

Wellington Botanical Society

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



NEWSLETTER December 2007

Last issue: September 2007

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From the President

Hasn't it been a wonderful year for cabbage trees! Philip Simpson's *Dancing Leaves* reports that they flower heavily every second year, and exceptionally heavily every three to five years. It's no wonder that they always rate highly in the annual favourite plant competition run by the NZ Plant Conservation Network. The network's web site www.nzpcn.org.nz receives over 1500 visits daily, as more and more people become aware of the quality of its information and photos. The network seeks images of native plant species in the wild that show evidence of browsing by animal pests such as deer, possums or snails, or by native animals such as moths or stick insects. Perhaps the skilled photographers among us can help.

Planning for our trip to Aotea/Great Barrier Island is progressing well. Forty-two people have registered so far; Robyn Smith and others have suggested sites to botanise; we have organised transport on the island.

I am pleased to announce that Carol West has agreed to be co-opted to the Committee. Her knowledge, experience, and ideas will be a great asset to BotSoc.

It is with sadness that I report that Vice-President Gordon Leary died on 8 December, following surgery, and Jeanette Skinner died on 16 October. Obituaries are in this newsletter. I also report that long-time BotSoccer Judy Petterson died on 16 December. An obituary will appear in the next newsletter.

As we go to press, we have received news that Peter de Lange has become a PhD for his work on *Kunzea*. Congratulations Peter!

Bev Abbott

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 5028

ph 232 6828

fax 381 4518

e-mail herbert.r@xtra.co.nz

Manawa Karioi Society Revegetation Programme Workbees

1st and 2nd Sunday each month,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bring your lunch.

Contact:
Peter Russell ph 389 5484;
mob. 021 207 6011

Wellington Botanical Society

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Subscription:	group / family \$25.		
Send subscription to Treasurer, WBS, Box 10 412, Wellington 6143.			
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 – 1 April 2008

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. People keen to start learning to identify native plants are welcome!

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 p.m. 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 p.m. from Mairangi, 7.10 University.

No. 23 Houghton Bay: 7.25 p.m. from Mairangi, 7.40 University.

No. 17 Railway Station: 6.35 p.m. 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 p.m. from University.

No. 23 Southgate: 10.10 p.m. 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 Metlink 0800 801-700.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS: JANUARY–JULY 2008

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.

Wednesday 30 January – Friday 8 February 2008: Field trip **Aotea/Great Barrier Island**

Registration form at back of Newsletter. Book soon to avoid disappointment! GB has volcanic origins. Its bluffs and ridges bear regenerating kauri forest, and its rolling hills, sweeping white sand beaches, dunes, tidal creeks, and wetlands, provide a wide range of habitats for indigenous flora and fauna. GB has no possums, deer, wallabies, mustelids, hedgehogs, Norway rats! Areas we may visit include: * Hirakimata/Mt Hobson 621 m - endemic *Kunzea sinclairii*, *Olearia allomi*, *Veronica macrocarpa* aff. *latisepala*. Fantastic landforms! * Kaitoke swamp - largest unmodified wetland in Auckland region; * Whangapoua Estuary—almost unmodified; * Harataonga coastal walkway; * Whangaparapara road - Kaiaraara - regenerating coastal forest; * Other shorter trips; * QEII National Trust Open Space Covenants. Maps: NZMS 260 SO8, SO9, TO9. (GB & Little Barrier, NZMS 259 19798 is out of print). Brochure: *Aotea Great Barrier Island, Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park*. \$2. DOC Visitor Centre, 18-32 Manners St, WN. Book: *Great Barrier Island*. Don Armitage 2004. Canterbury University Press. RRP \$40.

Monday 18 February: Evening meeting **Trees in the urban environment**

Bruce Moorman, Arboriculture Manager/Acting Operations Manager, WCC, will discuss the challenges faced by council arborists to establish and maintain trees in and around cities, and what they are doing regarding tree preservation and heritage tree protection. Bruce will also discuss resource consents and balancing ratepayer rights and tree protection.

Saturday 23 February: Field trip **Druce garden work bee**

Leader: Helen Druce, 123 Pinehaven Rd, Pinehaven. Ph: 970 7853. Help with maintenance of this nationally important garden containing many threatened indigenous plant species established by Tony and Helen Druce over forty years ago. It is a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant. Meet from 9.30 a.m. Bring food; hot drinks provided. Bring gloves, kneeler, weeder and secateurs.

Saturday 1 March: Field trip **Gracefield Scrub, Wainuiomata**

Visit a remnant of swamp that once covered large areas of Wainuiomata. See *Ranunculus macropus*, *Baumea rubiginosa*, *Gahnia xanthocarpa* and a variety of *Carexes*. We will also botanise regenerating bush in the hills above the swamp. Meet 9.0 a.m. at the carpark on the east side of Woburn Station. Catch 8.35 a.m. train from Wellington Station, 8.30 a.m. train from Upper Hutt Station. Map R27, Wellington. Bring gumboots for the swamp. Leader: Chris Hopkins 564 3980.

Monday 17 March: Evening meeting **Members' evening**

Please share your botanical slides – max 20/person - and photographs taken on BotSoc trips, your paintings, drawings and your favourite botanical readings. Plant specimens would add to a memorable evening.

Friday 21 March – Monday 24 March: Easter field trip **Western Ruahine Range**

Botanise Ngamoko Range, Ruahine Forest Park, and reserves in the Pohangina Valley—possibilities include tussock grasslands, beech and cedar forest, lowland podocarp forest, and even plant communities on road cuttings. Maps: T22 Mangaweka, U22 Ongaonga, T23 Kimbolton, and Parkmap 274-05 Ruahine. *Western Ruahine Forest Park Walks* - \$2 at DOC Visitor Centre, 18-32 Manners St, WN. *Ruahine Forest Park - walks and tramps*, Kathy Ombler 1993. Accommodation: Sixtus Lodge, east of Apiti, via Table Flat Rd, and Limestone Rd; \$10 pp/night; bring own pillows and bedding. Pot luck dinners - confer with Chris to ensure we get plenty of variety; bring own breakfast and lunch.. Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025, Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

Saturday 5 April: Field trip **Eastern Hutt catchment**

Botanise track to Phillips Stream, including wetland, then TL terraces of Eastern Hutt River - matai/northern rata-hardwood forest, then TR, and track to saddle - beech/hinau/kamahi forest, with some podocarps and northern rata. See large patches of *Dawsonia superba*. Other possibilities: botanise lower end of Quoin Ridge, or downstream to Western Hutt River. We will drive to end of 4WD road in Greater Wellington Regional Council vehicles. Meet 9 a.m. at Kaitoke Regional Park ranger's station, Waterworks Rd, off SH2 at Kaitoke. Catch 7.35 a.m. train from Wellington to Upper Hutt - ask leader to meet you. Map S26 Carterton. Leader: Owen Spearpoint, GWRC, 562 8780, home 562 8780. Booking essential, numbers strictly limited.

Monday 21 April: Evening meeting

Speaker: Leon Perry, Curator of Botany, Te Papa, will present his botanical observations as spotted on the Bibbulmun Track between Perth and Albany, Western Australia during the spring-flower season from mid-September.

Plants of south-western Australia**Saturday 3 May: Field trip**

Explore some of the tracks in this regenerating forest on the Western Hutt hills above Percy Scenic Reserve. The bush would be a worthy addition to Hutt City's reserves. Botanise up to Sugarloaf, down through tall kohekohe forest to George Gee Dr, then in Galbraiths Gully. Meet: 9 a.m. at pipeline in Akatea Rd, at start of track to Sugarloaf. Catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington to Petone Station. Walk up Korokoro Rd to hairpin bend, then up Galbraiths Gully path to Singers Rd, go up it to Maungaraki Rd, then turn right into Akatea Rd – 25 minutes pleasant walk. Map R27 Wellington, and street map. *Korokoro Walks* brochure available. Leader: Bev Abbott, 475 8468.

