



From the President

Several images remain in my mind from our Easter trip to the Ruahine Range. The silvery-grey cloak of *Hymenophyllum malingii* on the mountain cedars was a highlight. This was countered by the dominance of unpalatables, especially sizeable mountain horopito (*Pseudowintera colorata*), which suggests that DOC has not been spending enough on pest control in the area for years. On the way home, we found the small, healthy, Makiekie Scenic Reserve, where some unknown person or organisation is doing a great job of controlling possums. You'll find more details in the trip report in this newsletter. Later, seeing the impacts of drought on the small trees, shrubs and ferns in a long, thin, reserve between the Pohangina River and the road was a timely reminder that conservation corridors will be more vulnerable to edge effects than areas of a similar area but rounder shape.

Bev Abbott

New members

We welcome the following:

Amelia Geary, Ann Graeme, Tracey Grose, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Belinda McLean.

Rodney Lewington, Treasurer

Nominations sought

Who should BotSoc nominate for: Loder Cup, H. H. Allan Mere Award, Wellington Regional Conservation Award?

Your suggestions would be welcome! Please send them to:

Barbara Clark, Secretary, WBS, PO Box 10 412, WN 6143. Ph 233 8202, fax 233 2222, bj_clark@xtra.co.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
mob. 021 207 6011

Wellington Botanical Society

President:	Bev Abbott	475 8468	
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Annual	ordinary \$20; country \$15; student \$5;		
Subscription:	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 – 31 August 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.

Clothing for field trips

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

Day trip gear

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

Overnight trip gear and food

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

1 = wool, polypropylene or polarfleece as applicable.

2 Optional

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

BotSoc equipment

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

- • first aid kit. NOTE: anti-histamines NOT included, because of short shelf-life
- • ten NZMS 260 Sheet R27, Pt.Q27 maps
- • ten Silva Type 3 compasses

If you are leading a BotSoc trip, and would like to take these items, please ring Chris Horne ph 04 475 7025, or Barbara Mitcalfe ph 04 475 7149.

Health and safety

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

reserves the right to restrict attendance.

Fitness and experience

Our field trips vary considerably in the level of fitness and tramping experience required. Although our main focus is botanical, our programme sometimes offers trips which, in the pursuit of our botanical aims, are more strenuous than others. Although leaders take care to minimise risks, everyone participates at their own risk. If you have any questions about whether you are fit enough for a particular trip, please contact the leader well beforehand.

Transport reimbursement of drivers

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

Meetings

Public transport to meetings

You may find the following bus services useful. They stop on Kelburn Parade, about 50 m from Lecture Theatre M101 in the Murphy Building, Victoria University:

TO MEETINGS

No. 23 Mairangi: 6.30 pm from Houghton Bay, 6.40 Zoo, 6.50 Courtenay Place, 6.57 Pastoral House, 7.02 University.

No. 23 Mairangi: 6.55 pm from Southgate, 7.05 Hospital, 7.15 Courtenay Place, 7.22 Pastoral House, 7.27 University.

No. 22 Southgate: 6.55 pm from Mairangi, 7.10 University.

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

No. 17 Railway Station: 6.35 pm from Karori Park, 6.52 University.

Cable Car at 00, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 min past each hour from Lambton Quay terminus. Alight at Salamanca Station.

FROM MEETINGS

No. 23 Southgate: 9.10 from University.

No. 23 Southgate: 10.10 from University.

Cable Car at approx. 01, 11, 21, 31, 41, 51 minutes past each hour from Salamanca Station.

Last service 10.01 p.m.

For further information ring Ridewell Enquiry Service 801-7000.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS: MAY – OCTOBER 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.

Saturday 10 May: Field trip

Korokoro-Maungaraki Bush

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE. 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, 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.

Monday 19 May: Evening meeting

Teaching restoration at VUW: Is the emphasis right?

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".

Saturday 7 June: Field trip

East Harbour Regional Park

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.

Saturday 14 June: Field trip

Te Marua Bush workbee

NOTE EXTRA FIELD TRIP

Please help BotSoc celebrate Arbor Day week, by planting the new area immediately north of Te Marua Bush. It was GW Ranger Steve Edwards' idea to extend the Bush in this way, adding to local, indigenous biodiversity and amenity, with a roadside avenue of totara and matai. Our planting will be made easier by a post-hole borer which Steve has organised. Since 1989, in partnership with Greater Wellington, we have honoured our commitment to two workbees each year in Te Marua Bush, a significant, matai/totara/maire forest remnant. Bring lunch and a drink, gloves, kneeler, trowel, grubber or spade. Meet at Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. (250 m north of Te Marua Store and then left, off SH2 for 50 m, along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park. Or, if you plan to use the train, **ring the leader beforehand** to arrange to be met on arrival at Upper Hutt Station; catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. Co-leaders: Sue Millar 526 7440; Glennis Sheppard 526 7450.

