

The morning dawned misty so any thoughts of Mt Hutt Skifield were out, but the reserve at its base appealed. Scotts Saddle Track climbs through rata/beech/hardwood forest. Prominent species were black beech/*Nothofagus solandri* var. *solandri* and prickly shield fern/*Polystichum vestitum*. From the first junction, the track took us through low mountain beech/*N. solandri* var. *cliffortioides*, on which we saw red mistletoe/*Peraxilla colensoi*. After passing through more beech with a dense understorey, we emerged into the alpine scrub. We lunched in calm, misty conditions amongst *Hebe* spp. and *Dracophyllum* spp., then botanised alpine shrublands and screes to the Mt Hutt road. Finds of the day were *Nothofagus solandri* var. *cliffortioides*, *Anisotome filiforme*, *Neopaxia erythrophylla* and a *Raoulia eximia* hybrid.

Owen Spearpoint

Day 5, 2/1/05: Mount Hutt Range. Map K35.

Advice from Peter Howden, local farmer and environmentalist and a friend of Julie McLintock, about obtaining the key to the Mt Hutt road gate, enabled our convoy to reach the alpine zone, once Rodney had resolved a problem with the locked gate. We looked at a mob of vegetable sheep/*Raoulia mamillaris*, and in true BotSoc style found more than we had bargained for, spending two hours in that area. Plant highlights were *Ranunculus crithmifolius*, *Chionohebe pulvinaris*, *Ourisia caespitosa* in full flower, *Aciphylla monroi*, *Leptinella atrata*, and *Craspedia incana*. We then moved up to the bottom carpark of the skifield, at the start of the original access to it. This road was abandoned because snow often blocked it. We walked across a huge scree and found *Notothlaspi rosulatum*, *Hebe epacridea* and *Haastia sinclarii*, then further up the track, South Island edelweiss/*Leucogenes grandiceps*, *Leptinella dندیii*, *Celmisia angustifolia*, and

Lobelia roughii. Over the ridge was the skifield, devoid of any rock, having been thoroughly groomed, but down the slope were many plants of *Ranunculus haastii*. This day was the highlight of the trip for me—it was beautiful, even though the plains were covered by cloud ... A truly priceless day.

Robyn Smith



Ranunculus haastii and alpine grasshoppers.
Photo: Robyn Smith.

Day 6, 3/1/05: Mt Somers 1688 m, from Sharplin Falls Reserve. Map K36.

This trip, our biggest climb, 5 hours, began in black beech forest, passed through manuka shrublands and emerged into the subalpine zone. Here the rhyolite outcrops created remarkable bluff scenery, and habitats for alpine plants. Among the finds were parsley fern/*Botrychium australe*, in shrublands SW of Hookey Knob, female *Coprosma pseudocuneata* everywhere heavily in fruit, and at the tarns west of the trig, *Nertera balfouriana*. A feature of being on the summit was that the plains were obscured by dense cloud below us, while we saw the broad valley of the Hakaterere/Ashburton River's south branch, to the west, and further south, Aoraki/Mt Cook.

Chris Horne

Day 7, 4/1/05: Rakaia Gorge Walkway; Washpen Falls. Map K35.

After the slog up Mt Somers, this was an easy day. Our first trip began at Rakaia Bridge, following the walkway upstream on the TL of the river. Its pale turquoise colour, caused by rock flour, was striking, and the view back to the two bridges and beyond, impressive. Not so the track. What could have been a pleasant walk was spoiled by the weeds. Clearing the infestations will require a lot of work. We believe that this is essential, and that top priority should be given to male fern/*Dryopteris felix-mas*, then *Cotoneaster* sp., which seems to be a pest throughout the Canterbury

foothills, and known to be difficult to control. On a more cheerful note, botanically it was an interesting ramble with one of the finds being *Asplenium trichomanes*. *Corokia cotoneaster*, always a pleasure, was abundant and we saw a large houhi/*Hoheria angustifolia*, and a sapling. Creeping over shrubs was *Fuchsia perscandens* competing with *Muehlenbeckia australis* and *Calystegia tuguriorum*. Another climber was leafless lawyer/*Rubus squarrosus* with its yellow thorns. Easy to miss was *Scandia geniculata*, a member of the Apiaceae family, with its distinctive, aniseed flavour. Perhaps the find of the day was the annual fern, *Anogramma leptophylla*, growing on a south-facing, weedy bank. It is said to be widespread but because it dies away in early summer it is often missed. Two orchids on the track were *Pterostylis areolata* and *Gastrodia cunninghamii*.