Korokoro - Maungaraki Bush**Monday 19 May: Evening meeting**

Speaker: Murray Williams, Senior Lecturer in Ecological Restoration & Conservation, VUW, is the course co-ordinator of the postgraduate course in ecological restoration at Victoria, which is now into its third year. Following Colin Meurk's recent address to BotSoc, it is a good time to reflect upon its content. Murray will outline the two papers taught, and highlight the tension between presenting restoration as both a theoretical and practical field of study. He seeks guidance from BotSocers on how to enhance the course so as to meet the multiple objectives of building awareness of restoration in conservation students, of training them in the practical realities of restoration, and producing graduates who can contribute to the restoration planning "industry".

Teaching restoration at VUW: Is the emphasis right?**Saturday 7 June: Field trip**

Botanise Kaitawa Track, Ridge Track, and Ferry Road Track and gully. See black and hard beech forest, with terrestrial northern rata. Map R27 Wellington, and street map. Park brochure available. Meet 8.45 a.m. at end of Kaitawa Rd, York Bay - limited parking! Catch no. 83 Eastbourne bus 7.50 a.m. from Courtenay Place, c. 7.59 from north end of Lambton Quay. Alight at York Bay. Leader: Mick Parsons 972 1148.

East Harbour Regional Park**Saturday 14 June: Field trip**

NOTE EXTRA FIELD TRIP

In partnership with Greater Wellington, BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and revegetation in this important matai/totara/maire remnant in Kaitoke Regional Park. Our biennial workbees must continue so that we keep ahead of re-invasion by weeds, particularly around the plantings, so please come to help with this important work. Bring: gloves, kneeler, weed bag, and your favourite weeding tools e.g. trowel, hand fork, loppers, pruning saw, pinch bar. Meet: Upper Hutt Station carpark at 9 a.m., or Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. (250 m north of Te Marua Store and 50 m off SH2, along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park). Catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. If you plan to use the train to Upper Hutt, please ring the leader to arrange pickup. Map R26 Paraparaumu, and Upper Hutt street map. Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

Te Marua Bush workbee**Monday 16 June: Evening meeting**

Speaker: Owen Spearpoint, Environmental Technician, Greater Wellington Regional Council, will describe the monitoring of the 50,000 ha of managed lands comprising regional parks, forests, and water catchments. He will describe vegetation changes in plots established in the 1970s-era National Vegetation Survey, including photo points, and show photos of species found. Owen will describe fruit-fall monitoring of hinau and tawa, trends in bird numbers since the 1990s, and studies of piritā/red mistletoe, *Peraxilla tetrapetala*.

Monitoring regional council lands**Saturday 5 July: Field trip**

Botanise Heke Reserve, Huntleigh Park, and Trelissick Park. See kohekohe forest in flower, podocarps, kamahi, tall kanuka, hinau and tawa, lianes and ferns; also revegetation plantings. Beginners especially welcome. Map R27 Wellington, and street map. Plant list and park pamphlets will be supplied. Catch 9.02 a.m. train on Johnsonville line from Wellington Station to Ngaio Station. Finish at Kaiwharawhara, or if you would like a shorter trip, finish at Crofton Downs Station. Co-leaders: Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149, Chris Horne 475 7025.

Ngaio reserves**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.

EVENTS

- *Now – 10 February 2008. Linnaeus Tricentenary exhibition – “Herbarium Amoris”.* Photographer Edvard Koinberg’s tribute to Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist who created the naming of species 300 years ago. Treehouse, Wellington Botanic Garden. Free entry. Information from 499 1400.
- *29 December – 30 March. Regional outdoors programme.* Bookings & information: Greater Wellington Regional Council, bookings@gw.govt.nz ph 381 7735
- *24 February. Otari-Wilton’s Bush – tour of planted gardens.* Meet 2 p.m. at Otari Information Centre. Leader: Dr John Dawson. Ph 499 1400.
- *1 March. Plant life of the park.* Queen Elizabeth Park. Leader: BotSoccer Robyn Smith. Bookings and information – as above.
- *1-7 March. SeaWeek*
- *8 March. Lighthouse and lakes.* Leader: Dr George Gibbs. Bookings & information: Greater Wellington Regional Council, bookings@gw.govt.nz, ph 381 7735
- *8 March. Te Aro Community Gardeners’ Solidarity Tour.* 10 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. Meet at Te Aro Community Hall. Lectures on the theory and practicalities of ecology, environmental ethics and urban permaculture. A guided tour between three locations in Aro Valley. Contact Charles Barrie, ecology graduate/landscape gardener, kobold.gardener@gmail.com, ph 385 4171, 0274 30 1906.
- *21 –24 March. Australian Network for Plant Conservation – 7th National Conference.* “Our declining flora – tackling the threats”. Mulgoa, near Penrith, western Sydney. ANPC, GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT 2601. anpc@anpc.asn.au
- *April 2008 Identifying marine macroalgae.* Tutor: Wendy Nelson. Wellington. Registration form at www.niwasience.co.nz/edu/training
- *5 June. World Environment Day.* The UN has selected NZ to host international celebrations for World Environment Day. Send your environmental success stories to WED@mfe.govt.nz
- *8–10 August. NZ Plant Conservation Network Conference.* Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. The conference will feature the Tane Ngahere Lecture by Brian Molloy entitled “Reflections on 50 years of New Zealand botany and plant conservation” and field trips to several locations. If you would like to assist with organising this conference (whether you are based in Wellington or not) or have good ideas for the conference that you would like to share, such as subjects for workshops, please contact the Network: email info@nzpcn.org.nz. Mark the dates in your diary now and get in early to obtain the cheaper air fares. More information will be available early 2008. NZPCN, Box 16 102, WN. events@nzpcn.org.nz

GRANTS AVAILABLE

22 January. Sustainable Management Fund. For practical projects that promote community action and have long-term environmental benefits.

- *Ministry for the Environment* [www: mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/funding)

25 February. Lottery Environment and Heritage Grants. These grants are for projects that promote, protect and conserve NZ’s natural, physical and cultural heritage.

Contact 0800 824 824, or www.cdgo.govt.nz

31 March. Wellington City Council Environmental Grants. Criteria, application forms and other information available six weeks before closing date.

Grants Advisor; WCC, PO Box 2199, WN. Ph 801 3158, e-mail grants@wcc.govt.nz www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants

Date from VUW Foundation. Nga Manu Trust Scholarship. \$3000 available annually for research of relevance to the natural environment at Nga Manu Reserve, Waikanae.

Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, PO Box 600, Wellington. Ph 463 5109, fax 463 5210, e-mail VUW-Foundation@vuw.ac.nz