Monday 16 June: Evening meeting

Monitoring Regional Council lands

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 pirita/red mistletoe, *Peraxilla tetrapetala*.

Saturday 5 July: Field trip

Ngaio reserves

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 supplied. Catch 9.02 a.m. train on Johnsonville line from Wellington to Ngaio. 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.

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

Monday 21 July: Evening meeting **Otari-Wilton's Bush - BioBlitz and the previous century**

Rodney Lewington will summarise the floristic results of the March 2007 BioBlitz, and in doing so look at the previous 100 years of botany in the natural area of Otari.

Saturday 2 August: Field trip

Pauatahanui Inlet

Botanise this wetland of international significance and see the re-vegetation work being done by Forest and Bird. Study birds from the specially constructed 'hides'. Meet 9 a.m. at Pauatahanui Reserve parking area. Take SH 58 to junction with Paekakariki Hill Rd, then turn into parking area. Co-leaders (tbc): Barry Dent and Sue Freitag 476 6536. This may be followed by botanising the bush in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

Monday 18 August: Evening meeting

1. Annual General Meeting

2. AP Druce Memorial Lecture: Looking inside from the outside – working toward a Flora for the Chatham Islands

Speaker: Dr Peter de Lange F.L.S., Threatened Plants Scientist, DOC. The Chatham Islands (CI), the easternmost extension of the NZ Botanical Region, comprise 40 islands, islets and rock stacks covering 97 000 ha. Internationally recognised as a biodiversity "hot spot", they are rich in endemic species of plants and animals. Botanically there are two endemic genera, the iconic CI forget-me-not (*Myosotidium*) and CI sowthistle (*Embergeria*), and a further 34 endemic species, subspecies and varieties of plants. Recent fieldwork suggests that endemic vascular plant species may exceed 50, including at least one new tree species. The last comprehensive treatment of the islands' vascular flora was by Australian botanist, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, in 1864. His book is a rarity scarcely available to the NZ public. There is a dearth of modern information on the islands' flora and vegetation. Since 1996, Peter de Lange has been involved in the conservation management of the islands' threatened flora, and has developed a keen interest in the islands, their vegetation, biogeography, botanical history, and people. That interest has resulted in the recognition of the importance of preparing a new flora for the islands, to aid the development of sensible biosecurity measures, to increase knowledge of the flora, and also as a gift to the people of the islands. This talk will focus on aspects of the islands' flora, its evolutionary history, its conservation, and provide an update on what we know about the islands' remarkable vegetation. This talk is truly "looking inside (the Chatham Islands) from the outside (New Zealand proper)".

Saturday 6 September: Field trip

Dry Creek, Belmont Regional Park

Botanise this DOC reserve, which is managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council, as part of the park. See black beech at its southern limit in the North Island, regenerating native forest, and waterfalls. Map R27 Wellington, and street map. Meet 9.20 a.m. at Dry Creek entrance car park, Hebden Cres, off SH58 near SH2 lights. Catch 8.35 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington to Manor Park, then 10 min. walk. Leader: Sheena Hudson ph 389 2270.

Monday 15 September: Evening meeting

Adaptations to moa: ontogenetic colour patterns in an unusual New Zealand plant

Speaker: Kevin Burns, Senior Lecturer, VUW. The leaves of many New Zealand plants are very strangely coloured. One explanation is that they serve as a defence against browsers. Moa were once the dominant herbivores in New Zealand and many unusual characteristics of the flora have been associated with them, notably that of *Pseudopanax ferox* / fierce lancewood.

Saturday 20 September: Field trip

Te Marua Bush workbee

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 at Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. (250 m north of Te Marua Store and then left, off SH2 for 50 m, along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park. Or, if you plan to use the train, ***ring the leader beforehand*** to arrange to be met on arrival at Upper Hutt Station; catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