After lunch we went to Washpen Falls, a private conservation area near Windwhistle. The owners run it as a commercial operation and we soon found the need for this as they have installed some amazing stairs to enable people to enter the gorge and see the falls and plants. It is a fascinating walk with a great variety of plants and habitats from pine and Douglas fir forest to red tussocks and *Celmisia*

species. Among the pines we saw *Mazus radicans*. By the stairway into the gorge, near the falls, *Parahebe lyallii* was in full flower among the rocks and *Helichrysum intermedium* hung down with creamy-white flowers and the shrub niniao/*H. lanceolatum* was in flower. It was a pleasure to see three species of *Wahlenbergia* within two square metres. Except for a sharp shower it was a great day, added to by the very interested owner and Valerie, his eighty year old mother.

Sally Warren

Day 8: 5/1/05: Cameron River Flat; Spider Lakes. Map J35.

The day dawned fine, and we went to the Lake Heron area with Kennedy Lange from DOC. Our first site was Cameron Fan, where a little local *Craspedia*, “C. heron”, is found. It is tricky to spot, with its speckled, soft grey and brown leaves, but once found, there were many plants to admire. The next treasure was *Iphigenia novae-zelandiae*, a little monocot. Flowering was over in this dry turf, but many of the plants had set seed. This was the first time many of us had seen this plant. Both the multi-headed orchids, *Pterostylis tristis*, and *P. tanypoda* were identified by dissecting the dried labellum.

After midday, we went along Hakatere Potts Road to kettle holes near

Spider Lakes. *Myosotis minutiflora*, with brown, hairy leaves, and the tiniest white flower (1 mm) was quickly found.

After a quick lunch, it was “bums up” again in the wet turf around the kettle hole. Many more species were flowering here, including *I. novae-zelandiae*, *Dichondra brevifolia*, the wonderfully fragrant *Stackhousia minima*, the tiny *Galium perpusillum*, *Neopaxia campylostigma*, and the rumple-leaved *Pratia perpusilla*.

We took a circuitous route back to the cars, via more dry turf and boggy ground, where we found some lovely patches of *Utricularia monanthos* in flower. There was also a small area of the unusual sedge, *Carex tenuiculmis*, which looked like a small red *C. secta*.

Graeme Jane and Gael Donaghy

Participants:

Ted Abraham, Robyn Bridges, Barbara Clark, Sammy Craig, Barry Dent, Gael Donaghy, Sue Freitag, Ian and Jill Goodwin, Richard, Douglas and Margaret Herbert, Chris Horne, Graeme Jane, Allison Knight, Gordon and Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Julie McLintock, Barbara Mitcalfe, Syd Moore, Donella Moss, Judy Russell, Darea Sherratt, Jeanette Skinner, Robyn Smith, Owen Spearpoint, Julia Stace, Joyce Stretton, Sally Warren.