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. **Ecology, management and research on Mokoia Island, Lake Rotorua: an abstract list and annotated bibliography.** B. Christensen; M.E. Sutton 2007. DOC Research & Development Series 284. 92 p.
1b. **DOC science poster series now on web.** Download from catalogue: www.doc.govt.nz > Publications > Science & technical
 - *Science & Technical Publishing, R, D & I Division, DOC, Box 10 420, WN 6143. Ph 471 0726.*
- 2a. **FOOTnotes.** No. 29 10/07: planting at Whitireia Park; Kupe/ Kevin Smith Marine Reserve survey; protecting forest canopy in Tararua; *Wild orchids of the lower North Island*; native plant seed bank; Lower Hutt “weed swap”, etc.
2b. **Wellington Conservation Board Annual Report to the NZ Conservation Authority 1/7/06 – 30/6/07.**
 - *DOC, Box 5086, WN 6145. Ph 472 5821.*
3. **Rakiura Planning Newsletter.** 30/10/07.
 - *DOC, Box 743, Invercargill 9840. Ph 03 214 4589.*
4. **EnviroNZ.** 11/07: climate change solutions; emissions trading; etc.
 - *Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN 6143. Ph 439 7400.*
5. **Open Space.** No. 71, 11/07: focus on Rangitikei – Manawatu, and on Tararua; covenant fencing; privet; annual report; Mangatiti Falls covenant/Tararua; etc.
 - *QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140. Ph 472 6626.*
6. **Weedbusters! No. 13 9/07:** Dirty Weekend campaign; role of this interagency awareness programme; etc.
 - *Weedbusters, Box 4055, Hamilton. Mob 0274 434 431. info@weedbusters.org.nz*
- 7a. **Regional Parks Report 2006-07.** 28 p.
7b. **East Harbour Regional Park resource statement.** 97 p.
7c. **Regional Policy Statement review newsletter.** No. 3, 10/07. 2 p.
7d. **Regional Pest Management Strategy – operational plan report 2006-07.** View at council offices.
 - *Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN. Ph 384 5708. www.gw.govt.nz*
8. **Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton’s Bush Reserve (Otari-Wilton’s Bush) management plan – 8/07.** 87 p.
 - *Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Ph 499 4444.*
- 9a. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter.** No. 89, 9/07: botanical aftermath of Cook’s 1st and 2nd voyages to NZ in relation to the genus *Pimelea* (Thymeleaceae); a response to the new classification for *Hebe* and its allies; etc.
9b. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter.** Back issues: Nos.1 (8/85) – 46 (12/96) \$2.50 ea; 47 (3/97); 48 - 50 (12/97) \$3.00 ea; 51 (3/98) onwards \$3.75 ea.
 - *NZBotSoc, c/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Ave, CH 8001.*
10. **Trilepidea.** No. 46 9/07: Plant of the month – *Libertia cranwelliae*; macrophytes of Christchurch rivers; eco-sourcing in Waikato; *Natural History of Rangitoto Island* published; etc.
No. 47 11/07: Annual Report 06/07; Plant of the month – nikau;

Dr Matt McGlone urges action as if there is a biodiversity crisis; *Todea barbara* rediscovered; Network awards for native plant protection; Favourite plant 2007 – parataniwha; deer, chamois, thar and pigs – pests or resource? National Pollination Survey; images wanted of browsed indigenous plants; etc. [No. 48 12/07](#); Linnaeus tricentenary; Plant of the month – *Coprosma foetidissima*; information about NZPCN's committee members; volunteer botanical phenology network; images wanted of threatened plants listed; etc.

• NZPCN, Box 16 102, WN. events@nzpcn.org.nz

11a. **Dictionary of Maori plant names.** J. Beever 1991. 75 p. Sale price \$2 incl. p&p.

11b. **Meanings and origins of botanical names of NZ plants.** Marie Taylor 2002. \$27 incl. p&p.

• *Auckland Botanical Society, Box 26 391, Epsom, AK.*

12. **Botanical Society of Otago calendar.** "Essential presents for the discerning botanist". \$14 incl. p&p.

• *Lyn Bentley, stevef@ihug.co.nz, 03 467 9616, BSO, Box 6214, DN 9059.*

13. **Botanical Society of Otago Newsletter.** No. 52 10/07: a response to the new classification for *Hebe* and its allies; etc.

• *BOS, Box 6214, DN 9059.*

14. **Carl Linnaeus.** Gunnar Broberg 2007. Swedish Institute. 44 p.

• *The Swedish Institute, Box 7434, SE-103 91 Stockholm, Sweden. E-mail si@si.se; website: www.si.se*

15. **Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust News and Views.** 11/07: Linnaeus tricentenary; etc.

• *OWB Trust, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN 6012.*

16a. **Forest & Bird.** No.326 11/07:Hakatere Conservation Park opened – (site of BotSoc trip 31/12/04 to Ashburton Lakes); Stewart Island pest-free study funded by Tindall Foundation; MWH-sponsored national native plant seed bank; Wellington Marine BioBlitz report; riparian planting on farms; wild deer are like possums on stilts; Geoff Park discusses native ecosystems; 1080 decision a positive step; etc.

16b. **Marine BioBlitz – illustrations of WN south coast flora and fauna.** See www.marinebioblitz.wellington.net.nz

• *F&B, Box 631, WN. Ph 385 7374. office@forestandbird.org.nz*

17. **Makaracarpas Estuary Restoration Plan.** 26 p.

• *Marieke Hilhorst, 1069A Makara Rd, Makara Beach, WN. Ph 476 2076.*

Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden Newsletter. 12/07: Herbarium Amoris exhibition - see Events section; etc.

• *FoWBG, Box 28 065, Kelburn, WN.*

19. **Matiu Really Matters Newsletter.** 11/07: **F&B restoration programme now infilling, and successional species; etc.**

• *Friends of Matiu/Somes Island, c/- Wellington Tenth's Trust, Box 536, WN.*

20. **Flying Pickle – Voice of Korokoro, Maungaraki and Normandale Community.** 11/07: Ratanui, 2.7 ha addition to Percy Scenic Reserve – BotSoc's were involved with this achievement.

• www.flyingpickle.co.nz

21. **Friends of Mana Island Newsletter.** No. 33 12/07: restoration programme now infilling, and threatened species; matagouri plantings; weeds distribution mapped with GPS; etc.

• *FoMI Inc, Box 54 101, Mana 5247.*

22. **East Harbour Environmental Association Newsletter.** No. 124 11/07: Fitzroy Bay foredune restoration trial; etc.

• *EHEA. Box 41 029, Eastbourne.*

23. **Pipipi.** No. 28 10/07: 168.5 ha in Stony Bay Valley to be added to Hinewai; native regeneration and gorse; *Tmesipteris* sp. to 40 cm long; *Gentianella grisebachii* found at Hinewai; donations welcome – send to Maurice White Native Forest Trust at Hinewai; etc.

• *Hinewai Reserve, RD 3, Akaroa 7583.*

Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust News. No. 37 11/07: Long Point, Catlins coast, purchased for habitat– (10 km east of Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre, the base for BotSoc's 1/07 field trip); etc.

• *YEPT, Box 5409, DN.*

ECOLink. 10-11/07: **emissions trading, forestry, agriculture and biodiversity; Climate Policy Accord between ECO and forestry companies; NZ's response to biodiversity decline; etc.** (BotSoc is a member body of ECO).

• *ECO, Box 11 057, WN. Ph 385 7545, eco@eco.net.nz*

Trees for Survival. No. 3 9/07 and no. 4 12/07: "children planting trees for our future".

• *TJS, Box 51 684, Pakuranga, Manukau 2140. Ph 09 520 5723. info@fsnz.org.nz*

Ecological Management and Restoration. Three issues per year. Feature articles, and project, technical and research reports sought on Australasian topics. Editor: Dr Tein McDonald, Ecological Society of Australia.

• *Blackwell Publishing, 550 Swanston St, (Box 378), Carlton South, VIC 3053, Australia. teinm@ozemail.com.au*

The rise and fall of Cook Strait – a look at the dynamics of NZ's unusual tidal system. Michael Whitfield Foster. 2007. \$10. 37 p + 26 diagrams.

• *M.W. Foster, 30 Campbell St, Karori, WN 6012. Ph 934 4536.*

SUBMISSIONS MADE

• 6 November. **Managing numbers of deer, chamois, thar and pigs.**

• 26 November. **Wellington South Coast Classification Plan**

SUBMISSIONS DUE

• 25 February. **Application NORO7001 from Auckland Regional Council to release from containment a beetle, *Lema obscura* F.** (Chrysomelidae), for the biological control of the weed tradescantia/*Tradescantia fluminensis*.

• *Environmental Risk Management Authority, Box 131, WN. Ph 04 916 2426, submissions@ermanz.govt.nz. On-line submission form www.erma.nz.govt.nz/consultations/consult-apps.cfm*

• *End April –see public notices late February/early March. **Draft Northern Reserves Management Plan.***

• *Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. **Ph 499 4444.***

Letters to the editor

We would welcome your comments on any aspect of BotSoc's activities:

- places you would like to visit on field trips
- topics you would like to have covered in evening meetings
- topics you would like covered in BotSoc's Bulletin and Newsletter
- other matters of concern or interest to you.

