

Wellington Botanical Society

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



NEWSLETTER

September 2005

Last issue: April 2005

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Subscriptions for 2005–2006 and membership list

Subscriptions for the year ending 30 June 2006 are now due. If your subscription is due, a yellow subscription invoice is attached. If our records show that you have already paid at the old rate, the invoice will show this.

The yellow page also seeks your authority for your name and address to be placed on a list of members to be circulated to all members.

Rodney Lewington, Treasurer

New members

We welcome the following: Frank Antram, Maggie Bayfield, Alan Blake, Annadel Bouch, Dr Michael Crozier, Glenys Evans, Nikki Lloyd, Katrina Spencer, Cathy Wylie.

BotSoc Bulletin

John Sawyer reports that *Bulletin 49* will soon be printed. We look forward to seeing the results of his efforts, those of Jeremy Rolfe who is formatting it, and those of the contributing authors. Many thanks to you all, and to Wellington City Council which granted \$2000 towards the cost of its publication.

John is now asking for articles for consideration for inclusion in *Bulletin 50*. If you have a topic you would like to write about, e.g. a plant community, a particular plant species, memories of a great field trip or a memorable evening meeting, and even a botanical crossword, please contact him:

John Sawyer, DOC, PO Box 5086, Wellington. Ph 470 8427, fax 499 0077, jsawyer@doc.govt.nz

Articles for web site

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

Please send your article to:

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 Workbees

Second Sunday each month,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bring your lunch.

Contact:

Peter Russell ph 383 6898 or
Sally Bowman ph 934 7041

Wellington Botanical Society

President:	Joyce Stretton	934 2437	
Vice-Presidents:	Chris Horne	475 7025	475 7253 (fax)
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Annual Subscription:	ordinary \$20; country \$15; student \$5; group/family \$25.		

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 November 2005

Articles may be edited for clarity and length

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: OCTOBER–DECEMBER 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 15 October: Field trip

Lake Kohangapiripiri & Lake Kohangatera

NOTE THIRD SATURDAY

Don't miss this opportunity to botanise wetland and dune plant communities, coastal shrubland and see karaka dendroglyphs at the Pencarrow Lakes. Come prepared for changeable and possibly wild weather. Sturdy boots essential. Meet 9 a.m. in parking area before Burdan's Gate, near end of Muritai Road, Eastbourne. Leader: Gareth Cooper, GWRC Ranger. Map R27, R28 and East Harbour Regional Park brochure.

Special instructions: pre-booking essential *by p.m. Sunday 9 October*. Trip numbers limited owing to limited number of cars permissible within park. Contact Sunita Singh 387 9955 for booking and transport offers to lake and/or car park.

Monday 17 October: Evening meeting

The DNA revolution in botany

Speaker: Joe Zuccarello, new Senior Lecturer in Biological Sciences, Victoria University, has worked on seaweeds for a long time. The talk will cover the nature of molecular data (what is DNA, and how do we get information from it), methods of using this DNA data to answer taxonomic questions, and examples of its utility in revealing plant diversity and evolution.

Saturday 5 November: Field trip

Hutt Gorge; Pakuratahi Valley

Botanise the Swingbridge Track, Terrace Walk and Pakuratahi River Walk. Compare mixed podocarp-broad leaf and beech forest communities. Map S26 Carterton and GWRC Kaitoke Regional Park brochure. Meet 9 a.m. Pakuratahi Forks carpark. Leader: Pat Enright 495 0781 (w), 06 308 8278 (h). Deputy leader: Olaf John 479 7605.

Monday 21 November: Evening meeting

BotSoc Student Travel Grant recipients

Speakers: Prof. Phil Garnock-Jones, Biological Sciences, VUW, will introduce the 6 winners of BotSoc's recent Student Travel Grants. Steven Cox, MSc student VUW: *The plant's dilemma*. Sarah Newman, MSc student VUW: *Is manuka locally adapted to moisture regime?* Veronica Howell, MSc student, VUW: *Harakeke pollination -- the birds or the bees?* Vincent Woo, PhD student, VUW: *Rhabdothamnus ramblings: adventures in discovering new things about New Zealand's only gesneriad*. Rowan Brookes, MSc graduate, VUW: *Reproduction of Aciphylla* (talk delivered by Dr Linley Jesson, as Rowan is now in Melbourne doing her PhD)

Saturday-Sunday 3/4 December : Overnight trip

Eastern Tararua Range, Wairarapa

Day 1: Botanise along Waiohine Valley track, Tararua Forest Park. See large rata, rimu. Hunt for orchids in flower. Meet 9.00 a.m. opposite 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: Botanise private forest in the Tararua foothills at Te Pamu bush and another site. See tawa, beech, totara, kamahi-dominant forest and regenerating plant communities.

Leader: Pat McLean ph 021 148 0259, e-mail: mojomclean@hotmail.co.

Wellington contact: Mick Parsons 473 1142 for transport offers/share.

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

Ruahine Range & Hawkes Bay

Accommodation: Camp Wakarara, Wakarara Road, RD1, Ongaonga. Maps: Ruahine Infomap 274-05; NZMS 262, Sheet 7 Hawke's Bay; NZMS 260, sheets U21 Kereru, U22 Ongaonga, U23 Dannevirke. References: *Hawkes 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. (See details on booking form)
The ranger at Te Angiangi Marine Reserve would like to come and talk to us about it if there is enough interest.

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

EVENTS

3-8 October. **Native Week.** Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton. Programme of talks and guided walks. Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. Details on Native Week, a workshop on forest plants 16 October, and guided walks 27 November and 18 December, from The Treehouse ph 499 1400.

8 October, 9 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. **Otari Open Day.** 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, ph 475 3245. Native plant sales; guided walks; displays, including BotSoc's display.

21–22 November. **Seachange 05 – managing our coastal waters and oceans.** The Heritage, Auckland. Environmental Defence Society. See www.seachange05.com for details. E-mail secretariat@seachange05.com

8–13 December. **21st John Child Bryophyte Workshop.** Pohangina Valley, 38 km from Palmerston North. Contact lynettefischer@paradise.net.nz or Susan Hansard, PO Box 176, Foxton 5551.

22–25 January 2006. **Turning point – Taka huri haere mai te wa.** Faculty of Education, University of Auckland. NZ Association for Environmental Education 2006 conference. NZAEE, www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/conferences/index.cfm?P=7716, PO Box 6189, Wellington.

8–9 February 2006. **Identification of aquatic macrophytes** Wellington. NIWA. Registration form from: www.niwa.co.nz/edu/training-reg or training@niwa.co.nz. Further information on this course, and courses in other cities, and registration: Melanie Mc Kerchar, NIWA, PO Box 8602, Christchurch. Ph 03 343 7835, fax 03 348 5548.

GRANTS APPLICATIONS DUE

15 November. **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 are on page 10.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. Conservation Action – Te Ngangahau ki te Kura Taiao. Department of Conservation report 7/04 – 6/05. 65 p.
- 1b. **Mapping Hurunui forest community distribution, using computer models.** CLNewell, JR Leathwick 2005. *Science for Conservation* 251. 43 p.
- 1c. **Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*); biology, ecology and conservation impacts in NZ.** PA Williams, CC Ogle, SM Timmins, G La Cock, J Clarkson 2005. *DOC Research & Development Research Series* 210. 27 p.
- 1d. **Aerial 1080 operations to maximise biodiversity protection.** KP Brown, SC Urlich 205. *DOC Research & Development Series* 216 36 p.
- 1e. **Fire in wetlands and scrub vegetation: studies in Southland, Otago and Westland.** PN Johnson 2005. *DOC Research & Development Series* 215. 42 p.
- 1f. **Vegetation monitoring, Tararua Forest Park, NZ, 1958-85.** SW Husheer 2005. *DOC Research & Development Series* 212. 42 p.
- 1g. **Virus testing of unhealthy *Gentiana aff. saxosa*.** C Delmiglio 2005. *DOC Research & Development Series* 202. 9 p.
- 1h. **Intertidal and subtidal habitats of Mimiwhangata Marine Park and adjacent shelf.** V Kerr; R Grace 2005. *DOC Research & Development Series* 201. 55 p.
- 1j. **Protecting our seas – Tiakina a Tangaroa. An overview of**

NZ's marine biodiversity conservation and the role of Marine Protected Areas. 2005. 14 p.

Science & Technical Publishing Section, DOC, PO Box 10 420, WN. Fax: 04 496 1929, e-mail: science.publications@doc.govt.nz

2a. **The recovery of *Peraxilla mistletoes* in the Tararua Range.** SC Urlich, CJ Hopkins, T Thompson 2005. 11 p.

2b. **Help stop the spread of aquatic weeds.** 2/02 2 p.

2c. **Help protect NZ's offshore islands from pest animals, plants and insects.** 2002. 2 p pamphlet.

2d. **FOOTnotes Issue 23, 6/05.** Possum control in Tararua Range intensified; Wairio Block wetland, Lake Wairarapa to be restored; Chatham's Emergent Ark Research Survey (ChEARS) 2005 – implications for establishment of ecosystem; volunteers remove karo (*Pittosporum crassifolium*) from Matiu/Somes Island; etc 20 p.

2e. **How has possum control protected tree fuchsia in Tararua Forest Park?** 2005. 2 p factsheet.

Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation. PO Box 5086, WN. Ph 472 5821, fax 499 0077, www.doc.govt.nz

3. **Open Space.** No.64 7/05: private land conservation helping to protect our most threatened ecosystems; killing willows; our threatened mistletoes; Robyn Smith - QEII Trust Wellington area representative; open space covenanting described; etc. Subscription to thrice-yearly magazine: individual \$30; family \$45; life \$550. *QEII National Trust, PO Box 3341, WN. Freephone 0508 732 878.*

4a. **Queen Elizabeth Park.** 6/05: Landscape and wetlands restoration. 2 p.