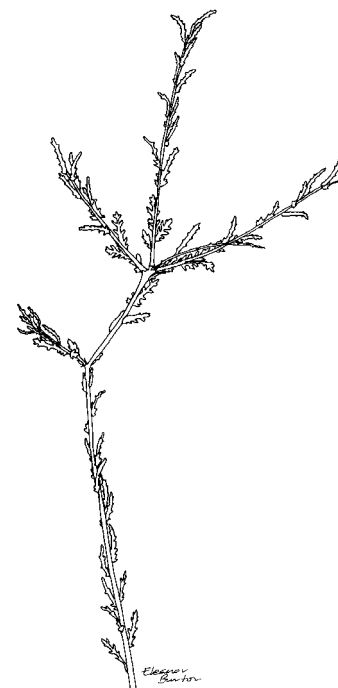
22 January 2005: Part of Pakuratahi Forest and Climie Ridge

Under a canopy of mixed beech, podocarp and broadleaf species, we climbed from Tane’s Track via an informal route, to near Spot Height 614. Turning south here, we continued along the spur crest towards Spot Height 792, adding some fern and shrub species to the list compiled on our December recce. These included five epiphytic *Raukawa edgerleyi*, a threatened tree species spotted by Dianne. Hunger and a strong nor’wester drove us to the lee of the spur crest to have lunch in deep mossy armchairs, near the only *Pittosporum rigidum* seen. Later, in silver beech goblin forest, among layer upon layer of luxuriant bryophytes, we admired epiphytic *Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum*, and Chris Hopkins added *H. peltatum* to the list. We were concerned to note considerable ungulate browse throughout and Chris and I were disappointed to see no trace of the highly palatable shrub *Brachyglottis kirkii*,

Kirk’s tree daisy, seen trackside in the 1990s. Turning west, we had occasional views west over the Plateau and Collins Stream, and mop-headed mountain cabbage tree/tooii/*Cordyline indivisa* were seen occasionally on this stretch. After reaching the road we enjoyed a panorama from the North Climie trig, 830m, a superb viewpoint surrounded by fire-induced *Chionochloa conspicua* and old, silver beech stagheads. On our long, steep descent, spectacular, roadside groves of tooii, some of them in fruit, were much admired and photographed.

Participants: Barbara Clark, Barry Dent, Frances Forsyth, Sue Freitag, Dianne Harries,, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne (co-leader), Gordon and Sheelagh Leary, ?? Barbara Mitcalfe (co-leader), Mick Parsons, Leon Perrie, Lara Shepherd, Joyce Stretton,

Barbara Mitcalfe



Pittosporum rigidum.
Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

5–6 February 2005: Lowe’s Bush, Te Pamu

Hi, my name is Harvey, the Resident Rabbit here at Te Pamu. First up I’ve got this trip report from friends up there on the Botanical Society’s visit to Lowe’s Bush. It started with Pat foolishly selecting as trip meeting point the best café in Carterton—it took some time to get everyone away from their lattes. They all eventually showed up at Lowe’s and piled over the fence into our bush. They soon discovered the recent plantings by DOC of endangered olearias and pittosporums. As they’re all small-leaved and mostly inedible, we rabbits think they are rightly endangered, but they all got identified and weeded.

Then they skirted around the big old trees at the southern end, across the open country into the dense original growth in the centre of Lowe’s. We

rabbits never go there, as even when the plain around Lowe’s is dried out in drought, it is still soft and damp under foot, there is carpet of inedible pukatea seedlings, and in one area pools of water persist even in the worst drought.

To our surprise none of them got lost, even though there are no tracks and the undergrowth is so dense that even a few metres separation is out of sight.

Then most of them took off down to the Ruamahanga for a swim, leaving us in peace again.

Te Pamu

I met some of them when they showed up at Pat’s place, Te Pamu, in the early evening. They found themselves camping sites and then gathered around to talk and feed as is their wont. Pat gave them his spiel about planning to

get Te Pamu under a QEII covenant, and also his ‘conservation crofting’ rant about tying up places like Te Pamu in charitable trusts and letting them revert to native bush. What are we rabbits going to eat then?

In the morning, Pat got them to move a whole lot of dirt to make a patio outside his new cottage, so he got to look more than usually pleased with himself. Then they scattered all round the place looking at the (mostly inedible) regenerating bush. Pat has since showed me the species list—more than 150—and he seems pretty pleased with it. But he has added a list of animal pests: feral cats, ferrets, stoats and the like. But he has included rabbits! The nerve of it, when everyone knows the biggest pest on the planet is humanity.