*Thank you
The committee*

Nominations sought

Who should BotSoc nominate for:

- Loder Cup?
- H. H. Allan Mere Award?
- Conservation Award?

Your suggestions would be welcome! Please send them to:
Barbara Clark, Secretary, WBS, PO Box 10 412, WN. Ph 233 8202, fax 233 2222, bj_clark@xtra.co.nz

Loder Cup 2007

The Loder Cup was awarded this year to Amanda Baird, DOC's biodiversity programme manager on the Chatham Islands. Based on Chatham Island since 1996, Amanda has been instrumental in bringing many threatened Chatham Island plant species back from the brink of extinction, as well as working tirelessly to protect and restore vegetation on the Chathams. Congratulations Amanda.

BotSoc Bulletins

Expand your collection of our "flagship" publication and boost BotSoc's bank balance! The following back issues are available:

1950s: no.23, 9/50; no.30, 12/58.

1960s: no.32, 12/61; no.33, 2/66; no.34, 11/67; no.36, 12/69.

Index to Bulletins Nos. 1-35.

1970s: no.37, 11/71; no.38, 9/74; no.39, 10/76; no.40, 8/78.

1980s: no.41, 9/81; no.42, 9/85; no.43, 4/87; no.44, 11/88.

1990s: no.46, 12/94; no.47, 9/96.

2000s: no.48, 9/02, no.49, 12/05.

Cost \$3/issue, incl. p&p; \$12 for any five issues incl. p&p.

Copies of our latest *Bulletin*, no.50 3/07, are \$11 each incl. p&p, to members and other individuals, and \$21 each incl. p&p, to organisations.

Please make your cheque payable to Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6143. Thank you!

Rodney Lewington, Treasurer

Sue Millar honoured

We congratulate Sue who received a civic award from Upper Hutt Mayor, Wayne Guppy, "for her considerable contribution to the environment and conservation in Upper Hutt, particularly through her involvement with Forest and Bird and Wellington Botanical Society".

Sue co-leads, with Glennis Sheppard, two BotSoc workbees in Te Marua Bush a year. Other work cited in her award includes:

- Leading the establishment of a nursery at Rimutaka Prison from 1985 to 2003, when it moved to Maidstone Park
- Leading the raising of over 30,000 native plants, and workbees to plant them in restoration sites around the city
- Implementing and co-ordinating planting and weeding activities in all Forest and Bird restoration sites in the city over the past 20 years.

Well done, Sue!

Source: Upper Hutt Leader, 31/10/2007

Community Post 2007

We thank the South Wellington Community Post Board for their generous grant of 1000 post-paid envelopes. They are to be used within twelve months for promoting BotSoc and its aims and objectives.

*Mick Parsons, Vice-President,
Rodney Lewington, Treasurer*

NZ Biodiversity Recording Network

The network is an online system for viewing and recording natural history observations from anywhere in the country; for common species, from common places, as well as the rarities.

It will enable you to set up a site from your backyard or school grounds, and build up a picture of the changing of nature through the years or seasons. If you have any problems, contact meurkc@landcareresearch.co.nz

The network is funded from Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information Services (TFBIS), and hosted by Landcare Research.

www.nzbrn.org.nz

National Pollination Survey (NPS)

The purpose of the NPS is to survey bird-plant mutualisms throughout NZ. We are using the pollination service for tree fuchsia as an indicator of the health and wellbeing of our native ecosystems. This is part of research run jointly by Landcare Research, Department of Conservation, and University of Canterbury.

We need your assistance. We need lots of people to complete the survey from many locations all over NZ this summer! Please help by completing the survey for a tree fuchsia population near you.

For more information, and survey forms, visit: www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/pollination_survey/index.shtml

*Jenny Ladley
Research Assistant
School of Biological Sciences
University of Canterbury*

MWH Seed Bank

New Zealand's only native plant seed bank was opened in Palmerston North in August. It will ensure the survival of more than 200 threatened species, by drying the seeds, then storing them at minus 20 degrees C.

The bank joins a worldwide seed bank network working to protect plants from the effects of climate change. It was mooted by the NZ Plant Conservation Network. Northland iwi, Ngati Kuri, donated the first seeds for the bank, which is housed at AgResearch's Margo Forde Germplasm Centre. The bank was funded by environmental consultancy, MWH NZ, and will be managed by AgResearch.

Source: The Dominion Post, 17 August 2007

New members

We welcome the following new members to BotSoc:

Drakeford Williams Architects, Margaret and Roger Crimp, David Fraser, Di Batchelor, Kate McPherson and Grant Timlin.

Land protection

Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation has recently protected the following sites:

- Lake Huritini covenant-Kapiti Area.
- c. 15ha. Protects a shallow dune lake formed by parabolic dunes damming runoff from a flood plain; highly representative of dune lakes formerly found in Horowhenua. Contains raupo reed land, flax and sedges, with cabbage trees over *Coprosma propinqua*. Access to the lake is by arrangement with the Minister and owner for botanical purposes only.
- Stonewall proposed scenic reserve, Wairarapa. 121 ha. Owner: HMQ (DOC, Wellington Conservancy). Protects threatened plant communities of regionally vulnerable coastal turfs, consolidated coastal gravel and beach, grey scrub and coastal scarp adjoining Aorangi Forest Park; includes western part of Ngapotiki Fan. Contains threatened *Pimelea/Raoulia* mat plant association; an undescribed *Notoreas* moth; *Austrofestuca littoralis*; and other regionally significant plant species including: *Cheilanthes distans*, *Chionochloa beddiei*, *Coriaria 'rimutaka'*, *Eryngium vesiculosum*, *Scandia geniculata*, *Sonchus kirkii* and *Sophora molloyi*.

David Bishop
Community Relations Officer
Wellington Conservancy
Department of Conservation
Ph 472 5821

“Carex raotest”

Curious about a slightly bronze carex I had seen occasionally on the Carrad Covenant trip, I brought back a small specimen to study. Unfortunately I had found no mature ones, and had to be content with a very young flower head, only about 7 cm tall. Even under magnification it was too immature to be useful for identification, so I sent the specimen to Colin Ogle, in Wanganui. Colin had lived and botanised in Pukerua Bay for many years, so I couldn't have chosen a better person. Back came the prompt, full reply—that it was the unnamed “Carex raotest”, so tag-named because it has features of both *C. raoulii* and *C. testacea*. Colin went on to write that when Tony Druce first saw the plant at Colin's he immediately suggested the tag-name, and admitted that he had probably listed it in various places as *C. raoulii*, which in fact is much less common. Colin says “To me, from live material, the main features are (a) leaf shape in cross section – double-folded leaves = *C. raoulii*, *C. 'raotest'*, V-shaped = *C. testacea*; (b) utricles hispid on surface = *C. raoulii*; utricles smooth, with maybe odd, fine spines on the beak and /or shoulder of the utricle = *C. testacea*, *C. 'raotest'*; (c) terminal spikes purely male = *C. testacea*, *C. 'raotest'*; terminal spike with some utricles at outermost tip = *C. raoulii*. “

Barbara Mitcalfe

Northern rata flowering

Take Waterworks Road west from SH2 at Kaitoke, to Pakuratahi Forks, Kaitoke Regional Park, at the end of December—early January, to see if up to fifty northern rata/*Metrosideros robusta* are in flower. Take binoculars, so that you can study the many huge trees close-up!

Dave Holey

New Zealand's favourite plant for 2007

The willowherb, *Epilobium microphyllum*, won this year's NZ Plant Conservation Network poll for New Zealand's favourite plant. *E. microphyllum* occurs from Kawhia and East Cape south to Stewart Island.



Epilobium microphyllum, winner of the 2007 favourite plant poll.
Photo: Naomi Lorimer.

Other plants in the top ten this year were Chatham Island forget-me-not, bamboo rush, tawari, nikau, northern rata, kakabeak, coral broom, Poor Knights lily, and water brome. For more information about NZ's favourite plant see www.nzpcn.org.nz.