4b. **Queen Elizabeth Park News.** 7/05: the battle to save Whareroa Farm; restoring Whareroa Stream.

Greater Wellington Regional Council, PO Box 11 646, WN. Ph 384 5708.

5. **Weedbusters!** Issue 6 7/05: Lupin control in bed of Ashley River; pest grasses: nassella tussock (*Stipa trichotoma*), Mexican needlegrass (*S.tenuissima*), Chilean needlegrass (*S.neesiana*), Chinese pennisetum (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*), and several other invasive pennisetum species; identifying the two invasive pampas grasses: common pampas (*Cortaderia selloana*) and purple pampas (*C. jubata*), and the four mainland NZ native toetoe species: *C. toetoe*, *C. richardii*, *C.fulvida*, *C. splendens*. Carolyn Lewis, Acting National Weedbusters Co-ordinator; etc. *Weedbusters!*, PO Box 4055, Hamilton. Ph 0274 434 431, info@weedbusters.org.nz

6a. **Stop the spread of aquatic pests – a growing problem.** 205. Describes pest fish and aquatic weeds. 4 p.

6b. **Blue passion flower/*Passiflora caerulea*** }
6c. **Moth plant/*Araujia sericifera*** } 2005,
6d. **Perennial nettle/*Urtica dioica*** } A5 leaflets
6e. **Smilax/*Asparagus asparagoides*** }

6f. **Why plant natives? – How to recognise and dispose of pest plants.** A3 pamphlet. See article in this Newsletter. *Greater Wellington Regional Council, PO Box 40 847, Upper Hutt. Ph 526 4133, Fax 526 4171.*

7. **Branch Out.** Vol.17, Winter 05: Stephen Fuller highlighted; projects awarded environmental grants – including publication of BotSoc's *Bulletin* 49; children restore Central Park and gain points under the Enviro-schools programme; Arbor Day planting at Karori Park; volunteers work at Otari; restoring Wellington's south coast from Waitaha Cove to Princess Bay; new fence on Outer Green Belt; appreciating the city's natural attractions; etc. *Wellington City Council. PO Box 2199, WN. Ph 499 4444.*

8. **Looking after our trees – Hutt City Council's tree maintenance policy.** 11/03. Pamphlet *Hutt City Council, PBag 31 912, Lower Hutt. Ph 570 6666, e-mail contact@huttcity.govt.nz*

9. **Hybridism in the *Kunzea ericoides* complex (Myrtaceae): an analysis of artificial crosses.** PJ de Lange, PM Datson, BG Murray, HR Toelken 2005. *Australian Jnl of Systematic Botany* 18:117-131.

10. **A lucid key for common weeds of NZ.** TK James, AF Leslie, I Popay, PD Champion 2004. *NZ Plant Protection Society* 57:277–280.

11. **Evolution of the NZ vascular flora: regional and provincial patterns of richness, radiation and endemism.** GM Rogers, S Walker 2005. *NZ Journal of Botany* 43: 381-414.
12. **High-intensity deer culling increases growth of mountain beech seedlings in NZ.** SW Husheer, A Robertson 2005. *Wildlife Research* 32; 273-280.
13. ***Cyperus insularis* (Cyperaceae), a new species of sedge from northern NZ.** PB Heenan, PJ de Lange 2005. *NZ Journal of Botany* 43: 351-359.
14. **Trilepidea No. 20 7/05:** Message from Mike Oates, the retiring president; Plant of the month – *Boehmeria australis* subsp. *dealbata*, Nationally Endangered, Kermadec Islands endemic; Poor Knights spleenwort/*Asplenium pauperequitum* found on Forty-fours, Chatham Islands group; marae-based plant training course in Northland; Network Conference due; threatened fungi on Network web site; 75% of NZ's native vascular plants illustrated on Network web site; Kermadec nikau and Three Kings cabbage tree renamed; exotic carnivorous plants – fact sheet; workshops on translocating Auckland's threatened plants; etc. *No. 21, 8/05:* message from Ian Spellerberg, the new president; Plant of the month—kowhai ngutu kaka/kakabeak/*Clianthus puniceus*, Nationally Critical; report from Network Conference; MWH to sponsor book entitled *Threatened plants of NZ*; four of Canterbury's past Loder Cup winners speak; inaugural Plant Conservation Awards made – see article in this Newsletter. *NZ Plant Conservation Network, PO Box 16 102, WN. Please send news items or events to events@nzpcn.org.nz*
15. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter No.79, 3/05:** Notes on Euphorbia and Crassula, with a revised key for Crassula wild in NZ; unnamed whitefly on *Meliclytus lanceolatus*, and *M.obovatus* in Christchurch; *Schoenus* plants needed for PhD project; etc. *No. 80, 6/05:* NZ indigenous grasses (Poaceae) wanted to complete chromosome survey; suggested corrections to 2nd edition of *An illustrated guide to common weeds of NZ* by Roy, Popay, Champion, James and Rahman; changes in a riparian forest of Turakina Valley, following floods in February 2004; etc. *NZ Botanical Society, c/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, CH 8001. Subscription: ordinary \$25; full-time student \$9.*
16. **Botanical Society of Otago Newsletter No.44, 4/05:** weed plants in Northland and Southland; *Durvillaea willana*, an algal icon of southern shores; "Geranium von"; etc. *BSO, PO Box 6214, North Dunedin.*
17. **Canterbury Botanical Society Journal No. 38, 2004:** Mangarakau Wetlands; subalpine Banks Peninsula; prognosis for native plants in a Canterbury Plains site; mosses in Christchurch; South Westland mistletoes; some plants of Campbell and Enderby Islands; plants "think"; driptips, teeth and petioles as leaf modifiers; factors affecting vegetation of the Hawdon River alluvial outwash fan, Arthur's Pass; recovery of *Fuchsia procumbens* from near-death; seed set in some native legumes; re-establishment of *Leptinella filiformis* into remnant habitats in Canterbury; etc. *CBS, PO Box 8212, Riccarton, CH. Ph 03 352 7922, bert.marg@extra.co.nz*
18. **Botany of Rotorua.** BD Clarkson, MC Smale, CE Eckroyd 1991. Soft cover, 132 p. \$20 at Wellington BotSoc meetings, \$22 incl. p&p.
19. **Rotorua Botanical Society Newsletter** – index to nos. 1-42. *Chris Eckroyd 07 343 5609, ChrisEckroyd@ForestResearch.co.nz* *Rotorua Botanical Society, c/- The Herbarium, Forest Research, PBag 3020, Rotorua*
20. **NZ Native Orchid Group Journal.** *No.94, 2/05; No.95, 5/05.*
21. **NZ wildflower portraits.** Sheila Cunningham 2004, published by Ashley Cuningham. Soft cover, 92 p. Some native plants featured. *Bookshops.*
22. **Forest & Bird.** *No.317, 8/05:* new approach to possum control in Tararua; Bushy Park fence completed; Tauranga's Kopurererua wetland to be restored - \$20 million project; Motu Kaikoura Scenic Reserve; campaign for *Six Pack of Parks* in South Island high country; Geoff Park, ecologist, describes Whangaroa in the Far North, and Manapouri; etc. *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, PO Box 631, WN. Ph 04 385 7374, fax 04 385 7373, e-mail office@forestandbird.org.nz* *Subscription: single or family \$52; senior single or senior family \$39; student \$35; Kiwi Conservation Club single \$12.*
- 23a. **The community guide to landscape protection.** Raewyn Peart 2005. A5, spiral-bound, 79 p.
- 23b. **The community guide to coastal development.** Raewyn Peart 2005. A5, spiral-bound, 155 p. *Environmental Defence Society, PO Box 95 152, Swanson, AK. Ph 09 835 4350, manager@eds.org.nz*
24. **True colours.** 9/05: Ata Rangi supports Project Crimson; PC funding round 2005 – successful applicants, including 8 in Wellington region; natural causes likely for plight of southern rata; *NZ's Iron-hearted trees* – see item 21 below; etc. *Project Crimson Trust, PO Box 301 027, Albany, AK. Ph 09 414 0466. Wellington region: Bridget Abernethy, ph 471 0726 (w).*
25. **NZ's Iron-hearted trees.** Due mid-November. Philip Simpson. Te Papa Press. \$59.99 paperback; \$99.99 hardback.
26. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter.** We thank the estate of Iris Coulter for donating the following back issues for sale, the proceeds to go to our Jubilee Award Fund: Nos.38 (12/94), 53 (9/98), 54 (12/98), 55 (3/99), 57 (9/99), 58 (9/99), 59 (3/00), 60 (6/00), 61 (9/00), 62 (12/00), 63 (3/01), 66 (12/01). Please contact Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10 412, WN. Ph 04 233 8202, fax 04 233 2222, e-mail kevin.clark@clear.net.nz
27. **Trelissick Park/Ngaio Gorge – Wellington's hidden wilderness.** Pamphlet: "Adopt-a-spot" scheme; workbee programme; etc. *Trelissick Park/Ngaio Gorge Working Group, c/- 24 Orari St, Ngaio, WN 6004. Ph 479 2600.*
28. **Friends of Mana Inc Newsletter.** *No. 24, 5/05:* karo, tree lucerne and boxthorn removal; inter-planting of canopy trees e.g. kohekohe, large-leaved milk tree, wharangi and kaikomako; etc. *No.25, 9/05:* 14,000 native trees planted this winter; Colin Ryder receives a Conservation Award for his 17 years of voluntary work on conservation projects; etc. *FoMI Inc, PO Box 54 101, Mana.*
- 29a. **Canopy No.43 Winter 05:** Tararu Valley, western Coromandel, purchase appeal; Motu Kaikoura Reserve, Hauraki Gulf; opened; Loder Cup won by Ewen Cameron for decades of passionate commitment to botanical research – see article in this Newsletter.
- 29b. **Motu Kaikoura – an island in time.** Pamphlet. *NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, PO Box 80 007, Green Bay, AK www.nznfrt.org.nz*
30. **Coprosmapolitan Newsletter.** *Spring–Summer 05.* Progress reports on pest plant control, plant propagation, and news of the retention of Whareroa Farm in public ownership; programme of workbees on 1st Sat and Sun, and meetings on 2nd Tue each month. *Nga Uruora-Kapiti Project Charitable Trust, PO Box 1, Paekakariki. Ph 905 6583, nukapiti@hotmail.com www.kapitibush.org.nz*
31. **Piipipi No.24 5/05:** pine destruction; Darea Sherratt/W'gton BotSoc finds the tiny filmy fern, *Hymenophyllum peltatum*, a new record for the reserve; etc. *Hinewai Reserve, RD 3 Akaroa 8161. Ph 03 304 8501.*
32. **Mustelid trapping field guide.** *2nd edition, 2005.* \$7.50 plus \$2 p&p. *Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, PO Box 5409, DN. Ph 03 479 0011, fax 479 0019, vept@clear.net.nz*
33. **Wellington Marine Education Centre – taking you on a journey of discovery...** Pamphlet. *MEC, PO Box 20 001, South Wellington. www.aquariumnz.org.nz*