Saturday 4 October: Field trip

Coastal plants of Rocky Bay and Whitireia

Botanise the neglected but important Rocky Bay coastal wetland, then continue round the coast to Whitireia Park. See the last stand in Titahi Bay of what used to be *Hebe elliptica* var. *crassifolia*, now merged into *Hebe elliptica*. Further round the coast in the park see *Aciphylla squarrosa*, *Asplenium appendiculatum* ssp. *maritimum*, *Carmichaelia australis*, *Melicytus crassifolius*, *Carex* cf. *testacea* ("raotest"), *Raoulia hookeri* var. *hookeri* and two completely different forms of *Pimelea*—*Pimelea prostrata* and *P. urvilleana*. Continuing round the coast see *Spinifex sericeus*, planted *Austrofestuca littoralis*, *Euphorbia glauca*, pīngao, *Arthropodium cirratum* and some

wetland species. Both the planted coastal and wetland species are part of a revegetation project in the park. After botanising a patch of coastal turf, we return to our vehicles via an original patch of bush, previously botanised by BotSoc, see the Nationally Endangered *Leptinella nana*, and view old terraces formerly used by Māori to grow kumara and other vegetables. Meet: 9 a.m. at Rocky Bay carpark on Terrace Road, Titahi Bay. Leader: Robyn Smith ph 236 6086 or 027 437 2497. Phone if you need a map showing how to get there—I will e-mail it to you.

Monday 20 October: Evening meeting

A very merry Mere

Speaker: Dr Peter Johnson, a Dunedin botanist, formerly with Botany Division, DSIR, and Landcare Research, and the 2007 recipient of the Allan Mere Award, will use pounamu, and a “mere” of his own making, to explore a multitude of threads—trees and timbers, flowers, fossils, and photographs, to illustrate parts of his botanical life. His interests include floristic botany, plant ecology, wetlands, wildflowers, weeds, lichens, conservation and gardening. He is the author of books on wildflowers and wetlands.

Friday 30 January – Friday 9 February 2009: Field trip

Westport – Karamea

NOTE: dates confirmed, and accommodation options, in next newsletter. Botanise Buller Gorge, Denniston Plateau, Charming Creek, Mokihinui Valley, Wangapeka Track, Oparara, Kohaihai/Heaphy Track etc. are possibilities. Your ideas welcome, as would be your offer of help on a subcommittee organising the trip.

SUBMISSIONS MADE

- **Proposed Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy.** We complimented council on the effectiveness of its pest animal and pest plant control operations in many areas in the region; noted that indigenous ecosystems continue to be degraded in many other areas by pest animal and pest plants; urged council to maintain, and indeed, increase, its control work on pest species; recommended that council reinstate in its strategy, pest plant and pest animal species it has described in its earlier publications; asked other plant species be added to its strategy. Our submission will be posted on our web site.

SUBMISSIONS DUE

- **1 May. Kapiti Pony Club lease proposal, Queen Elizabeth Park.** 25 ha south of Poplar Ave, Raumati South, and west of its junction with SH1. Site includes part of catchment of Poplar Ave wetland, classified as a “fen”. It contains threatened plant species under a manuka canopy. Contact www.gw.govt.nz or Philippa Crisp 04 381 7731. Submissions to: *KPCL, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142. Ph 384 5708. info@gw.govt.nz*
- **2 May. Draft Northern Reserves Management Plan.** Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Ph 499 4444.
- **5 May. Proposed 2008/09 Annual Plan.** Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142. Ph 384 5708. www.gw.govt.nz
- **7 May. Proposed NZ Coastal Policy Statement.** Department of Conservation, Box 10 420, WN 6143.
- **9 May. Draft Annual Plan 2008/09.** Porirua City Council, Box 50 218, Porirua. Ph 237 5089.
- **16 May. Draft Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region 2008.** Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142. Ph 384 5708. www.gw.govt.nz
- **19 May. Draft Annual Plan 2008/09.** Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Ph 499 4444. wwwWellington.govt.nz
- **31 July. Proposed National Environmental Standard on Ecological Flows and Water Levels.** View discussion document at MfE offices, or at www.mfe.govt.nz; obtain hard copy from publications@mfe.govt.nz, or 04 439 7535. Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN 6143. Standards@mfe.govt.nz