QEII Trust Open Space Covenants

The trust has recently registered the following Open Space Covenants in the Wellington region:

- Kapiti Coast D.C./Rowe – 3.8 ha forest
- Kapiti Coast D.C./Tyler Prentis Properties Limited – 0.5 ha wetland
- Upper Hutt C.C./Money and Tyson – 0.3 ha forest

Source: Open Space no. 71, 11/07

BotSoc of Otago calendar

Congratulations to BSO on compiling and producing their beautifully illustrated 2008 calendar.

In A4 landscape format, with large, bold figures and a bonus page for January 2009, it is a very good buy at \$13 plus \$1.50 postage. *Ranunculus sericophyllus* adorns the cover, then there's a sharp reminder on January 2008's page, that exotic plants such as *Hieracium lepidulum* (pictured en masse) have invaded too many indigenous plant communities in New Zealand. A wide range of plant types is pictured, from colourful, crustose lichen *Placopsis perrugosa* to snow-white mountain ribbonwood, *Hoheria lyallii*.

Barbara Mitcalfe

OBITUARY

Jeanette Skinner

14 July 1963 – 19 October 2007

Jeanette and Owen have been members of BotSoc since 2002. That's what the records say, although to my memory they seem to have been around longer. They have also attended several annual bryology workshops.

Owen has always been the serious botanist. Jeanette took an interest in, and obviously loved, native flowers. She showed a certain independence, and we recognise that Jeanette liked to extend herself.

On longer botany trips, the main group would drive to a site to make the usual slow start, looking at plants and compiling lists. Jeanette would take off, sometimes on foot, sometimes by bike. We might see her during the day, often miles from base. Come evening, Jeanette would be back having covered many times the distance we had, and having explored areas we could not hope to reach.

BotSoc trips and bryology workshops gave Jeanette and Owen the opportunity to develop their individual interests, doing what each loved and enjoyed during the day, then coming together, and with others, in the evenings.

Jeanette's energy and stamina were remarkable, especially on what appeared to be a limited diet. On our trips, Jeanette did her own cooking, always careful not to get in the way of the designated cooks. She would rise early, and I don't think I ever got to the kitchen before Jeanette. For the evening meal, she would either have finished her one-pot cooking before the rest of us got started, or cook later.

Once she sat down Jeanette, showed her interest in botany. She would join in the discussion, and thumb through the reference books, looking over what we and she had found during the day.

There is one other memory I think we should share—it illustrates Jeanette's tidiness of mind and thoughtfulness for others. In a post card to BotSoc a little less than a month before she died, Jeanette wrote:

Just a note to say that I must resign from the Botanical Society because of ill health and imminent death.

She went on to mention the trips we had been on and closed with:

I'll miss the forthcoming ones but then again I'll be there in spirit.

She signed it,

Life External [sic]

Jeanette

I don't know if that was a slip of the pen—maybe she meant External, or perhaps Jeanette really meant to write life eternal.

We will miss Jeanette's energy, stamina, and interest in things botanical. Our sympathy goes out to Owen and Jeanette's family

Rodney Lewington

Percy Scenic Reserve news

Redevelopment news – SH 2 realignment

The works around the nursery area are nearly complete. The culvert work for Percy's Stream is the last step. The Head-Wall has been installed after being constructed on site, and gabions are to be placed in the stream walls for protection against flood.

Petone foreshore – threatened plant gardens

The Percy crew look after the gardens at Petone Foreshore around Settlers Museum and Buick Street.

These gardens are not irrigated but are amazingly resistant to drought and salt spray.

Some of the more threatened plants thriving are:

Aciphylla dieffenbachii, *A. squarrosa*, *Austrofestuca littoralis*, *Euphorbia glauca*, *Eryngium vesiculosum*, *Carmichaelia kirkii*, *Chionochloa beddiei*, *Coprosma propinqua* 'Moa Point', *Lepidium flexicaule*, *L. oleraceum*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, *Pimelea* aff. *aridula* 'Cook Strait', *Pimelea* aff. *aridula* 'Te Mata Peak', *Selliera rotundifolia*.

The gardens directly adjacent to the Museum building are Wellington coastal species. It was designed by Robyn Smith in 2002 and is maintained in this theme and enhanced as Wellington coastal species become available.

Jill Broome, Plant Collections Supervisor
Percy Scenic Reserve

DOC Wellington Visitor Centre

Te Pae Manuhiri, Te Rohe o Te Whanganui ā Tara

Conservation House, 18–32 Manners St



- Track, hut, conservation information
- Kapiti Island visitor permits
- Hut tickets
- Backcountry Hut Passes
- Hunting permits

Open: Mon – Fri 9 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Sat 10 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Tel: 04 384 7770 Fax: 04 384 7773

E-mail: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz

Web: www.doc.govt.nz



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Panakenake / *Lobelia (Pratia) angulata*. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

OBITUARY

Gordon Leary 1 November 1940 – 8 December 2007

Gordon, a scientist by profession, had many other interests—films, music, birds, the flora, the outdoors. He was an active member of BotSoc for many years, and with Sheelagh and their children, has been on field trips and camps since the late 1960s. Some of these trips stick in our memory.

In that era, BotSoc was a family affair, with children from the Druce and Leary families joined by those from the Gray, Jackson, Simpson, Bruce, Inch and other families. Neill and Barbara Simpson recall – “*Our first encounter with Sheelagh and Gordon was in March 1970 on the Kaipororo/Mangatainoka trip. We were surprised to find that another couple had also brought their baby. Simon was about seven months old. Our families grew to three of similar ages, and all went BotSoccing. We think of Gordon and Sheelagh almost as one. They formed a family group. He watched over the family, encouraging adventure and allowing the children to extend themselves in safety. He showed them things that might interest them. We remember his wit, his wise counselling, patience and good humour, sometimes in difficult circumstances. While most of us concentrated on plants, he also enjoyed other activities, e.g. bird watching.*”

There were gaps in their participation in BotSoc when Sheelagh and Gordon were overseas, first for years in Canada; more recently in Sweden. In recent years we have enjoyed having them back in NZ. Gordon has been a trip leader. He demonstrated his eye for a route at Easter 2003. Expected tracks in the Aorangi Range had disappeared; mist descended; and night was falling. We were considering seeking shelter for the night, but we did not need any—he found a route down to the valley and “home”.

Robyn Smith recalls last year’s visit to Stewart Island. “*Gordon demonstrated his navigational abilities, finding the route back to Mason Bay Hut. Out all day among dunes, wetlands and forest remnants, and tired and parched, he led us to a beautiful dune lake, with shag nests and ducks, where we watched shags coming to roost - a magical experience! He often led the way and I felt he was impatient with our pace. He would forge ahead, then wait while we caught up. While waiting, he would explore the immediate area and find things that we might have missed.*”

Robyn suspects that Gordon would strike up an opposing point of view to make you think about what you were saying. She remembers having a heated debate on karaka and its place in Wellington, only to find that they agreed with each other!

Over the decades Gordon and Sheelagh explored much of NZ with BotSoc—Northwest Nelson, Ruahine Range, Mt Somers, Stewart Island, Northland, Lake Tennyson, etc. They also enjoyed tramping and exploring on their own and with friends. In October, on Lord Howe Island, we weeded each morning and went on eco-tours each afternoon. Gordon took a full part in this, including climbing Mt Gower 875 m.

Gordon wasn’t at our most recent BotSoc meeting, but not because of ill-health. That day he and Sheelagh were climbing Mt Hector, high in the Tararuas, as their tribute to James Hector, the father of science in NZ. Hector died 100 years ago. Gordon and Sheelagh were among those who helped convince Hutt City Council to lease the Hector estate adjacent to Percy Scenic Reserve.

Gordon and Sheelagh have been commissars for some of our longer BotSoc camps. It requires skill to ensure that the makings for the menus are in the right place at the right time, when there are over thirty people in three parties around Oban, or meandering to or from Mason Bay. We never ran out of anything.