SUBMISSIONS MADE

Plimmer Bequest Wellington City Council called for suggestions for projects which might be funded with some of the \$1 million interest available from the Plimmer Bequest in 2006/07. BotSoc suggested the following projects:

- *Otari-Wilton's Bush*: upgraded signage and interpretation.
- *Tapu Te Ranga Island*: weeding and replanting.
- *Wellington Botanic Garden native forest areas*: weeding; interpreted trail with numbered posts and an accompanying brochure.
- *View Road South Headland Reserve*: weeding and replanting.

Community Post We have applied to NZ Post's Community Post for 400 post-paid envelopes, to be used for sending copies of our Newsletter, our brochure and our business card to potential members, and to increase awareness of our field trips and evening meetings in related agencies, organisations and the media.

Draft Community Outcomes for Wellington City In response to the document, *What Wellington wants – our draft community outcomes*, which was widely circulated to Wellingtonians, we commented as follows:

Environment: We suggested the following revised text for section 1: "Wellington's sustainable environment protects and showcases natural landforms, and indigenous ecosystems with their communities of naturally occurring flora and fauna. Pest animals, and pest plants and other weeds, are eliminated as methods become available"

We recommended that revegetation plantings should be done to provide year-round food sources for indigenous fauna.

Economy: We suggested the following addition to section 4: "We recommend that Otari-Wilton's Bush, the native forest areas in the Botanic Garden, and Karori Sanctuary, be promoted as a tour circuit of significant natural areas".

Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council, August, re application by Meridian Energy Limited to construct, use and maintain a wind farm on a 55.8 square kilometre site west of Wellington City: noted that the submission is consistent with Object (d) in the Society's rules, "To advocate the preservation of lands and waters under protected area statutes in their natural state"; **requested** that if the authority granted the consents sought, the following conditions be imposed: # No indigenous or predominantly indigenous plant communities to be cleared or buried but if this were unavoidable, topsoil to be set aside and spread over compacted fill and the site to be planted with locally sourced Wellington Ecological District species, these to be monitored annually and plants to be replaced as necessary; # no soil disposal areas to be located upslope of indigenous or predominantly indigenous plant communities, but if this were unavoidable, the Society to be consulted, the downslope vegetation surveyed and steps taken to ensure that the communities are protected in perpetuity; # no freshwater or marine ecosystems or their component biota to be damaged or destroyed, because such adverse effects could not be remedied or mitigated; # no fill to be dumped within the catchment of the streams in Makara Covenant; # no turbines to be placed within 200 metres of Makara Covenant; **expressed** the possibility of some Society members being available for consultation.

Parks and Forests, Greater Wellington Regional Council, re East Harbour Regional Park Management Review, June: **supported** the aims and objectives; **recommended** increasing the park's area by acquiring contiguous land with appropriate natural values, if/when the opportunity arises; **welcomed** the appointment of a fulltime ranger and **recommended** establishing a ranger base; **recommended** occasionally patrolling the boundaries, in order to reduce encroachment; **recommended** the coastal road be open only to authorised vehicles on park business, and emergency vehicles; **expressed** concern at the spread of *Asparagus scandens* and at the

threat of genetic contamination of *Metrosideros robusta*, posed by pohutukawa in the vicinity; **supported** the proposed policies on animal pest management, damage or removal of plant material or animals, and natural and cultural heritage; regarding the proposed recreation policies, **recommended** excluding bicycles from the northern forested area and Pencarrow Lakes block; **supported** the proposed policies on horses and powered vehicles; **strongly supported** the recommendations and value statements on pages 22-25 of Dr George Gibbs' Paper *Conservation Values and Management*. DOC. 2002; **suggested** that GWRC promote the park as a subject for tertiary level research, and for educational purposes generally.

Wellington City Council, re Draft Annual Plan 2005-2006: **commended** WCC for protecting and restoring indigenous ecosystems on its publicly owned 3312 ha of Open Space; **suggested** amendments to strengthen some biodiversity outcomes; **requested** acknowledgement of Otari-Wilton's Bush and the Botanic Garden as "Gardens of National Significance", also the significance of the 5 native forest remnants in the Botanic Garden, and the recent inclusion of the Botanic Garden as a Heritage Area; **recommended** increased funding for indigenous plantings to replace exotic plantations on the Town Belt, and for weed removal and indigenous planting on Tapu Te Ranga Island; **welcomed** the increased funding for Botanic Garden services, and **asked** for details of this expenditure, particularly any relating to the 5 native forest remnants; **recommended** Council allocate funding in this Annual Plan to employing an appropriately qualified ecologist to provide scientific input to management, thereby helping implement the Biodiversity Strategy; **supported** the Friends of the Town Belt submission.

Greater Wellington Regional Council, re Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan Review, July 2005; **supported** the Vision Statements and the transfer of title of the entire Whareroa Farm to the Department of Conservation, for vesting in Greater Wellington as manager of the land; **recommended** that walking access be built from Poplar Avenue to the Inland Track; strenuously **opposed** any proposal for motorised sport in the park, or the use of motorised vehicles on the tracks; **recommended** that no introduced plants, (e.g. those which are not naturally occurring in Foxton Ecological District), be used in the park, and that existing plantings of such species be removed over time.

SUBMISSIONS DUE

7 October: *Consultation on the future of sambar deer management*. Document from www.govt.nz > Conservation > Animal Pests > Sambar Deer; hard copies from Wanganui Conservancy, DOC, ph 06 348 8475, or sambar@doc.govt.nz. Submissions to Sambar Deer Management Submission, Department of Conservation, Private Bag 3016, Wanganui.

21 October: *Resource consent application for a new indoor bowling facility covering No.1 Bowling Green at Wilton Bowling Club*. The site is Open Space A, and within a Heritage Area – Otari-Wilton's Bush. See Public Notice in The Dominion Post p B3, 24/9/05. Documents from, and submissions to: Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, WN. See resource consents section of www.wellington.govt.nz/services/reconsents/

Date TBA: *Resource consent application for Aquarium of NZ/ Marine Education Centre*. At its meeting on 15 September, the BotSoc committee decided to prepare a submission supporting a marine education centre, but opposing the siting of the project at Te Rae Kaihau Point. Check Public Notices in the *Dominion Post* daily – notification is believed to be imminent.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 66th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY – MONDAY 15 AUGUST 2005

The Society has had an interesting and rewarding year with many people aiding us in our endeavours. I would like to mention all of these people but fear I may miss some out.

A very grateful thank you to all committee members:

Vice-Presidents	Chris Horne Leon Perrie
Secretary	Barbara Clark
Treasurer	Rodney Lewington
Committee	Barry Dent Ian Goodwin Dave Holey Gordon Leary Sunita Singh
Auditor	Peter Beveridge
Bulletin Editor	John Sawyer

All have given their support and gone the extra mile with added responsibilities.

Encouraging interest in NZ botany

Our Society's main aim is to encourage interest in native plants. As part of this drive we make three types of financial awards.

We offer an award to an entrant in the Wellington NIWA Science Fair for the best project involving New Zealand native plants. Last year's winner was Ella Mayston from Muritai School with an interesting project testing the strength of native plant extracts as antiseptics.

Grants are also available to Victoria University students for botany field work.

BotSoc Jubilee Award is given to assist applicants to further their NZ botanical study involving either field work, literary effort or research.

We also acknowledge the efforts of others in encouraging interest in botany.

The Loder Cup is a Department of Conservation award to honour New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain and cherish NZ's indigenous flora. This year BotSoc nominated Wellington's Dr John Dawson, respected academic, enthusiastic teacher and producer of many beautiful books on NZ and overseas flora. At the time of writing no decision has been made.

Field Trips

These are highlights for many members, and in my opinion, what BotSoc is all about. We have had twenty interesting field trips this year with an average of 15.8 members at each, compared with 14.7 the previous year.

The ten-day late December/New Year field trip when so many natives are in flower is an event all members should experience. Enjoy good fellowship, plus the bonus of increased fitness, weight loss, and a bloom on the cheek produced by ten days of exercise, fresh air, good food and a modicum of sunburn. The cost is minimal especially compared with the thousands you would spend to attend a health farm.

Last summer's trip was to western Canterbury. Thirty BotSocers enjoyed excellent facilities at Staveley Camp and experienced the best weather at that time in NZ. We traversed

many challenging landforms, explored and botanised many varied ecosystems, and compiled or added to existing plant lists.

This year's camp is easy with no ferry crossing. Camp Wakarara is at the foot of the eastern side of the Ruahines close to many diverse plant communities. It has good facilities and we have sole occupancy. The planning and organisation of food and its preparation will again be done by the Learys (many thanks to Sheelagh and Gordon), ensuring delicious and wholesome meals.