EVENTS

- **1st Saturday each month. Otari-Wilton's Bush – plant care workbees.** Contact Wilbur Dovey 499 1044.
- **3 May. Restoration Day.** Victoria University. Talks, workshops, field trips. Co-ordinated by DOC, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council and NZ Ecological Restoration Network. Contact Matt Barnett, or Wendy Newton, DOC/WN 472 5821.
- **10 & 25 May, 8 & 21 June. Forest & Bird Native Plant Nursery – workbees.** 1.30 p.m. Contact Gary James 938 6751, 027 570 1048.
- **11-17 May. 22nd NZ Fungal Foray.** Near Dunedin. (bookings closed).
- **14 May. Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust – 8th AGM.** 7.15 p.m. Te Marae o Tane Information Centre, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN.
- **17 May. Berhampore Nursery Open Day.** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Native plants on sale, talks etc. BotSoc's new display will be there! Entrance off Emerson St, Berhampore.
- **25 May. Otari-Wilton's Bush – fungal foray.** 2 p.m. at Te Marae o Tane Information Centre, 160 Wilton Rd. Leader: Alison Stringer.
- **26-30 May, 2-6 June, 9-13 June, 16-20 June, 23-27 June. Mana Island planting.** Contact Jo Greenham, 021 038 0295, 904 1215 (h).
- **5 June. Arbor Day.** See programme re BotSoc workbee planting new extension of Te Marua Bush on 14 June.
- **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
- **7 June. World Environment Day Weed Swap.** 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bring a weed and swap it for a free native plant. Civic Square, Wellington. Travel by public transport or bicycle and get an extra free native plant.
- **28 June. Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society AGM.** 8.30 a.m. Silverstream Retreat, 3 Reynolds Bach Drive, Lower Hutt.
- **7-14 September. Conservation Week.** Meet the Locals, Tutakitia te Iwi Kainga:
 - What special places are unique to your region?
 - What native plants and animals live in your neighbourhood?www.doc.govt.nz

- **8-10 August. NZ Plant Conservation Network Conference.**
Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington. Tane Ngahere Lecture by Brian Molloy, entitled: Reflections on 50 years of NZ botany and plant conservation. Field trips to several locations. If you would like to assist with organising the conference, whether or not you are based in Wellington, or have ideas that you would like to share, e.g. subjects for workshops, contact NZPCN: info@nzpcn.org.nz. Mark the dates in your diary now! Book early to get cheaper air fares! Call for papers for consideration—send title only, by 30 May to david.norton@canterbury.ac.nz. NZPCN, Box 16 102, WN. events@nzpcn.org.nz
- **12-17 December. 24th John Child Bryophyte Workshop.**
Catlins.
John Steel, Dept. of Botany, University of Otago, Box 56, DN.

AWARDS

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*

Tom Moss Student Award in Bryology

Tom Moss was an active member of the Wellington Botanical Society for many years, and was a participant in the very first John Child Bryophyte Workshop in 1983. He helped to organise the second Workshop at Akatarawa in 1984 and attended every year after that until the Kaikoura Workshop of 1993.

To commemorate his name, his contribution to New Zealand botany, and his particular interest in bryology, a Trust Fund was established following discussion at the 2006 John Child Bryophyte Workshop. It is administered by the Wellington Botanical Society. The *Tom Moss Student Award in Bryology* provides a small annual prize for the best student contribution to New Zealand bryology.

The first Award will be made at the John Child Bryophyte Workshop to be held in December 2008 in the Catlins Region of SE Otago. Contributions that would qualify for the Award include:

- A student presentation at the Workshop relating to New Zealand bryology.
- A paper relating to New Zealand bryology. Only one application per student will be accepted (i.e. either a presentation or a publication). This can be published, or accepted for publication, or a significant unpublished report. This should be published or written in the twelve months immediately prior to the Workshop and submitted for judging by 1 Nov 2008 (see below). It is not necessary to attend the workshop where a paper is submitted for consideration.

Contributions are invited and will be considered from any student enrolled for a B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., or equivalent degree in the twelve months immediately prior to the Workshop. Students may be enrolled in a New Zealand or overseas university, and may include work on overseas bryophytes as long as the work relates in some significant way to New Zealand bryology.

An Award of \$150 will be made by a panel of three judges attending the Workshop and appointed by the Wellington Botanical Society. The panel may reserve the right to make no award if there are no suitable contributions.

Publications for consideration should be submitted with a covering letter by 1 November 2008 to:

Tom Moss Student Award,
Wellington Botanical Society,
PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6143.

Students intending to make a qualifying presentation at the Workshop should indicate this when they enrol for the Workshop.

Further information about the Award may be obtained from Dr Patrick Brownsey, Te Papa, P.O. Box 467, Wellington (04 381 7135; e-mail patb@tepapa.govt.nz).

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.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

25 May (tbc). **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 July. **Wellington City Council Environmental Grants.**

Criteria, application forms and other information available six weeks before closing date.

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

PUBLICATIONS

1a. **Science and technical publications 2007.** Catalogue 19 p.

1b. **From seed to success: a guide to evaluating Conservation with Communities Projects.** A.L.Johnson, M Wouters 2008. Technical Series 34. 79 p.

1c. **NZ Threat Classification System manual.** A.J.Townsend, P.J.de Lange, C.A.J.Duffy, C.M.Miskelly, J.Mollooy, D.A.Norton 2008 35 p.