Then there is their new house and surrounding bush. Gordon and Sheelagh are justifiably proud of their “wild garden”. They both understand the problems and practical aspects of regenerating native bush.

Gordon was not just a good amateur naturalist, but also a good manager, and his opinion was sought and respected. He has been a valued committee member in recent years. His interest in science and young people showed when he and I judged the entries for BotSoc’s Award at the NIWA Science Fair in August.

As individuals, we will miss Gordon’s company, his knowledge and enthusiasm, his jokes and repartee. As a Society, and particularly on the Committee, we will miss his clear thinking and wise counsel. It is Sheelagh who will miss him far more. In the past we so often thought and spoke of “Sheelagh and Gordon” in one breath. We will not forget him, but it is now Sheelagh we need to nurture. Our thoughts and our sympathy go to Sheelagh and the family.

Rodney Lewington

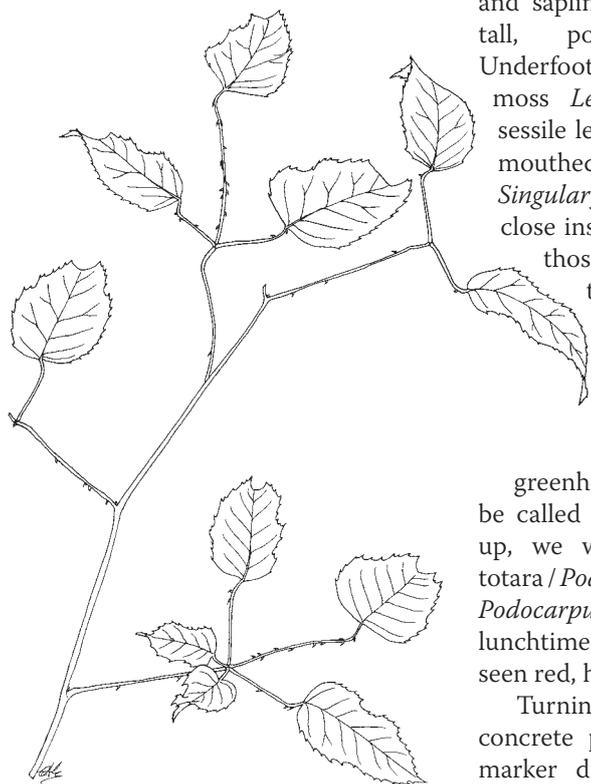


Gentianella montana subsp. *ionostigma*.
Southern Tararua Range.
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

TRIP REPORTS

Saturday 6 October: Pakuratahi Forest: Climie Ridge – Goat Rock – Tane’s Track

A poor forecast but a fine, breezy day eventuated for our 400m climb followed by a traverse along the northern section of Climie Ridge. Only metres from the carpark, we paused to note a roadside community of wetland species in a small, wet area with e.g. tataramoa/*Rubus australis*, tupari-



Tataramoa. Illustration by Eleanor Burton.

maunga/*Gahnia xanthocarpa*; maire tawake/*Syzygium maire*; hukihuki/*Coprosma tenuicaulis*, and kahikatea/*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*. Shortly, huge, old, emergent, northern rata trees garlanded with epiphytes were towering beside the track, and we were pleased to note their seedlings and saplings as we climbed through tall, podocarp/broadleaf forest. Underfoot, snugly concealed in the moss *Leucobryum candidum*, the sessile leaves and minute, fimbriate-mouthed flowers of the orchid *Singularybas oblongus* rewarded close inspection through a lens. For those of us clutching our copy of the recently-published *Wild orchids of the lower North Island*, another orchid species to be identified en route was *Diplodium alobulum*, a slender, greenhood species which used to be called *Pterostylis alobula*. Further up, we were reminded that Hall's totara/*Podocarpus hallii* has become *Podocarpus cunninghamii*, and by lunchtime, at the ridge crest, we had seen red, hard and silver beech.

Turning north, we passed a concrete plinth erected as a survey marker during construction of the

Rimutaka Tunnel. It now provides a useful measure of the age of the trees in the immediate vicinity, since the vegetation must have been felled at the time, for visibility. En route, a discussion focussed on the difference between the botanical epithets “serrulate” and “undulate”, and on the “differences that make **the** difference” when one is comparing species, compared with the differences that are just part of the normal range of intra-specific variability. Later, we saw one pole raukawa/*Raukawa edgerleyi* and admired a mahoe wao/*Meliclytus lanceolatus*, with tiny, fragrant, wine-coloured flowers in dense clusters along the stems. We also noted a single occurrence of peretao/*Blechnum colensoi* in what seemed a drier-than-usual site, ten species of filmy ferns, and *Cyathea cunninghamii*. Returning via what is known locally as the “cycle track” and the old, railway alignment, we saw some fine specimens of tutukiwi/*Pterostylis banksii* in flower.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Barry Dent, Sue Freitag, Ian and Jill Goodwin, Bryan Halliday, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne (co-leader), Pat McLean, Barbara Mitcalfe, (co-leader/ scribe), Phil Parnell, Mick Parsons.

Saturday 20 October 2007: Dench Garden weeding

There are always delights to be savoured in this special garden where Arnold and Ruth have toiled for decades. Their skill and perseverance are evident throughout, and 17 pairs of busy BotSoc hands worked with a will, to show their appreciation. One specimen I particularly noted at this workbee was *Leucogenes neglecta* in full flower. The only other time I have seen this species was in the wild, in Marlborough in the 80s, when it was still only tag-named. These and other treasures are a reward for those visiting the Dench garden, an ideal place to be to learn plants outside one's normal range. While Dave and Barbara

struggled mightily to remove a large, rogue, tuber ladder fern, others sawed off dead branches, or meticulously weeded swards of *Leptinella* spp. or painstakingly released tussocks from relentlessly-invading velvet grass, all this, while catching up on botanical/BotSoc news.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Barbara Clark, Arnold and Ruth Dench (leaders), Bryan Halliday, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Alena Machin, Barbara Mitcalfe, (scribe), Phil Parnell, Mick Parsons, Darea Sherratt, Robyn Smith, Sunita Singh, Julia Stace, Carol West.



Tutukiwi. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

3 November 2007: Whareroa Farm, Mackays Crossing

This was a combined BotSoc and Guardians of Whareroa trip. Ann Evans of the Guardians described the history of the farm. It was covered in lowland broadleaf-podocarp forest until the 1850s, but was then subjected to draining and clearing for cattle and sheep farming, until taken over by the Defence Department for the US Marines in 1942. After WWII, it was transferred to the Department of Lands and Survey, then Landcorp. During the 1980s it was a farm park open to the public. It was bought by DOC in 2005. Permission to visit the farm is now usually easy to obtain from DOC Waikanae.

We first explored the wetland area near the gate, where flaxes, cabbage trees and *Carex* spp. from a nursery in Taupo have been planted. Many of them have yellowing of the leaves, possibly because of “yellow-leaf”, the pH of the soil, or the provenance of the plants. The small streams have retoreto/*Azolla rubra* and three-square/*Isolepis prolifer* in abundance. Other wetland plants include *Hydrocotyle elongata*, weeds such as watercress/*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* and water celery/*Apium nodiflorum*, and a variety of introduced pasture grasses. On the north bank, plantings include kawakawa, looking stressed in the sunlight away from the bush edge, and karamu/*Coprosma lucida*. Releasing the planted species from the grasses and weeds may cause more stress, if all shade is lost. Pest animals include hares, rabbits, possums, feral goats and sheep. DOC has employed a possum hunter.

The remnant bush on the slopes includes mahoe, karaka and rangiora at the edges. The undergrowth has been browsed by cattle. The canopy comprises kohekohe, tawa and some emergent rewarewa. Ground ferns include *Asplenium hookerianum*, and hound’s tongue. Akatea/clinging rata and kareao/supplejack vines, and ota/leatherleaf fern grow on many trees.