Monday evening meetings

Our ten evening meetings have had an average attendance of thirty-six, two up on last year. We have enjoyed an amazing variety of topics (thank you Sunita). I especially enjoyed Stephan Halloy on global warming and alpine plants. Fungi by Geoff Ridley was a pleasant change. In my view we should pay more attention to the "lower plants".

Marine Education Centre

This topic occupied some time at committee meetings over several months in 2004 due to differences in opinion over some aspects of the proposal. The final decision was that while the committee fully supported the building of a marine centre, and offered to help with suitable planting, we had no set view on the most appropriate site. A letter was sent to the Marine Education Trust to this effect.

Northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta*

Northern rata will become much more familiar in our area owing partly to groundwork done by BotSocers Dave Holey and Barbara Mitcalfe. Dave, a Hutt Valley resident, devised a day walk around the valley that took in a number of mature northern rata trees. A trip was led in December last year when the trees were in magnificent bloom and in so doing helped to inspire Hutt City Council and Project Crimson to take a wider interest in northern rata. Hutt City Council intends running a similar walk every December and Project Crimson will add this walk to an existing list of Crimson Trails. As well Wellington City Council are using many northern rata seedlings in the replanting of Tinakori Hill.

Members list

Plans for a member's name, telephone and e-mail list are underway and only waiting the next time around a subscription form is filled. If any member wishes to be excluded, this will be allowed for.

Brochure

We are in the process of revising our brochure. Although its present form is very good, the committee feels that it should be sharper with fewer words and a more eye-catching format and illustrations. This activity inspired the production of a business card we can hand out to acquaintances to boost interest and membership.

Congratulations

To Ian Atkinson for receiving the H H Allen Mere Award. This was presented at our September meeting last year.

To Bev Abbott who has been chosen to serve another term on the Wellington Conservation Board.

Another of our members has been active in the battle to save endangered species and I offer congratulations to Chris Hopkins for his Wellington Conservation Week Award 2005. This award acknowledges his painstaking work and expertise studying mistletoe species in our region.

In conclusion

A large amount of work is done by our society in the interests of protecting and encouraging our indigenous flora. Much of this work involves formal submissions and contact with several local bodies and Government agencies, and covers a surprisingly wide field. Fortunately we have had two people, Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe, who are not only expert in the field but skilled and industrious in the exchange of ideas at higher levels. In the last two years this work has been almost overwhelming and many committee members and others who joined BotSoc just to get out among the plants find they are overloaded with debate on policy matters.

Should we all get back to botanising and forget politics or should we, as the strongest promoters and carers for native plants, join in the public debate on every occasion as we do now?

A problem recently has been deciding what the club policy is, and as President I have tried to limit recommendations to where club policy has been clearly decided by members and we are within our botanical areas of expertise and concern.

The amount of this “political” work is causing some unrest in the club and some further discussion would probably be of benefit.

I am honoured to have been your president. Thank you for your support. Best wishes for happy botanising.

Joyce Stretton

Field trips 2004/05

We had **20** field trips. Attendance totalled **317** people – average **15.8**/trip. (2003/04 total: 16 trips/235 people/14.7 average).

2004

4/9	<i>Workbee, Te Marua Bush</i>	9
	Leaders: Glennis Shepperd, Sue Millar	
2/10	<i>Watertfall Road bush</i>	16
	Leader: Olaf John	
10/10	<i>Workbee, Manawa Karioi, Tapu Te Ranga Marae</i>	5
	Leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne	
6/11	<i>Gibbs Covenant</i>	23
	Leaders: George Gibbs, Keena Gibbs	
3–4/12	<i>“Stuart Creek”, Ohau Valley; Himatangi Scientific Reserve</i>	24
	Leaders: Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe; David Havell	
11/12	<i>Hutt City rata walk</i>	4
	Leaders: Dave Holey, Barbara Mitcalfe	

2005

28/12/04	<i>Western Canterbury</i>	30
– 6/1/05	Leaders: various	
22/1	<i>Pakuratahi Forest/Climie Ridge</i>	16
	Leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne	
5-6/2	<i>Lowes Bush; Te Pamu bush</i>	26
	Leader: Pat McLean	

12/2	<i>Workbee, Dench garden</i>	16
	Leaders: Arnold Dench, Ruth Dench	
27/2	<i>Workshop, interactive computer key for NZ ferns</i>	20
	Leaders: Patrick Brownsey, Leon Perrie	
5/3	<i>Southwest Kaukau</i>	14
	Leader: Ian Goodwin	
12/3	<i>Otari-Wilton’s Bush</i>	12
	Leaders: Barry Dent, Sue Freitag	
26–28/3	<i>Rimutaka Forest Park</i>	4
	Leaders: Chris Horne, Barbara Mitcalfe	
9/4	<i>View Road South Headland Reserve</i>	12
	Leaders: Sunita Singh, Gavin Dench	
17/4	<i>Workbee, Druce Collection, Pinehaven</i>	7
	Leader: Helen Druce	
7/5	<i>Fungal foray</i>	20
	Leader: Geoff Ridley	
4/6	<i>Workbee, Te Marua Bush</i>	11
	Leader: Sue Millar	
2/7	<i>Kaitawa Reserve; Raumati Escarpment Reserve</i>	24
	Leaders: Graham Petterson, Judy Petterson	
6/8	<i>Wellington Botanic Garden native forest</i>	24
	Leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne	

Evening meetings 2004/05

Victoria University’s Murphy Building Lecture Theatre M101 is ideal for our meetings. We thank Professor Phil Garnock-Jones, School of Biological Sciences, and Jude Urlich, Director of Public Affairs, for making this room available, and for providing teaching aids.

We had **9** talks, plus our annual members’ evening. Attendance totalled **366** people—average **36.6**/meeting. (2003/04 year: 10 meetings/321 people/32 average) We thank Julia White for promoting the programme through her e-mail contact. George Jones, and Richard Herbert for promoting it through our web site.

23/8	<i>AP Druce Memorial Lecture – Wit, wisdom and witness in the Druce experience</i>	44
	Speaker: Geoff Rogers, Department of Conservation	
20/9	<i>Origin and biogeography of NZ <i>Craspedia</i></i>	35
	Speaker: Kerry Ford, Landcare	
18/10	<i>Penwiper to pingao</i>	29
	Speaker: Val Smith	
15/11	<i>New plant conservation strategies</i>	35
	Speaker: John Sawyer, Department of Conservation	
21/2	<i>Recent research by Te Papa on NZ’s ferns</i>	40
	Speaker: Leon Perrie, Te Papa	
21/3	<i>Lichens</i>	44
	Speaker: Bill Malcolm	
18/4	<i>The warm autumn rain...mushrooms and boletes in NZ</i>	39
	Speaker: Geoff Ridley, ERMA	
16/5	<i>Members’ evening</i>	16
20/6	<i>Global warming and alpine plants</i>	45
	Speaker: Stephan Halloy, Crop and Food	
18/7	<i>Wellington Botanic Garden native forest</i>	39
	Speakers: Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Horne	

Wellington Botanical Society Inc.
Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2005

		General Account			
2004	Expenditure	2005	2004	Income	2005
3,535	Printing and Stationery	2,294	3,807	Ordinary	\$3,245
244	Post and telephone	340	1,344	Country	\$1,452
370	Meeting expenses	858	87	Student	\$55
127	Sundry expenses	50	857	Group	\$807
388	Subscriptions to other organisations	217	1,066	Arrears	\$0
			7,161	Total Subscriptions	\$5,559
521	Depreciation on equip.	521	1,629	Interest on investment	2,492
125	Purchase of publications	-	321	Sales Tony Druce Trip Book	-
880	Transfer to Student Award Fund	880	108	Sale of other publications	95
			25	Stock of "Wellington Cloak"	-
3,055	Surplus for year	2,987			
<u>\$9,244</u>		<u>\$8,146</u>	<u>\$9,244</u>		<u>\$8,146</u>

		Jubilee Award Fund			
2004	Expenditure	2005	2004	Income	2005
			31,906	Opening Balance	32,290
	Science Fair Award	200	757	Donations	1,652
100	Jubilee Award	1,000	294	Plant Sales	211
2,000	Closing Balance	35,001	1,434	Interest on Investment	2,048
<u>\$34,390</u>		<u>\$36,201</u>	<u>\$34,390</u>		<u>\$36,201</u>

		Student Field Grant			
2004	Expenditure	2005	2004	Income	2005
			6,637	Opening Balance	7,316
500	Grants to Students	650	298	Interest on Investment	464
7,316	Closing Balance	8,010	880	Transfer from General Account	880
<u>\$7,816</u>		<u>\$8,660</u>	<u>\$7,816</u>		<u>\$8,660</u>

		Provision for Bulletin			
2004	Expenditure	2005	2004	Income	2005
			8,553	Opening Balance	9,193
-	Printing Bulletin	-	640	Sale of bulletins	33
9,193	Closing Balance	11,226		Wellington City Council Grant towards Bulletin publication	2,000
<u>\$9,193</u>		<u>\$11,226</u>	<u>\$9,193</u>		<u>\$11,226</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2005					
2004	Liabilities	2005	2004	Assets	2005
2,010	Life Membership Fund	2,010	2,202	BNZ Current Account	3,666
32,290	Jubilee Award Fund	35,001	-	BNZ Savings Account	3,070
7,316	Student Field Grant Fund	8,010	415	BNZ Business Adv Call Account	415
				Less unpresented cheques	639
9,193	Provision for Bulletins	11,226		Bank Funds on current account	6,511
			530	Computer less depreciation	397
2,000	Jubilee Award for 2003-4 awarded but not yet uplifted (This was taken up on 21 July 2005)	2,000	420	Fax Machines less depreciation	315
			1,133	Display unit less depreciation	850
			30	Projector	30
			16	Stock of Bulletins	16
			24	Camping Equipment	24
			25	Stocks of "Wellington Cloak"	-
25	Sundry creditors	141	14	Sundry debtors	180
				Investments	
39,294	Accumulated fund as at 30 June 2004 add surplus for the year 2,987.00 Accumulated fund at 30 June 2005	42,281	11,800	Tower Mortgage Plus Fund	11,800
			10,279	National Bank	10,279
			41,729	BNZ Finance	44,233
			23,510	Westpac Term Investment	26,033
<u>\$92,128</u>		<u>\$100,669</u>	<u>\$92,128</u>		<u>92,346</u>
					<u>\$100,669</u>

Some totals do not add exactly because of rounding.