1d. **Secondary forest succession differs through naturalised gorse and native kanuka near Wellington and Nelson.** J Sullivan, P.A.Williams, S.M.Timmins 2007. *NZ Journal of Ecology* 31(1): 22-38

- Science & Technical Publishing, R, D & I Division, DOC, Box 10 420, WN 6143. Ph 471 0726.

2a. **FOOTnotes.** No.3 2/08: didymo warning; Restoration Day 3 May; planning continues for WN South Coast Marine Reserve; Wellington Marine BioBlitz report; etc.

2b. **Wild orchids of the lower North Island – a field guide to orchids of the lower North Island from Manawatu to Wellington.** P de Lange, J Rolfe, I St George, J Sawyer 2007. \$15 to BotSoccers - at Conservancy Office, 181 Thorndon Quay, and DOC Visitor Centre, 18-32 Manners St, WN. **NOTE:** Copies may be for sale for \$13 at BotSoc evening meetings.

- Department of Conservation, Box 5086, WN 6145. Ph 472 5821.

4. **Rakiura Planning Newsletter.** 18/4/08: pre-draft of planning process nearing completion; Pest Liaison Group; etc.

- DOC, Box 743, Invercargill.

5a. **Environment NZ 2007.** 456 p. Chapter 10 is about biodiversity.

5b. **EnviroNZ.** 3/08: preparation for World Environment Day 5 June, which is being hosted by NZ – theme: Kick the carbon habit; state of the environment report – see 5a above; role of Fiordland Marine Guardians; etc.

- Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN 6143. Ph 439 7400.

6. **Te Papa Tongarewa Annual Report 06/07.** 80 p.

- Te Papa, Box 467, WN. Ph 381 7000.

7. **Open Space no.72** 3/08: focus on mid and south Canterbury; focus on West Coast; flowering plants – reduced level of pollination; covenants protecting bright flowering species; covenant fence maintenance; forest fungi; controlling saltwater paspalum; new QEII web site – www.openspace.org.nz; Aalbert Rebergen appointed Field Operations Manager; etc.

- QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140. Ph 472 6626.

8. **Weedbusters! No.14** 12/07: weeds spread from beach bach gardens; etc. **no.15** 3/08: biological control of weeds; etc.

- Weedbusters, Box 112, Hamilton

9a. **The State of our environment – annual summary 2006/07.** Nine report cards, but none on indigenous ecosystems.

9b. **Queen Elizabeth Park resource statement.** 68 p.

- Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646 WN. Ph 384 5708. www.gw.govt.nz

10. **Biodiversity Action Plan.** 38 p. 9/07.

10b. **Central Park restoration plan.** 29 p. 4/08.

10c. **Tinakori Hill landscape plan.** 24 p. 3/08.

10d. **Branch Out.** Vol 27 Summer 08: protecting Makara Stream; Otari Farms; pest control in Otari-Wilton's Bush; draft Northern Reserves Management Plan; cats and native wildlife; South Coast Marine BioBlitz; WCC supplies plants and grants; WCC buys laand to add to Town Belt

- Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN. Ph 499 4444

11. **Botanical Trail.** Guide sponsored in part by BotSoc. A3, colour. Plant list and botanical glossary accompany the guide. \$1 plus SAE. See article in this issue.

- Karori Sanctuary, Box 9267, WN 6141. www.sanctuary.org.nz

12a. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter.** No.91 3/08: validation of the genus *Pimelea*; launch of David Galloway's *Flora of NZ lichens*. 2nd edition. 2007; etc.

12b. **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.

13. **Flora of NZ Lichens.** D.J.Galloway 2007. BotSoc membership entitles you to 10% discount off \$79.99RRP, i.e. \$71.99. Add \$15 for p&p.

- Manaaki Whenua Press, Box 40, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury.

14. **Trilepidea.** No.49 12/07: Plant of the month voted NZ's favourite plant: *Epilobium microphyllum*, a willowherb; Amanda Baird wins Loder Cup; etc. No. 50 1/08: Plant of the month: *Carex calcis*, an endemic sedge; *Linguella* (= *Pterostylis*) puberula found in Golden Bay; recent observations in Canterbury; 296 images still required; recent plant and fungus finds; No.51 2/08: Plant of the month: *Chionochloa spiralis*, a Restricted Range grass; job cuts likely at DOC; new QEII Trust web site; state of the environment report; electronic identification of invasive weeds and native seedlings; web site fact sheet update; conference 8-10/8/08 at Te Papa; more finds of *Fissidens berteroi* in Auckland; *Crassula hunua* and *C. ruamahanga* confirmed as synonymous; volunteer botanists sought for adoption by Enviroschools; etc. No.52 3/08: Plant of the month: *Hebe calcicola*, a Range Restricted endemic shrub; *Ranunculus recens* var. *lacustris* renamed *R. ranceorum*, a Fiordland endemic – see article in this newsletter; pukurau/basket fungus; improvements to web site; conference 8-10/8/08 at Te Papa; etc.