When we left the remnant we followed a tributary to the northeast, past a stand of gum trees acting as a nursery for native flora, and inhabited by tui and eastern rosella. The few live totara on the hill, and many dead, headless, mamaku, bore witness to spraying done six years ago. Gorse is invading the sprayed area. Nearby, two



Ann Evans with a pair of very large *Carex secta*. Photo: Rodney Lewington.

Carex secta, over 1.5 m tall, looked spectacular.

Following a well-earned cuppa, we moved south to a second bush remnant on a north-facing slope. The canopy includes miro, kahikatea, kohekohe, tawa, narrow-leaved maire, and kanuka, with some clinging rata/*Metrosideros perforata* at the edges. The forest is devoid of understorey, since cattle have been excluded only since June 2007. Many small seedlings are appearing at the bush edges, including mahoe, taupata, kawakawa, karaka and *Asplenium hookerianum*. On the eastern side of the remnant are several juvenile *Streblus banksii* trees. Nearby we saw the orchid, *Earina mucronata*, in flower. We lunched near a 7 m hanging mass of adventitious roots—were they clinging rata—a dead vine climbed the supporting tree—or were they pohutukawa growing epiphytically? Which ever they were, they were very impressive.

In a paddock, we found a large, mature, ewekuri/large-leaved milk tree/*Streblus banksii*. It is infected with galls and some trunk rot, but otherwise appears healthy, despite the exposed site. The third remnant we visited was at the mouth of Ramaroa Stream, a southern tributary of Whareroa Stream. It has been fenced for about 20 years and has very little cattle damage. The dominant trees are kohekohe with matai, titoki, with a kawakawa understorey, rata and supplejack vines, and *Pseudopanax* hybrids. The groundcover is mainly ferns and kohekohe seedlings. *Tradescantia* and arum lilies are encroaching on

its boundaries. We went upstream to an historic reservoir—it used to supply Paekakariki—and the site of the old homestead surrounded by large pohutukawa.

We had a great day exploring, listing many species previously not known on the farm. The lists have been sent to DOC and Greater Wellington Regional Council. The weather, predicted to be poor, was fine until we returned to the car park, and then mist and drizzle arrived.



Chris Hopkins inspects a mass of adventitious roots. Photo: Rodney Lewington.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Dave Allen, Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Gavin Dench, Barry Dent, Ann Evans (co-leader), Sue Freitag, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Brenda Johnston, Michael Keith, Rodney Lewington, Pat McLean, Barbara Mitcalfe, Karen Palmer (co-leader/scribe), Darea Sherratt, Sunita Singh, Jonathan Waterworth.

17 November 2007: Te Marua Bush Workbee

This workbee concentrated mainly on releasing plants in the southern extension to the Bush, planted during the winters of 2006 and 2007. Despite the rocky “soil” and exposed site, most plants have survived, and those planted 18 months ago are emerging well through the long grass and other weeds. The south and west borders have been planted with toetoe to form a windbreak and these are thriving and flowering already. Greater Wellington

Regional Council have removed the old fence between the original extension, older plantings and the new area, which gives good internal access within the boundary fencing.

A survey of the main Bush by Barbara, showed plenty of healthy seedlings and only a few, small patches of weed growth. Within the older planting, a “Vigilant” paste attack was made on the persistent blackberry amongst the tree bases where grubbing

is difficult.

This year we had a perfect morning to enjoy the job, unlike last year’s cold, wet, weeding day – what a difference it makes!

Participants: Bev Abbott, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Cliff Mason, Barbara Mitcalfe, Sue Millar (co-leader / scribe), Glennis Sheppard, (co-leader), Darea Sherratt, Carol West.

Saturday 1 December 2007: Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton

Using Colin Ogle’s 31/7/1980 species list for Raroa Reserve, Wairaka and the coast from Pukerua Bay to Wairaka Rock as a base, we began in Raroa Reserve and botanised along the track and True Left side of the gully. The reserve is dominated by a kohekohe canopy with some ngaio and karaka and large, old mahoe and kanuka. Light filtering through to the forest floor has encouraged numbers of native seedlings, although there are also patches of veldt grass, *Ehrharta erecta*.

We emerged from the cool bush to see the brilliant blue of the Tasman Sea, and views of the Pukerua Bay – Paekakariki escarpment to the north, and Kapiti Island to the west. Climbing the hill on the Carrad farm, with a Department of Conservation

scientific reserve covering most of the escarpment below, the vegetation changes dramatically. Wind-sculpted *Coprosma propinqua*, *Poa cita* and manuka hug the contours of the land. At the west end of the reserve is a remnant of coastal forest with wharangi on its edge.

Climbing a high point on the Carrads’ land, we stopped for a cuppa and to admire the view which now included the escarpment to the south, Mana Island and the South Island. We then descended to one of five coastal remnants, covenanted with QEII by the Carrads, which have been fenced for only nine months, and are already showing good recovery. We then descended the “waterfall track” to Wairaka Rock on the coast where Barbara re-discovered several plants of

Trisetum antarcticum in flower. Other plants of interest were *Peperomia urvilleana*, *Disphyma australe*, a hairy *Wahlenbergia*, *Oxalis exilis*, *Senecio lautus*, *Colobanthus muelleri* and the odd *Meliclytus crassifolius*.

After lunch, we walked along the stony beach to Plimmerton. Sadly, the escarpment is infested by feral goats which have eaten out many plants you would expect to find. Instead, the escarpment, with its many huge scree slopes, is dominated mainly by less palatable species such as *Phormium cookianum* ssp. *hookeri*, *Coprosma propinqua* and tauhinu. On one scree slope, a plant stood out because it was a different colour green from the other vegetation. On close inspection it proved to be a ngaio, but because it is continuously being buried by scree, only the tips its canopy were showing. *Raoulia hookeri* in full flower also caught our eye. In a freshwater pond created by quarrying, several tarapunga/red-billed gulls (status: Gradual Decline) were bathing. Nearer Plimmerton, we found an extensive area of the nasty, invasive, weed, *Polypodium vulgare*, a fern which resembles hound’s-tongue, and a huge area of pampas. Closer still to civilisation we saw a patch of Japanese honeysuckle beginning to spread over the low vegetation.

Participants: Jonathan Anderson, Gavin Dench, Dave Holey, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Sheena Hudson, Brenda Johnston, Cliff Mason, Ann, Barbara and Kaaren Mitcalfe, Phil Parnell, Mick Parsons, Sunita Singh, Robyn Smith (leader/scribe), Yvonne Weeber, Julia White, Julia Williams.



The view south from Carrad’s farm to Mana Island. Photo: Robyn Smith.

Saturday 8 December 2007: Hutt City rata walk

We had a pleasing increase in attendance, helped by publicity in the *Hutt News*. It was sunny and warm even at 9.00 a.m. Across Ewen Bridge we strode and into Victoria St Reserve where we had a close-up view of a young, bushy, northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta* in good flower. This was closely peered at, and the comparison drawn with the related pohutukawa, *Metrosideros excelsa*. I answered a question from John on the various points of difference. Further on, the older, Leary St rata put on a good show, though not quite up to last year's standard. Then we saw the distinctive, rounded, beehive shape of a large, unrestricted, openly grown northern rata in the Pharazyn grouping. Back over Ewen Bridge and into Buhla Park, where Rosie spoke to the captivated

group about naturally-regenerating, terrestrial rata trees assisted by possum control in Gracefield Scrub, (a forthcoming BotSoc trip). Nearby, two recent plantings in partial flower should make a growth surge in coming years.

After a short break at the start/finish point, some walkers left the group and two more joined. We then took another loop to the east, checking rata in Bloomfield, Waterloo and Witako streets and Kings Crescent. The tree on the berm outside 16 Witako St, one of five growing near each other in this street, gave the best floral display of the day. On the way back we looked at the attractive, old residence at 44 Pretoria St. where Sir James Hector lived in his later years.

After we had shared a lot of botanical information at an introductory level, pointing out other, thriving, native trees, e.g. rimu, totara, puriri, ngaio, kohuhu, tarata, taupata, akiraho and karaka, the remaining members of a happy group then dispersed.