The Society has a No 2 Current Account used for handling moneys for field trips. That account is not included above and is not subject to audit. At 1 July 2005 the No 2 Account had a credit of \$429.99.

I have examined the accounting records of the Wellington Botanical Society Inc. and have received all the explanations requested. I believe the accounts and balance sheet to be a true and fair record of the Society's operation and its financial position at the close of the financial year.

Peter Beveridge
Hon Auditor 24 July 2005

Treasurer's report: Year ended 30 June 2005

The annual accounts for the year ended in June 2005 show a surplus on the General Account of almost \$3,000. This is mainly because the expected cost of *Bulletin* 49 did not come to charge during the year. Subsequently the Wellington City Council has made a grant to cover the bulk of this cost.

Increased interest rates have boosted the Society's income from investments during the year.

A review of the budget for the coming year indicates that subscriptions could be reduced so that they cover operating costs and without prejudicing the real value of investments. The major portion of the impending cost of the Bulletin will be met from the Wellington City Council Grant. At the Annual General Meeting on 15 August it was agreed that subscriptions for the coming year should be as set out below.

Below are the subscriptions if paid by November. \$5 would be added to subscriptions paid after that time by existing members.

	2004-5 actual	Subscriptions 2005-6 if paid by 30 November 2005 and for new members after this date	Subscriptions for existing members for 2005-6 paid after 30 November 2005
Ordinary	\$27	\$20	\$25
Country	\$21	\$15	\$20
Student	\$15	\$5	\$10
Group/Family	\$37	\$25	\$30

Invoices for subscriptions are enclosed with this newsletter. Also included is advice to those who have already paid at the old rate.

Rodney Lewington
Hon. Treasurer

2005/2005 committee

At the 66th Annual General Meeting on 15 August 2005, the following were elected:

President	Joyce Stretton 934 2437
Vice-Presidents	Chris Horne 475 7025 Gordon Leary 527 7380
Secretary	Barbara Clark 233 8202
Treasurer	Rodney Lewington 475 3145
Auditor	Peter Beveridge 237 8777
Committee	Barry Dent 476 6536 Dave Holey 566 3124 Mick Parsons 473 1142 Sunita Singh 387 9955 Robyn Smith 236 6086
Bulletin Editor	John Sawyer 472 5821 (w)

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.

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

Otari-Wilton's Bush nursery notes

The new propagation house at Otari is now operational. Although all staff have helped with the building of the house, Dave Bidgood, collection curator, has put in an enormous effort to ensure that the structure is working well. We are lucky to have such a multi-talented staff working at Otari.

The propagation house has already proved its worth. Recently seeds of *Aciphylla aurea* germinated and given they was sown in 1998, it is a miracle. Seeds of Campbell Island's *Gentiana antarctica* and *Damnamena vernicosa*, collected by Jane Wright several years ago, have also recently germinated. Previous conditions in the old facility meant that seed and cuttings sometimes didn't succeed owing to a range of environmental conditions, i.e. the narrow temperature range, lack of light and lack of consistent moisture, especially during

weekends. The new house has good light, warmer temperatures and an automatic misting system. One of the benches has bottom heat which aids the strike rate of cuttings.

I have started work on the propagation of Arnold and Ruth Dench's collection in Newlands. Visiting almost weekly throughout late winter, I now understand why the alpine plants enjoy the conditions so much. On a cool day elsewhere, working in the Newlands garden taking cuttings and writing labels feels like you are halfway up Mount Ruapehu. The great bonus of this work with Arnold and Ruth is the informal learning that takes place. The new growth of spring means cuttings will not be taken until this growth hardens up later in the season.

Muehlenbeckia ephedroides seed from near Fitzroy Bay has germinated and the plants raised will be returned to the wild in a new planting near Pencarrow Lakes by the Department of Conservation.

Robyn Smith

Plant Conservation Awards

We congratulate the winners of the inaugural NZ Plant Conservation Network Plant Conservation Awards:

- **Council Award:** Environment Bay of Plenty, for restoration of dunes;
- **School Award:** Lincoln High School, for restoring a shingle pit;
- **Plant Nursery Award:** Oratia Plant Nursery, for growing and selling >1000 species of native plant;
- **Individual Award:** Peter de Lange, for the greatest individual contribution to plant conservation;
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** David Given, for his work over the past thirty years to promote and research native plants.

The awards were presented at the NZPCN conference in Christchurch 12-14 August. BotSoc is a member of NZPCN.

Editor

Over the hill

It has been a bit of a heads-in-the-trees and under the ground at the same time over this side recently—I've shifted base once again to the National Wildlife Centre, so maybe I'm over a couple of hills now.

Kiwi eggs are under the ground in the Wairarapa for the first time in many a decade as two of the males shifted into Pukaha take on their roles as prospective parents.

Both these birds have been sitting on fertile eggs, and though one was shifted into the incubator at the National Wildlife Centre for hatching, this didn't deter the male who not only continued sitting in the same burrow that has been his only home for the last 4 months, he also convinced the female to lay another egg. We will candle this one in another couple of weeks to see if it is fertile.

In a rare display of bird co-operation, both these nests are within a few minutes walk of the National Wildlife Centre buildings and this makes monitoring a breeze—along with the fact that both males habitually leave the nests early in the evening. No waiting until the early hours of the morning and walking halfway up a hill to check the nests; if the bird is having a lie in then it's a matter of a quiet coffee back at work until he leaves.

The other avian focus is a different story. Members of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club visited the other weekend and

conducted a survey of the resident kokako population. These birds have set up home about as far away as they can get, right in the heart of the forest, near the summit, a place some BotSoc members can remember from the visit a few years back, long before the fabled blue crow took up residence. We split into three groups to survey different parts, and the birds were almost totally unco-operative. The best sighting was a report of a flash of a red leg band as two birds were attracted to the recorded calls and left almost as quickly. Others in the survey managed to hear some soft calls, or get a glimpse of the shape of a kokako moving in the trees, but none of those long songs or 15 minute observations that we were all hoping to see and hear.

No worries, though, there was enough informatoin gathered to confirm three territories and indicated the probability of a fourth, and maybe even the possibility of a fifth, certainly a good place to start this summer's work in a few weeks.

Meanwhile the forest continues to go from strength to strength. After a couple of years intense pest control the amount of fruit produced is astonishing. Porokaiwhiri are glowing orange, as are the karamu and as you'd expect the birds are having a field day. Flocks of 20 kereru are now common and for the first time I saw a small flock of korimako.

Kaka are making a habit of fossicking on the ground hunting for old supplejack seeds (and Lord knows, there's enough supplejack there to keep them fed for decades)—to the point where I'm starting to think that much of what I thought were blackbird scratchings may well have been made by kaka—they are also doing a fine job of dismantling some dead Lawson's cypress!

Goat numbers have also been hugely reduced—the only ones seen recently have been the Judas goats with bright orange radio collars, and again the response from the plants has been amazing. Little grassy clearings that the goats had kept open for years are now becoming thickets of *Coprosma rhamnoides*, while in the forest the understorey just gets thicker and thicker. A recent find that caused a lot of interest was a single plant of *Brachyglottis kirkii* growing on the ground near the summit. This was the first record of the species on Mount Bruce, though it is probably safe to say that the parents of this one can be found high in one of the tall trees.

Further afield, the recently described *Myrsine umbricola* continues to pop up in the high altitude silver beech forest. Most records are from the eastern side of Mount Holdsworth, above Pig Flat, so if anyone is about there this spring it is worth keeping an eye open for this—also have a look for both *M. divaricata* and hybrids in the same general area and it becomes a little easier to understand how this species managed to grow beside such a well used track, yet remain anonymous for years.

And while on the subject of things that manage to stay quietly anonymous, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* is a plant well worth hunting from time to time—it has to be around; all it takes is the right person in the right place and a smidgin of luck.

Tony Silbery

Revegetation in Wellington proceeds apace

Jonathan Bussell, Manager, Wellington City Council's Berhampore Nursery, reports that 100,000 eco-sourced, appropriate native plants were planted on the Town Belt and in other reserves this winter.

Editor

Members' evening

On 16 May, the following members contributed to a stimulating evening:

- Arnold and Ruth Dench – botanical reading; threatened plants display.
- Ian Goodwin – photographs taken on our “fungal foray” on 7 May.
- Olaf John – photographs.
- Andy Malone – slides of Enderby Island, Auckland Islands.
- Barbara Mitcalfe – slides.
- Sunita Singh, via Arnold Dench – slides
- Robyn Smith – slides of coastal revegetation at Titahi Bay
- Julia Stace – slides of Raoul Island vegetation

Another memorable members' evening—thank you all!

Restoration of Owhiro Bay Quarry recognised

We congratulate Wellington City Council which has won the Aggregate and Quarry Association's 2005 Mimico Environmental Excellence Award for “the massive transformation of the site in the six years since quarrying ceased”. The \$500,000 project has involved the shifting and recontouring of an estimated 300,000m³ of overburden, tailings and soil, extensive plantings of coastal native plants, realignment of the coastal track, and restoration of Haape Stream/"Spooky Gully".

Source: The Dominion Post, 11/8/05.

Two more notches in the green belt

We congratulate everyone involved in securing two Landcorp properties, Whareroa Farm, and most of Waitangirua Farm, in public ownership.