- NZ Plant Conservation Network, Box 16 102, WN 6143.

Events@nzpcn.org.nz

15a. **Auckland Botanical Society Journal.** Vol 62(2) 12/07: Book launch – *Natural History of Rangitoto*; flora of six islands in Hauraki Gulf; sand coprosma, *Coprosma aceroasa*, disappearing?;

15b. **ABS News-sheet.** 4/08: hioi/NZ mint/*Mentha cunninghamii*; Peter de Lange awarded PhD for his *Biosystematics of the NZ Kunzea ericoides* complex; BioBlitz in Northcote; etc.

15c. **Dictionary of Maori plant names.** J. Beever 1991. 75 p. Sale price \$2 incl. p&p.

15d. **Meanings and origins of botanical names of NZ plants.**

Marie Taylor 2002. \$27 incl. p&p.

- ABS, Box 26 391, Epsom, AK.

16. **Botanical Society of Otago.** No.53 2/08: NZ lichen floras online; 4th Audrey Eagle Botanical Drawing Competition – entries close 12/9/08; etc.

- BSO, Box 6214, DN North 9059.

17. **Manawatu Botanical Society.** 4/08: South side of Foxton Estuary; etc.

- Manawatu BotSoc, Ecology Group INR, Massey University, PNth.

18. **Rotorua Botanical Society.** No.49 12/07: Ngongotaha Stream headwaters; Kohi Point; Tarawera Scenic Reserve; Okareka mistletoe restoration project; etc.

- RBS, c/- National Forestry Herbarium, PB 3020, Rotorua.

19. **Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.** 3/08: 200 *Olearia gardneri* plants grown on for DOC Mastertwandering willie, Japanese honeysuckle and Asian knotweed control; duplicate alpine propagated from Druce collection returned to Percy Scenic Reserve; animal pest control; staff maintain Bush City at Te Papa; Dr John Dawson's work; education facility and teacher position considered; revegetation news; A Lindsay Poole 1908-2008; etc.

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

20. **Matiu Really Matters.** 3/08: Lower Hutt Forest & Bird's planting programme; karo, mallow boxthorn, sweet pea, thistle, lupin, tainui, and wandering willie control; etc.

• *Matiu Some Charitable Trust, c/- Wellington Tenths Trust, Box 536, WN.*

21. **GBI Environmental News.** No.12 Spring 2007: biodiversity information sought; pest control and planting since 1971; Mohunga Peninsula Restoration Group; etc.

• *GBI Charitable Trust, RDI, Great Barrier Island. www.gbict.co.nz*

22. **Kereru.** No. 36 3/08: new nursery run by Wellington Branch, Forest & Bird; etc.

• *Karori Sanctuary; Box 9267, WN. www.sanctuary.org.nz, 04 920 9200.*

23. **Forest & Bird.** No. 327 2/08: a willowherb is Plant of the Year 2007; Hakatere Conservation Park; restoring wetlands; reserves cared for by Kapiti Mana Branch; Lower Hutt Branch's plan for corridors linking natural areas; etc.

• *Forest & Bird, Box 631, WN. www.forestandbird.org.nz*

24. **Trees for Survival.** No. 5 3/08: Secondary School Resource kit being printed, and CD prepared; etc.

• *TFS, Box 51 684, Pakuranga, Manukau 2140. www.tfsnz.org.nz*

25. **Friends of Wellington Botanic Garden.** 3/08: *Herbarium Amoris* attracted 11,000 people; signage planned for native bush areas; etc.

• *FoWBG, Box 28 065 Kelburn, WN. www.friendswbg.org.nz*

26. **Gorge Gazette.** 12/07: wandering willie, Japanese honeysuckle, Asian knotweed and sycamore control; etc. 4/08: blackberry, brush wattle, buddleia control; plans for planting 2300 trees this winter; miro; etc.

• *Trelissick Park Group; 35a Trelissick Cres, Ngaio WN 6035. msmcdonald@paradise.net.nz*

27. **Eastbourne Dunes Protection Group.** 1/08: male and female spinifex flowers should be < 2 m apart to produce viable seed; weeds on and planting dunes and planting; etc.

• *David McDougall, 157 Main Rd, Eastbourne. judith_mcdougall@xtra.co.nz*

28. **ECOLink.** 3/08: Environment 2007 report – biodiversity ; NZ Coastal Policy Statement; etc.