Pat McLean

12 February 2005: Dench garden workbee

It was a pleasure for us all to help with weeding, pruning and hedge cutting in Arnold and Ruth’s impressive garden which specialises in native alpine plants. The garden is of national importance, and we welcome their decision to move part of the collection to Otari-Wilton’s Bush.

Participants: Peter Beveridge, Barbara Clark, Arnold and Ruth Dench (co-leaders), Barry Dent, Sue Freitag, Richard Herbert, Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Leon Perrie, Lara Shepherd, Darea Sherratt, Sunita Singh, Jeanette Skinner, Joyce Stretton.

5 March 2005: Mt Kaukau – southwest slopes

Vasanta Avenue provides one of the few routes to the regenerating forest on the south slopes of Mt Kaukau. It is via an unlikely looking culvert leading to a lost world, as yet undiscovered by local children – Playstation rules in Ngaio maybe.

Over rocks and ferns, in a typical Wellington-area young forest with mainly mahoe canopy, we followed the steep stream up to a chasm between rocky outcrops. We added tree hebe, *Hebe parviflora*, to the list kindly provided by Pat Enright. The cliffs and crags became more difficult beyond here, so we retraced our steps, to begin the second part of the trip.

From a narrow strip between 60 and 64 Amapur Drive, we entered Khandallah Park, following a steep stream, through kohekohe, mahoe and pukatea forest, with an occasional miro, and evidence of Greater ellington Regional Council possum control work. Climbing to the Northern Walkway, we added *Arthropteris tenella*, velvet fern/*Lastreopsis velutina*, and the sedge, *Gahnia pauciflora*, to the list, and we saw scarlet rata/*Metrosideros fulgens* in flower in the canopy.

About 350 paces before the stile, we found a 4-m hutu/*Ascarina lucida* on the east side of the track. This tree was probably planted, and perhaps the one recorded by Ray Mole years ago.

Participants: Barry Dent, Frances Forsyth, Sue Freitag, Ian Goodwin (leader and scribe), Jill Goodwin, Kati Grinsted, Richard Herbert, Chris Horne, Gordon and Sheelagh Leary, Barbara Mitcalfe, Melanie Nelson, Joyce Stretton, Cathy Wylie.

12 March 2005: Otari-Wilton’s Bush – native plant identification

This trip, advertised as BotSoc’s contribution to Wellington City Council’s Feeling Great *Stepping Out!* walk promotion programme, was attended by six members of the public and six BotSoccers, the ideal pupil-teacher ratio. Led by Barry Dent and Sue Freitag, and using the plant list prepared for the 24/1/04 BotSoc trip, we discussed the composition of Otari’s canopy viewed from IZARD Park, botanised the revegetation at the park, beech plantings, Circular Walk and Red Trail to the Flax Clearing, where we lunched near a wonderful display of *Cortaderia splendens*. Then we saw a large akeake, silver beech, kauri, and pahautea/*Libocedrus bidwillii*, planted by Dr Leonard Cockayne in the 1930s. A most satisfying day in this “Garden of National Significance”.

Editor

27–29 March 2005: Rimutaka Forest Park - Tapokopoko

An ominous weather forecast and the lack of takers meant that we did not leave for Waerenga Hut until Sunday afternoon. Chris and I stayed there that night, meeting Barry Dent and Sue Freitag at the Orongorongo River next morning to climb Paua Ridge (which is really a spur), leading to Tapokopoko, 843 metres. Leaving copies of the species list in a plastic bag hanging on the clothesline at Paua Hut in case of late starters, we began our climb through hard beech forest with ground cover of flowering scarlet rata and dense, sweetly scented *Earina autumnalis*. Soon we were in podocarp/beech forest with emergent rimu, beech and miro supporting masses of epiphytes, and an understorey of nikau among abundant matai and miro saplings. A few very large northern rata were on adjacent spur crests, sparking a discussion

on the long-term Landcare Research project in the valley, into the effects of possums on rata. As we climbed we noted the absence of fuchsia, except for one tiny, browsed seedling, sure evidence of possum activity, though two tall *Raukaua edgerleyi* saplings had fortunately escaped this fate. We had compiled a species list on our recce two weeks before, but had time to get only half way up Paua Ridge on that day, so additions this time were many, including *Leptopteris superba* and *Hymenophyllum pulcherrimum*. On the summit of Tapokopoko in spooky cloud forest we found a collapsed bivvy and an old Ecology Division (DSIR) notice still in good condition.