The acquisition of Whareroa Farm, at Mackays Crossing, near Paekakariki, completes the mountain-to-sea ecological corridor of public lands from Tararua Forest Park, via Akatarawa Forest, to Queen Elizabeth Park. We look forward to the areas of native forest, shrublands and wetlands being fenced, and subject to restoration plantings and sustained control of pest animals, and pest plants and other invasive weeds. The \$4.5 million purchase will be funded by the Department of Conservation. The agency which will manage the property will be announced in October.

The acquisition of 85% of the 1243-ha of Waitangirua Farm, for years managed as part of Belmont Regional Park, with public walkways across it, means that this property will be a permanent part of the park. The \$6.2 million purchase will be funded with local government money – Greater Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council. The farm includes Nikau Covenant, Cannons Creek/Maara Roa Covenant, and an unfenced forest remnant, west of Boulder Hill, with nikau and four species of podocarp.

We look forward to the protection of the two properties, in perpetuity, by gazettal under the Reserves Act 1977, and the preparation of management plans for each.

Editor

BotSoc display

We thank Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne for preparing the display, and Ted Abraham for allocating it the usual prime possie in Wellington's St Paul's Cathedral for the duration of Conservation Week 1–7 August, and the following week. We also thank DOC Wellington Conservancy staff, Jeff Flavell and Sue Galbraith for transferring it to the Great Hall, Legislative Chamber, Parliament Buildings, for the Conservation Awards ceremony.

Chris Hopkins – congratulations!

The following text is derived from Chris's speech, after he received a Conservation Award in the Legislative Chamber, Parliament Buildings, on 4 August.

In the 1930s, people who visited Tararua Forest Park told of beech trees ablaze with red-flowered *Peraxilla* mistletoes. Since then, the mistletoes have become rare in the park, and extinct in the Aorangi and Rimutaka Ranges. Elsewhere in Wellington Conservancy, seven plants are known, six in the Hutt catchment, and one at Eastbourne.

Mistletoes can be used as indicators of the health of native forests, because they are browsed by possums. If a mistletoe is defoliated, it takes three years before it can flower again, though some plants never recover, and die. Rats eat ripe mistletoe fruit, and prevent dispersal of seed. Stoats kill native birds which pollinate and disperse mistletoe seed. Even if these pest animals are controlled, mistletoe seed still has to strike a suitable host tree to produce a new plant. Added to this, climate change will put more stress on their habitat, with increased frequency of windthrows and slips. DOC staff face a challenge fostering the recovery of these plants from their present low numbers.

I have been involved with mistletoes for five years, starting when I was walking the Gentle Annie track from Holdsworth roadend, and noticed mistletoe petal-fall on the track. Since then, I have had the good fortune to locate, or share in the location of, twenty-nine *Peraxilla* mistletoes in Tararua Forest Park, one in Keith George Memorial Park, and one in Witako Reserve, in the Hutt Valley.

My purpose in locating mistletoes was to ensure that these rare plants are brought into management by DOC, to prevent further decline. Most of the host-trees bearing these mistletoes have been banded to exclude possums. I check the plants annually, and report any problems to DOC, and complete a “Species Record Sheet” for new plant finds.

In December 2004, I helped DOC staff to set up a “Mistletoe Recovery Programme” at the two remaining mistletoe hotspots in Tararua Forest Park. One of these sites is in the Atiwhakatu catchment, which contains mainly *Peraxilla tetrapetala*/red mistletoe, and a smaller number of *Peraxilla colensoi*/scarlet mistletoe. The other site is in the Blue Range which contains almost exclusively *Peraxilla colensoi*/scarlet mistletoe. Forty-six mistletoes were taken into the survey to be monitored annually by DOC staff for dimensions, volume, percentage foliage cover (from a national standard chart), flower intensity, pollination success, possum browse, insect browse, dieback, etc. The recovery programme includes sowing mistletoe seed, using the best practices found to date, to see if this is a viable recruitment method.

Hand lens suppliers

Sources of 10x and 20x hand lenses include some camera/binocular shops, and The Met Shop, 5 Swan Lane, off Cuba Street, between Ghuznee St and Vivian St, PO Box 9254, Wellington. Ph 384 7683. Fax 384 7689.

BotSoc receives WCC Environmental Grant

We thank Wellington City Council for the grant of \$2000 towards the cost of publishing *Bulletin 49*.

Manawa Karioi receives Lottery Environment Grant

Marion Sanson reports that the Manawa Karioi Society revegetation project at Tapu Te Ranga Marae, Island Bay, has received a grant of \$47,000 for weed control and track work.

Since the project began in 1989, BotSocers have helped with planting appropriate native species, and with nursery and track work. For information on how you can help with this project, please refer to the box on page 1.

Help keep the Wellington region as nature intended

As part of its “Be the Difference” programme, Greater Wellington Regional Council has produced an A3 pamphlet, one side of which is entitled *Why plant natives? – These are the good guys to have in your garden*, the other side is entitled *Why pest plants are a problem – How to recognise and dispose of pest plants*.

To join the “Be the Difference “ programme, contact Greater Wellington Regional Council, PO Box 11 646, Wellington, www.bethedifference.gw.govt.nz

Waikato Botanical Society proposal

At Waikato BotSoc’s last committee meeting, their members decided to seek permission from all other botanical societies to EITHER:

1. have web site links through their respective web sites to read other societies’ newsletters OR
2. to receive an electronic copy of their respective newsletters to distribute to their members.

An electronic version of Waikato BotSoc’s Newsletter or web site address is available to any BotSoc wishing to distribute it to their members. Their web site address is: <http://cber.bio.waikato.ac.nz/Waibotsoc/WaikatoBotSoc.html>

Source: adapted from e-mail from Jane Hart, Events Adviser, Waikato BotSoc.

At Wellington BotSoc’s committee meeting on 15 September, members decided to support this proposal.

Muriel Fisher – congratulations!

At our 20 June evening meeting, thirty members signed a card to Muriel, to congratulate her on her 90th birthday. Muriel, a well-known author of books about gardening with native plants, is a foundation member of BotSoc, having joined in 1939.

Helen Druce, Arnold and Ruth Dench

Newsletter as a pdf

If you wish to receive the Newsletter as a pdf, and save BotSoc the postage and paper, please advise: Rodney Lewington, Treasurer, WBS, PO Box 10 412, WN. or via kevin.clark@clear.net.nz

Hinewai fundraiser

In our April 2005 Newsletter, we listed in the “Publications” section: “Mt Cook botanical prints – set of 4. Hugh Wilson. \$46 incl p&p”.

Attached to this Newsletter is an order form for these impressive prints. They can be framed, or if laminated, make striking table mats—dine off the Mt Cook flora! A splendid way to contribute funds for Hinewai’s land purchase and fencing fund.

Congratulations! Ann Graeme

Ann won one of the 2005 Green Ribbon Awards, for her many years’ work in conservation, and for developing the Kiwi Conservation Club for children.

Ann spotted raukawa/*Raukaua edgerleyi* on our field trip in “Stuart Creek”, in the Ohau valley, Tararua Forest Park, on 4 December 2005.

Congratulations! Ewen Cameron

Ewen is the winner of the 2005 Loder Cup, New Zealand’s premier conservation award. Ewen is Curator of Botany, Auckland War Memorial Museum, and a member of Auckland Botanical Society. Steve McCraith, Secretary, Auckland BotSoc, reports that Ewen has written numerous papers and books. His main interests and expertise are in the weeds of northern NZ, and the indigenous and exotic floras of NZ’s northern offshore islands. Ewen is well-known for his ability to teach beginners and experts alike. Thank you, Ewen.

QEII Trust Open Space Covenants

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

- Wairarapa/Fairbrother: 4-ha forest.
- Wairarapa/Ravenwood & Le Grove: 15.3-ha forest and shrubland.
- Kapiti Coast/Housiaux: 2-ha wetland.
- Kapiti Coast/Kapiti Coast District Council: 9.3-ha forest.
- Upper Hutt/Druce: 0.6 ha forest and shrubland.
- South Wairarapa/Monk: 2.1-ha forest.

As at 21/9/05, there were 185 Open Space Covenants registered in the Wellington region, protecting 4781 ha of private land; and 2155 covenants protecting 73228 ha nationwide.

Sources: Open Space No.64, and Dr Richard Allibone, QEII National Trust

NIWA Wellington Science and Technology Fair

We congratulate Josh Campbell, Hutt International Boys’ School, winner of this year’s Wellington Botanical Society prize of \$100, for his project, *Spectacular Spectabilis*. Josh did his field work on *Celmisia spectabilis* in Tongariro National Park, where he studied the changes in leaf numbers, leaf length, and height of plants, with increasing altitude. He found that only the height of plants changes, and postulated that their decrease in height with altitude is related to the increase of wind speeds with increasing altitude.

Editor.

Your ideas for field trips and meeting topics

We welcome your suggestions for places to botanise, and speakers and topics for evening meetings. Please contact our programme organiser:

Sunita Singh, PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6036, sunita@actrix.co.nz

Is pohutukawa really New Zealand's favourite plant?

Voting has begun to find New Zealand's favourite native plant for 2005. The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, in conjunction with the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation, has launched a voting system to help us understand why we love our native flora.

Votes can be cast via the online voting system on the website of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network – see www.nzpcn.org.nz. This allows voters to record which species they are voting for, the region where they live and the reason they like a particular plant.

Pohutukawa has topped New Zealand's national list in previous years (2002 and 2003) with kowhai, cabbage tree, kauri, nikau and rimu all making the top ten. But what will be Number One for 2005?

Why should you vote? The exercise will make you think about what you love most about your native plants and why the native flora is special to you. The project helps raise the profile of New Zealand native plants and helps educate people about New Zealand native plants (and what are not native species). The profiling of New Zealand native plants via this annual project helps draw attention to the beauty and allure of our plants as a wonderful heritage.