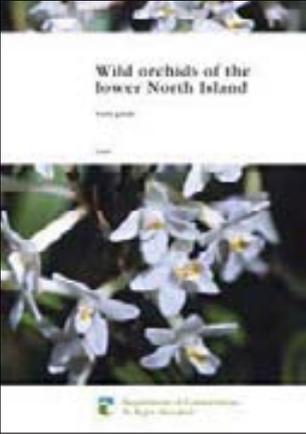
Participants: Rosemary Collier, Rosie Doole, (deputy-leader), Paul Duncan, Sylvia Hart (from Hamilton), Jenny and John Hatton, Dave Holey (leader/scribe), Denis and Karen Hooper, Joyce (surname unknown), Marianne Jenner, Leila Lamb, Grenville and Nicole Lee (from France), Chris Merkley (from USA), Marilyn Merrett, Syd Moore (deputy-leader), Frances Potter and four-legged friend; Helena Welle-Chew, Lyn Wright.



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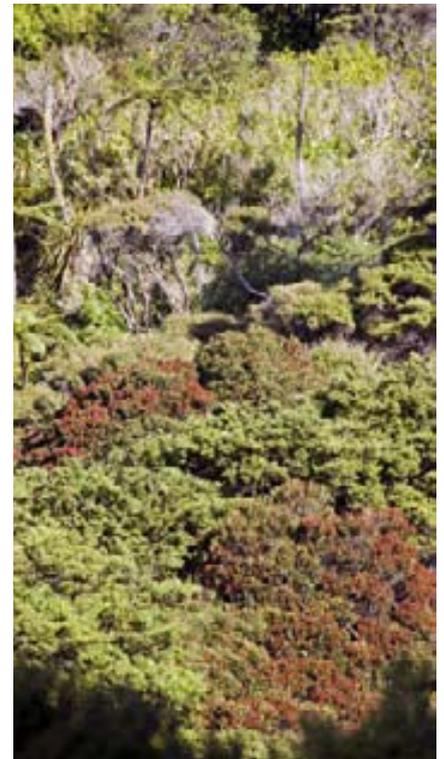
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Northern rata flowers (top) and mature trees in Haywards Scenic Reserve, Whites Line East, Lower Hutt. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Summer trip information: Great Barrier Island

This year's trip, to Great Barrier Island, is from Wednesday 30 January to Friday 8 February. This will be nine nights.

Registrations are open now. If you intend to come, we would appreciate knowing as soon as possible. Accommodation cannot be guaranteed for bookings made after 30 September. A registration form is attached to this newsletter.

The ferry to Great Barrier Island does not sail everyday. Flights leave several times per day. Please take this into consideration if you are not staying the full time.

Accommodation

We are booking this as a group; see the registration form for options. Bring your own sleeping bag, pillow slip and sheets. If you wish to hire bed linen you must order it in advance from the camp.

Orama Christian Camp
Karaka Bay Road
Port Fitzroy, Great Barrier Island
Phone 09 429 0063
www.orama.org.nz

This is what Orama had to say about themselves:

Orama is situated just north of Port Fitzroy in the midst of Great Barrier Island Conservation Reserve – ideal for activities or relaxation. Tramp, swim, play table tennis, fish, sunbathe, surf, snorkel, or just relax in our beautiful grounds which lead down to the sea.

Our accommodation is not luxurious but very comfortable, clean and wholesome. This means we can offer very reasonable pricing. Orama is a non-profit trust and placed handy to the best tramping areas. It is the largest accommodation facility on Great Barrier with backpackers, cabins, a lodge and self-contained houses and units.

You'll just love the relaxed lifestyle here on Karaka Bay where we have been for more than forty years.

Transport to and from the Camp

It is your responsibility to arrange and pay for transport to and from the campsite at Port Fitzroy. You can travel there by ferry or plane. Get in early for the best prices. Discounts for groups.

Ferry

Sealink Freephone 0800 732 546 www.sealink.co.nz Fare \$110 return

This is a 4.5 hour trip from Auckland to Tryphena, the main ferry wharf on Great Barrier Island. You can wait for the boat to unload, and then continue on to Port Fitzroy but it is far quicker to take a shuttle. The ferry leaves Auckland from 45 Jellicoe Street at 6 a.m. Ferries are once a day but not every day. The return ferry on Friday 8 February departs from Tryphena at 7 p.m.

Plane

Great Barrier Airlines
Freephone 0800 900 600

www.greatbarrierairlines.co.nz

Fares \$76-\$96 one way. Fourteen people per plane. Okiwi airport is the closest to Port Fitzroy.

Flights depart from the domestic terminal at Auckland Airport four times a day

Transport to Orama Christian camp

Shuttle buses from the airport must be pre-booked. If a large group is planning to travel together by ferry, it would be a good idea to pre-book that shuttle too. Freephone 0800 426 832 or www.greatbarriertravel.co.nz

Trips out and about on the island will require extra transport, such as shuttle vans. We do not know the costs for this.

Other useful information

There are no banks or ATM machines on the island. EFTPOS facilities are available at most shops.

Food will be supplied for shared breakfasts and packed lunches. We will share the preparation of breakfasts and lunches, as on previous trips. Please bring a container for your lunches.

Evening meals will be catered by Orama @ \$12 per person per meal.

Possible botanical trips

- Mt Hobson (Hirakimata), the most diverse and spectacular walk in the Auckland botanical region.
- Te Ahumata Plateau (Whitecliffs), stunted vegetation, mineral soils, hot pools and lush vegetation.
- Kaitoke Wetland, the largest and most pristine in Auckland.
- Whangapoua Estuary, the best unmodified estuary in northern New Zealand. QEII covenants etc.

More information to come.

Maps

NZMS 260 series, S08 & T08, S09 and T09. Three maps in total. Or look for the now out-of-print Great Barrier Island and Little Barrier Island NZMS259, 1974.

Other references

Armitage, D. 2004: Great Barrier Island. Revised edition. 192 p, p/b. \$39 95. Available at bookshops.

Higham, T. 2006: Great Barrier/Aotea Island. *Forest & Bird* 322. 38–40.

Higham, T. 2007: Catching the new wave. *Forest & Bird* 323: 32–34.

Registration form: Wellington BotSoc summer camp at Orama Christian Camp, Great Barrier Island

From Wednesday 30 January to the evening of Friday 8 February 2008

Please post this completed registration form together with your deposit of \$200 to:

Frances Forsyth
55 Holloway Road
Aro Valley
Wellington 6021
Phone 04 384 8891
MOB 021 072 5210

Email frances.forsyth@paradise.net.nz

Please let us know as soon as possible if you intend to come, and for how long, so that accommodation can be reserved. Bookings received after 30 September cannot be guaranteed a place. You will be invoiced for the balance of your costs at the conclusion of the trip.

Name/s _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

Payment method

I have enclosed a cheque for \$200 per person payable to Wellington Botanical Society account number two	
Paid by direct debit to BotSoc account 02 0536 0017812 02 quoting GBI with the name/s of the person/s registering	

Please fill in the table below. This will allow us to firm up the bookings for accommodation. We will also be able to use this table for the final invoice.

If you stay for the full period, you will be on the island for nine nights.

Options (Prices are best current estimates and include GST)	Number of nights / meals	Total costs GST incl
Tent site @ \$10 pp		
Bunkroom @ \$20 pp		
Cabins, double-bed share @ \$30 pp		
Cabins, twin share @ \$30 pp		
Catered evening meals @ \$12 pp		
Shared breakfast & lunch @ \$5 pp per day approx		
Island transport unknown as yet		
Other costs		
Subtotal		
Balance to pay (total less deposit of \$200 per person)		\$_____.

There will be some additional cost to cover transport on the island and for plant lists, group maps and some minimal overheads.

Please contact Orama yourself if you wish to hire bed linen. Phone 09 429 0063, www.orama.org.nz

Please make a copy of this registration form for your own records before posting it with your cheque/ payment details.