• *Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc, Box 112 057, WN. Ph 04 385 7545, eco@eco.org.nz*

28. **Telopea – Journal of Plant Systematics.** Vol 12(1), 08. 145 p. Paper on new species of *Utricularia* in northern Australia.

• *National Herbarium of New South Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.*

29. **Willdenowia.** 37(2), 08.

• *Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Freie Universitat Berlin, Konigin-Luise-Str. 6-8, D-14195 Berlin.*

Letters to the editor

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

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

The committee

Chris and Brian Rance honoured

We congratulate BotSocers, Chris and Brian, whose knowledge of the indigenous flora of the southern South Island, and dedication to its conservation, have been acknowledged in the naming of a newly discovered buttercup from Fiordland—*Ranunculus raneeorum*.

Bev Abbott, President

*Source: The Southland Times 14 March 2008, via BotSoccer
Kaaren Mitcalfe, Pounawaea, Catlins.*

Connecting key forest and wildlife areas of Hutt City with natural corridors

We in Lower Hutt Forest and Bird are promoting natural corridors that connect the key forest and wildlife areas in our patch. The areas are the upper Wainuiomata catchment forest, upper Orongorongo forest, Turere Stream catchment, East Harbour Regional Park's lakes and forest blocks, Speedys Stream catchment and Korokoro Stream catchment. These key natural areas are generally superb forests or wetlands, most have had pests such as possums reduced by Greater Wellington Regional Council's poisoning programme, and three either have had threatened species released, or releases are planned.

To allow indigenous fauna and flora to migrate from one area to another, corridors are needed. A corridor would traverse the Wainuiomata Valley connecting Orongorongo areas to East Harbour. Another corridor would include the Eastern Hutt hills and traverse the Hutt Valley to connect to areas in Belmont Regional Park. Crossing both valleys appears to be the most difficult, but we believe that we have solutions.

The corridors are necessary because the land surrounding many of these areas is being more intensively used, and the bordering land is, or will become, much more hostile to native flora and fauna. Throughout the Wellington region, natural areas that are not protected are being converted to pine plantations, lifestyle blocks, new suburbs, or cleared for farming. If this trend continues, we will lose the opportunity to connect significant wildlife areas. Valuable natural areas will become isolated. Our key concern is "*Will these areas survive in the longer term, with all of their existing native flora and fauna, if they are isolated though the clearing of those connecting forests and bush remnants?*"

The opportunity to connect these areas without significant use of private land still exists in the Wellington region, but it may not exist for much longer. This is why we believe that now is the time to take decisive action. We have produced a plan of what we want as natural corridors, and a slide presentation to promote the concept. We hope to talk to Hutt City Council soon about the details, and how it can be achieved. The three slide presentations run so far have been well received by their audiences.

The other branches of Forest and Bird plan to undertake similar exercises to determine an overall plan for their patches, and interconnections between them.

We are keen to present our slide show, and to incorporate ideas from any interested groups. Contact our representative, Russell Bell, on 380 6130.

*Lower Hutt Branch
Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society*

Southern Environment Association seeks donations

SEA is purchasing a bush block for a reserve in Derwent St, Island Bay, and still has to raise \$30,000. If you would like to make a donation for this purpose to SEA's Island Bay Natural Heritage Charitable Trust Inc, you can make a deposit directly into SEA's bank account, (Westpac Kilbirnie Branch account no. 030521-0226611-00), or you can send it to: Treasurer, SEA, 36 Ribble St, Island Bay, Wellington.

Donations to IBNHCT of \$5 or more qualify for tax rebates.

World Environment Day – 5 June

New Zealand is hosting World Environment Day for the first time since this internationally celebrated event was established in 1972. The theme this year is *Kick the carbon habit*.

BotSoc's contribution to the day, which coincides with Arbor Day, will be the first planting workbee on the new extension to Te Marua Bush, Upper Hutt—see Programme for details of this workbee on 14 June. BotSoc will register its workbee on the World Environment Day web site www.world.environment.govt.nz

Editor

QEII Trust Open Space Covenants

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

- Horowhenua D.C./Mayclair – 0.7 ha forest
- Tararua D.C./Hales – 0.3 ha forest
- Masterton D.C./McKay, Houston & Lowes – 6 ha forest
- South Wairarapa D.C./Moiki Farm Ltd – 5.7 ha forest
- Hutt C.C./Daglish – 4.2 ha forest

Source: Open Space no. 72, 3/08/07

For information on covenanting indigenous plant communities, or other natural features, on your property, contact:

QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140. Ph 472 6626.