For the first time this year we will be able to determine regional variations in the favourite plant. That means we will be able to identify Wellington's favourite species. Prizes will be awarded to a few lucky people whose names will be drawn from all voters. Each person may vote up to five times and the voting closes on **30 November 2005**. Up to date results may be viewed on the home page of the Network website (see www.nzpcn.org.nz).

Matiu matters

The year 2005 marks the 25th year of planting on Matiu/Somes Island by Lower Hutt Branch, Forest and Bird. In those years some 95,000 indigenous species have been planted. The programme to cover most of the island with a new forest is now virtually complete. Public areas will remain in pasture or lawn. Future work will be some in-filling with successional plants, and trimming back ngaios to create light wells for them.

A garden beside Forest and Bird House has been cleared and extended as the site for a collection of threatened plants of the Wellington region. Weed mat and mulch have been laid and a watering system installed, making it will be possible to begin planting in the coming months.

The island was temporarily closed because of the danger from asbestos flaking off the roofs of the quarantine buildings. It was re-opened to the public, but limited to the round-the-island track and the track to the summit gun emplacements. Replacing the roofs with aluminium sheeting began on 13

September. It remains open to the public while the work goes on, but there will be no overnight stays until the work is completed. BotSoccers have always been welcome to use Forest and Bird House, which accommodates eight. Bookings can be made by writing to the Accommodation Officer, Forest and Bird, PO Box 31-194, Lower Hutt. Meanwhile, do visit the island and see the results of 25 years of restoring the forest's cloak to Matiu/Somes Island.

Stan Butcher.

Karori tunnel eastern portal planting

This steep site is beginning to look cared for, as indeed it should, since it complements an urban structure now over 100 years old and still in good condition. Last season's planting of tii koouka and koowhai was largely successful despite very dry conditions year-round. Recently the unsightly rubbish and weeds which regularly collect there were cleared and 30 *Phormium cookianum*, 15 *Sophora microphylla*, and several *Phormium tenax* were planted, all supplied by WCC's Berhampore Nursery. Ideally, if we can get enough closely planted *Phormium cookianum* next season, they should provide enough cover to smother the weeds and cut down on maintenance.

Barbara Mitcalfe.

Monitoring riparian plantings, 2005

On a cool, drizzly morning we assembled at Site 1, Maaori Bank, to brave the invading blackberry under which were the 5 rows of plants for us to monitor in this third year of the 5-year trial. Maaori Bank is the best of the 3 sites, for plant survival rates, although the river has been over it and rank weed growth covers it entirely. With some difficulty we managed to find and measure the remaining plants, some of them partly crushed under logs which had been swept downriver.

Site 2, at Taita, is overgrown with broom and fennel. The entire front row, *Dicksonia squarrosa*, was washed away in the first year and rows 2 and 3, tarata and kohuhu, have quite a few gaps. Row 4, maanatu, has more gaps than last year, and the plants have put on much less growth than the Site 1 maanatu which were in the back row, i.e. furthest from the river. The totara row also has more gaps than last year.

Site 3, at Avalon, lost its upstream half last year under floodwater, and in the same flood, the downstream half lost the entire front row, *Dicksonia squarrosa*. The rest of the site has fared badly, having been buried in silt to an estimated depth of 0.5 metre. Only 17 of our plants in total remain visible at this site, though it is possible some are still alive and reaching for the light.

Unfortunately the data are still to be analysed so it is not possible to provide numbers and percentages in this issue of the newsletter.

Participants

Peter Beveridge, Barbara Clark, Jacky Cox (GWRC), Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Sue Millar, Barbara Mitcalfe, Tim Porteous (GWRC), Jan Rowland, Allan Sheppard.

Barbara Mitcalfe

TRIP REPORTS

7 May 2005: Fungal Foray, Catchpool, Rimutaka Forest Park

Spurred on by the damp conditions, a party of enthusiasts assembled at the Catchpool carpark, intending to amble along the Orongorongo Track in search of mushrooms and other fungi. This was not to be, as the storm at the end of March had turned it from an amblers' track to a real one, a fact reinforced when we had to ford the river to get out of the carpark. Slow progress was made largely owing to the number of fungi found and as a result a twenty minute stroll around the Loop Track took five hours.

The first fungus encountered was growing on the wood mulch in the carpark plantings. This was the orange capped *Stropharia*, usually called by the European name *S. aurantiaca*. It is now believed to be an Australian species *Psilocybe ceres*. Once across the river and into the native forest there are essentially two types of communities; the broadleaf podocarp forest dominated by saprobic or decay fungi and the beech forest dominated by ectomycorrhizal fungi. The latter group forms a mycorrhizal association with the roots of the beech exchanging mineral nutrients for more complex carbohydrates, whereas saprobic fungi survive by decaying wood and leaf litter. The forayers concentrated on mushrooms as this is the easier of the groups to identify, although a few woody brackets and other fungi found their way on to the ramble below.

On standing dead wood in the broadleaf podocarp forest we saw the pure white and slimy mushroom, *Oudemansiella australis*, large pale brown mushrooms of *Agrocybe parasitica* with its large membranous ring forming a substantial skirt on the upper stem, and the dark brown and rubbery brackets of *Auricularia cornea*. Also on standing wood was the little, stemmed, brownish-white *Beenakia dacostae* which has teeth instead of pores or gills on its underside. On the ground on fallen wood and twigs were *Crinipellis procer*, the horse hair mushroom, with its long, tough, almost black stem, and the small, white *Mycena austrororida* with a thick, clear layer of jelly coating its stem, and *Clitocybe wellingtonensis* with its funnel shaped cap and white root like

rhizoids permeating the rotten wood on which it grows. The greyish and delicate *Mycena cystidiosa*, the dull red *Mycena ura*, whose stem bleeds red juice when broken, were two easily identified *Mycena* species growing on twigs in the little. Also in the woody litter was the bright orange pouch fungus *Weraroa novaeseelandica*

As we climbed to the drier ridge top, we moved into the *Nothofagus* forest and saw the fruit bodies of ectomycorrhizal fungi. These included *Amanita pekeoides* which is greyish brown, lacks a ring, but has a large fleshy egg at the base of its stem, from which it hatched. All through this area is a common large, whitish, fleshy *Hebeloma* which forms sometimes in fairy rings, but more often in large arcs under the beech. New Zealand has many species of *Russula* and *Cortinarius* and most are difficult to identify however, we saw a few more easily recognised species such as the white *Russula albolutescens* and the small, bright red, almost not opening fruitbody of *R. miniata* buried in the litter, and the golden brown *Cortinarius castaneus*.

Russula is easily recognised by its white gills, lack of a ring and stem that snaps like chalk. Similarly *Cortinarius* is recognised by its wispish, fibrous ring or cortina, and its brown gills; also many species have tints of blue or purple on the stem and young gills. Only one bolete was seen and this was the big, chocolate brown, velvety *Tylopilus formosus* with its pink pore surface. Some with keen eyes also found the fans and rosettes formed by the dark brown to black *Phellodon sinclairii* which like *Beenakia dacostae* has teeth instead of gills or pores. Growing on beech wood was the large, woody, grey-brown brackets of a *Ganoderma* with its whitish pore surface. In contrast, lying on the ground were the soft, wet masses of *Piptoporus portentosus* which soak up enormous amounts of water during wet weather and then proceed to fall out of the trees because of their increased weight. In contrast to these large dull brackets were the troops of the little, fleshy brackets of *Favolaschia calocera* which are bright orange and can absolutely cover small branches with their fruitbodies, and the

red-orange *Paurocotylis pilea* which is like a little puffball in the litter that does not puff and when cut in half is hollow and white.

As we headed back to the car park, the group passed through a stand of Douglas fir where there were ample mushrooms of *Amanita muscaria*, an exotic mycorrhizal fungus, with its red cap and white spots. Also along the track edge were the puffballs of *Lycoperdon perlatum*.

For those who want to pursue the larger fungi further, some useful books are:

Marie Taylor, 1981: *Mushrooms and Toadstools*. Mobil New Zealand Nature Series. AH and AW Reed, Wellington. ISBN 0589013548

Greta Stevenson, 1994: *New Zealand Fungi, an Illustrated Guide*. University of Canterbury Press, Christchurch. ISBN 0908812299

Don Horn, 2000: *Mushrooms and other Fungi of New Zealand*. Reed New Zealand Nature Series. Reed, Auckland. ISBN 0790007282

Bruce Fuhrer and Richard Robinson, 1992: *Rainforest Fungi of Tasmania and South-east Australia*. CIRO Editorial Service, Melbourne. ISBN 0643053115

Geoff Ridley, *Science Manager (New Organisms), ERMA*



Geoff Ridley describing features of *Tylopilus formosus*. Photo: Ian Goodwin.

4 June: Te Marua Bush workbee

This was a combined planting and weeding session. Despite being on Queen's Birthday weekend, and cold and drizzly, 11 keen workers turned up.

Sixty-seven plants were put in to fill some gaps in older plantings, and to fill out the area along the SH2 realignment destruction zone.

Last year's plantings have done well, and a lot of growth is noticeable

on all plants. Considerable pruning was needed to allow the longer-lasting, but slower-growing, species to see light through the dense hebes and pittosporums of earlier plantings.

We did a sweep through the bush looking for weeds, and were pleased to find only two small patches of *Tradescantia*, and plenty of native seedlings.



Melicope simplex. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

We had a late morning tea/early lunch in the shelter provided by a pile of large pipes and road barrier sections, under the large totara, outside the reserve fence – a good use for this unsightly pile!

We were pleased to find that three *Ileostylus micranthus*/small-flowered mistletoe seedlings have grown from seeds, from the existing plant in Te Marua Bush, put onto other *Melicope simplex* host plants about four years ago. More mistletoe seeds have been put onto some of the shoulder-high totara in the planting area this year.