Participants: Monday only: Barry Dent, Sue Freitag; Sunday–Tuesday: Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe, (co-leaders).

Postscript: BotSoccers planning to visit the Rimutaka Range should expect radical changes to waterways and plant communities near the river. The Orongorongo track is passable, though all its bridges were washed out during the storm on 30 and 31 March when about 450mm of rain fell in the Valley over a 36-hour period. Browns Stream, immediately north of Waerenga Hut, flooded so severely that the foundations of the hut were undermined and a vast fan of boulders and tree debris spread about one-third of the way over the Orongorongo River bed. Four of the hut's piles were washed away. Alan Wright of Tararua Tramping Club reports that the hut has been jacked up and the piles replaced temporarily with tree trunks. The future of the hut is to be discussed by the club and DOC.

Chris Horne

9 April 2005: View Road South Headland Reserve; Te Raekaihau Foreshore Reserve

Light drizzle soon gave way to a glorious, hot day. Our meeting place was near "Princess Bay", on the coastal platform raised by the 1855 earthquake. We climbed a narrow track through coastal flax, past gnarled taupata, large mats of coastal mahoe/*Melicytus crassifolius* in fruit, spaniards/*Aciphylla squarrosa*, and *Pimelea prostrata* to a high point on Waitaha Ridge. Here we had panoramic views to the Rimutaka Range, Baring Head, Wellington's south coast headlands, and about 120 km away, the Kaikoura Range.

The vegetation at the south end of the peninsula, Te Raekaihau "the headland that eats the wind", is short and windswept; in sheltered gullies, the canopy is up to 5m. Weeds thrive, including fennel, veld grass, old man's beard, Darwin's barberry, evergreen buckthorn, gorse, boxthorn, parsnip palm, boobialla, cape ivy, and karo, the latter seeming to inhibit the growth of an understorey. WCC will be told about the extent of the infestation. Pohuehue/wire vine/*Muehlenbeckia complexa* flourishes at many sites, often scrambling over the weeds.

At "Princess Bay", on Conservation Site 2F, pingao and spinifex survive, despite trampling. Further east, near Te Raekaihau Point, native plants are not protected by Conservation Site status.

We spent time trying to identify a rhizomatous grass, and hope that WCC will remove the marram nearby.

We listed about sixty native species, some definitely planted, and some self-sown but not naturally occurring in the Wellington or Cook Strait Ecological Districts. View Road South Headland Reserve and the foreshore are a continuum from ridgeline to shore, a significant site on the south coast, and desperately in need of restoration and protection from the impacts of weeds, fire and motor vehicles.

Participants: Caitlin Arden, Simon Bequillard, Gavin Dench (co-leader), Dave Holey, Chris Horne (co-scribe), Margaret McKee, Barbara Mitcalfe, Leon Perrie, Mick Parsons, Sunita Singh (co-leader, co-scribe), Robyn Smith, Philippe Vidal.

17 April 2005: Workbee, Druce Collection, Pinehaven

This, our second workbee at this nationally important garden and regenerating forest, concentrated on clearing the two main tracks, and removing invasive weeds from the upper part of the property.

We congratulate Helen Druce for protecting the Druce Collection, in perpetuity, with a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant..

Participants: Bev Abbott, Barbara Clark, Helen Druce, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe, Joyce Stretton.

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 a.m.–4.30 p.m. • Sat 10 a.m.–3 p.m. • Sun closed

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