Participants

Stan Butcher, Steve Edwards (GWRC Ranger), Glen Fitzgerald, Bryan Halliday, Dave Holey, Brenda Johnston, Troy McColl, Sue Millar (leader), Christine and Shannon Pettengell, Sunita Singh.

Sue Millar

2 July 2005: Kaitawa Reserve, Raumati Escarpment Reserve

As it was not possible to explore both reserves in one day I will give a brief resume of Kaitawa Reserve's recent history. Late in 1995 a Forest & Bird committee member, Molly Neill, noticed an advertisement in a local paper placed by KCDC stating that the Council had too many reserves and planned to sell off some to developers. Kaitawa Reserve was not known to most members but several visited it and decided it was a gem hidden under a camouflage of gorse, blackberry, cathedral bells, wandering willie, jasmine, willow and pampas, plus a few minor weeds. Forest & Bird objected to the sale and proposed to Mike Cardiff that a team of seven enthusiasts would go to work on the weed problem if the Council would provide spray and revegetation plants. He reluctantly agreed to give us a trial (but later became very co-operative). Beginning in the winter of 1996 we have worked Thursday mornings throughout the years (90 out of 100). Mollie Neill was elderly but she and Judy Petterson did water testing of Wharemauku Stream with WRC help and found that it was a very healthy little stream containing abundant koura, kokopu and other creatures. We have learnt to provide shade with plantings of *Carex secta* and ngaio along the banks, and we think we

have improved the environment for the stream life.

Some of the trees found in the reserve: maire tawake/*Syzigium maire*, ewekuri/*Streblus banksii*, kotukutuku, hinau, kaikomako, kanuka, karamu, kahikatea, kohekohe, kohuhu, mahoe, ngaio, pate, pukatea, tarata, tawa, titoki, northern rata and one rimu.



Ewekuri/*Streblus banksii*. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

On a brilliant July morning, a party of 23 gathered at the Kaitawa Crescent entrance to the reserve. Equipped with plant lists made up by Barbara and Chris in 1997 we set off through the reserve, across Wharemauku Stream, and up Panorama Drive to the track which was boggy in several places and very steep leading up to the Escarpment. It would have been easy to have driven up the summit road, but the road ended at private property and the owner had issued a No Trespassing warning. What



Hinau/*Elaeocarpus dentatus*. Illustration by Eleanor Burton.

we didn't know was that even the track we took crossed private land and was technically closed. The only legal entry is at the southern end off Waterfall Rd—a pity, as the bush is exciting. Of the five blocks, we explored only No. 5 and No. 3. Since stock has been excluded, the growth of seedlings under the canopy has been fantastic, and it was quite a struggle to push through in many places. Plants not on the list that I personally saw were tawa, kanono, tarata, a clematis, and kiekie (although some disputed this—I stick to my verdict). Our return to the cars was much easier—via the road and no one obstructed us.

Graham Petterson

Saturday 6 August: Wellington Botanic Garden native forest

Twenty-four people met at the Founders' Entrance on a beautiful morning to botanise the five remnants which were the topic of Chris and Barbara's talk on 18 July. After a briefing about the botanical and historical significance of the remnants and the need to keep to the tracks to avoid damage to seedlings, we visited **Salamanca Slope** remnant, south of the Begonia House. Original kanuka are thriving, but the only kamahi stand in the Garden there is declining, probably because of increasingly dry conditions. Other features included a spiralling, 12 cm diameter kohia, *Passiflora tetrandra*, at least 30 m long, and kohekohe in late flower.

As we walked to the next remnant, **Stable Gully/Druid Hill**, Sally spotted a second kahikatea seedling near the one listed in Barbara and Chris's Paper. Shortly after, we noted how far the Camellia Garden has encroached on this remnant, and discussed the poor conditions of the parsely-foliaged, young northern rata. In Stable Gully we saw nikau, (a species not recorded by Buchanan in 1875), *Cyathea cunninghamii*/gully tree fern, and the old hinau which is thought to be original.

Next came **Australian Garden/Play Area**, a narrow remnant with a very mixed native-exotic composition: regenerating totara and kohekohe under kanuka and manuka; planted, non-Wellington native species such as puriri,



Kunzea ericoides. Illustration by Eleanor Burton.

(also regenerating), and exotics such as large old rhododendrons reaching the canopy. Lower down in the gully we noted a large pukatea surrounded by mostly exotic plantings including *Gunnera tinctoria*, a handsome pest plant. Near Mamaku Way we inspected the only matai, (a sapling), known in the Garden, and admired the large, original, black maire whose progeny staff member Peter Tijssen has propagated for planting in the other Garden remnants.

In **Cable Car** remnant we saw the enormous, exotic conifers towering over the vegetation, but thankfully they are to be removed. On the True Left of the gully, both native and exotic species are regenerating densely, particularly *Pittosporum ralphii*, a non-Wellington species. Trackside there are several tall, original kanuka, and in the gully, one *Dicksonia fibrosa* under a kohekohe canopy.

Our final remnant was **Glen Slope**, the moistest, steepest Garden remnant, the only place where Barbara and Chris found the filmy fern *Adiantum viridescens*, (sparse in Wellington region), and kiekie, neither of which species was recorded by Buchanan. Emergent in this remnant is a large, northern rata in good health, protected by possum bait stations nearby, which people were interested to see.

Participants

Bev Abbott, Annadel Boush, Barbara Clark, Mike Crozier, Barry Dent, Sue Freitag, Ian and Jill Goodwin, Bryan Halliday, Edith Hodgen, Chris Horne (co-leader), Nikki Lloyd, Stephen Lungley, Alena-Rose Machin, Sally Marx, Barbara Mitcalfe (co-leader), Donella Moss, Mick Parsons, Merrin Pearse, Bernie Salmon, Sunita Singh, Louise Taylor, Julia White, Cathy Wylie.

3 September 2005: Ridge Track from Te Marua to Kaitoke

Fifteen people turned up to traverse the Ridge Track from Te Marua to Kaitoke. The weather was cool but fine and the track was in very good condition owing to the lack of recent rain.

The nominated time is three hours to walk the track but in true BotSoc fashion it took six hours to complete the trip. The group soon split into two smaller groups and proceeded in this fashion for the rest of the day, with contact being made again only at the end of the trip.

The track passes from pasture across Benge Creek, with some native vegetation, then ascends through gorse and scrub to enter the bush proper. There is an initial climb to reach the ridge but then the track undulates along it before descending to the road at Kaitoke. A

very interesting selection of vegetation types are traversed along the way. There are areas of black, red, silver, and hard beech (the odd hybrid black x hard) which gave a great opportunity for a comparison to be made and the differences noted.

Though the species list was reasonably comprehensive, several species were added, including the notable *Raukaua edgerleyi*. The sundew *Drosera auriculata* was becoming evident and the orchid species were certainly more advanced from when the original recce was done. This is evidence of the value of many sets of eyes and the need for a comprehensive survey to cover ALL the seasons to pick up those species with a short or seasonal "shelf life". A moss list was completed



Raukaua edgerleyi. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

for the track by Peter Beveridge and has been appended to the vascular plant list

Participants

Chris Hopkins, Olaf John, Peter Beveridge, Annadele Bouch, Darea Sherratt, Rodney Lewington, Allannah Matheson, Wayne ..., Pat McLean, Pat Enright (trip leader), Chris Moore, Barbara Mitcalfe, Sue Freitag, Barry Dent, Nikki Lloyd.

Pat Enright.

REGISTRATION - WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY SUMMER CAMP
December 28 (evening) 2005 to January 6 (morning) 2006

Please send this registration form together with a deposit of \$150:00 per person as a cheque made out to Wellington Botanical Society Inc. to:

Sheelagh and Gordon Leary
PO Box 48 110
Silverstream
UPPER HUTT
Tel: (04) 527 7380
e-mail: GandSLeary@xtra.co.nz

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Address:

Phone: E-mail:

Preferred accommodation Camp . . . Lodge . . .

Length of stay from..... to.....

Special requirements: Do you have any special food/health/other requirements?

ACCOMMODATION

We are staying at Camp Wakarara, Wakarara Rd., Ongaonga, Central Hawkes Bay, close to the Ruahine Range and Waipawa and Makaroro river catchments. Facilities include a common room, dining room, kitchen, showers, toilets and 2 bunkrooms sleeping (mattresses but no pillows) up to 12 people. There is ample space for tents. Fees for camping and staying in the lodge are \$12.50 per night. The usual BotSoc summer camp haute cuisine will be prepared by our roster of extremely experienced chefs. Food is expected to cost \$12-15 per person per day.

TRANSPORT and TRIP CHOICES:

- I can provide shared transport **to** Wakarara fromfor people.
- I can provide shared transport **from** Wakarara to.....for people.
- I do not have transport. I would like to share transport **to, from** the camp.
- I can provide transport forextra people from camp to trip sites for days.
- I would like transport from base camp to trip sites for days.
- I can bring a 4WD for the trip to No Mans Land (Y/N)
- I would like to visit Te Angiangi Marine Reserve to see algae.....(Y/N)

BOTANICAL TRIPS

There are numerous trip possibilities within a short drive from Wakarara; they may be full day to short in length (and possibly overnight). Botanically there is sub-alpine vegetation, beech and podocarp forests, and possibly wetlands and coastal forest. We may visit No Man's Land (restricted area), Waipawa Forks, Smith Stream, Murderer's, Triplex and Sunrise huts, Armstrong Saddle, Yeoman's mill site, Waipawa chalet. Nearby reserves include Lindsay Bush, Monckton's Scenic Reserve, Adeane's Bush and Inglis Bush. Towards the coast there is Elsthorpe and McLean's Bush at Porangahau.

More details about the camp and possible trips will be sent out closer to the time of the camp. Phone or E-mail us if you have questions about the camp, trips, maps etc.