*Wellington Regional Representative: Lisa Clapcott,
ph 06 364 2207, lclapcott@openspace.org.nz*

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 per 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

OBITUARY

Judith Ann Petterson née Hay 1928–2007

Judith died on 16 December 2007 at Waikanae. She joined BotSoc in 1953, becoming a life member in 1971. Judith, and her husband, Graham, were active in the church, but this did not prevent Judith going on field trips, writing on botanical and other subjects, as well as caring for her children and, later, her grandchildren.

Judith spent her childhood in Canterbury. Her first home was at Little River, Banks Peninsula. Later she settled at Mt Lawry, Whiterock, in the Canterbury foothills.

Judith studied botany, zoology and chemistry at Victoria University, and gaining an M.Sc (Hons). Her 1953 thesis was "The genus *Wahlenbergia* in New Zealand". She then worked in Botany Division, DSIR becoming the personal assistant to Dr H.H. Allan. Judith is acknowledged for technical assistance in Allan's *Flora of NZ* (Vol. I).

Judith and Graham married in 1952 and lived on the family farm at Takaka for 10 years. They spent 1961-1981 in Palmerston North, then four years in the Philippines, where they were house parents at an orphanage on Mindoro Island.

They were active members of BotSoc during the later 1960s and 70s, and continued their botanical interest on return from the Philippines in the mid-80s.

We remember the Petterson family on their earlier trips into the Tararuas from Otaki Gorge, in the Manawatu, the Cobb Valley, Anatoki and Lake Tennyson. Initially it was with the younger children in backpacks. By the 1991/92 summer trip to Otago, the children were grown, so Graham and Judith came on BotSoc camps on their own. Judith continued her studies of native harebells (*Wahlenbergia*) and brought several of her potted plants with her to illustrate a talk about her work on them.

Judith found time to study and write up her work on *Wahlenbergia* in NZ., publishing taxonomic and genetic papers in the *NZ Journal of Botany* in 1995 and 1997. For her summary paper on the genus *Wahlenbergia*, she was the first author to use colour plates in the *BotSoc Bulletin*. In 2002, Judith also published a paper in the *Bulletin* comparing some related plants of Norfolk Island and NZ.

Graham and Judith finally settled in Waikanae, where Judith taught bible school at the Baptist Church until a few weeks before her death.

Our sympathy goes out to Graham and the family.

This obituary is based on notes provided by Judith for her funeral service, with contributions from Carol West, and information from Tony Druce's trip book, and Wellington Botanical Society records.

Rodney Lewington

Threatened plants need our attention

DOC is seeking information on the distribution of several threatened plant species in its Poneke Area (including Wellington Peninsula south from Makara, Hutt Valley, Rimutaka Forest Park, Wainuiomata and Turakirae coast). The Department holds little or no information about these species in Poneke Area, and seeks BotSoccers' help in collating existing records, and recording further occurrences. The species are:

Taxon	Group	Threat status	Habitat	Action required
<i>Adelopetalum (Bulbophyllum) tuberculatum</i> bulb-leaf orchid	Orchid	Sparse. Data deficient (DP)	Epiphytic on rimu, rewarewa, hinau	Record when found.
<i>Nematoceras</i> aff. <i>rivularis</i> (CHR 534752. "rest area")	Orchid	Data deficient	Wet banks	Record when found.
<i>Nematoceras</i> aff. <i>trilobum</i> (CHR 537604. "Rimutaka")	Orchid	Data deficient		Record when found.
<i>Korthalsella clavata</i> dwarf mistletoe, leafless mistletoe			Wetland and coastal shrubland (epiphytic)	Record when found
<i>Linum monogynum</i> var. <i>chathamicum</i> Cockayne (CHR 417633). NZ true flax. rauhuia	Dicot herb	Nationally critical (CD. EF)	Coastal rocky shores	Record when found
<i>Hymenophyllum atrovirens</i>	Fern	Regionally critical	Wet rocks in forest	Record when found
<i>Mida salicifolia</i> willow-leaved maire	Dicot tree	Gradual decline (RF)	Forest	Record when found
<i>Pleurosorus rutifolius</i> blanket fern	Fern.	Sparse (SO)	Coastal cliffs	Record when found
<i>Rytidosperma petrosum</i>	Grass	Range restricted		Record when found, monitor
<i>Trichomanes colensoi</i>	Fern	Sparse (DP)	Wet shaded and sheltered stream banks	Record when found
<i>Pimelea gnidia</i>		Not threatened. Data deficient	Exposed ridge tops	Record when found

If you can assist or have information, please contact Brent Tandy, Ranger Biodiversity, DOC Poneke Area.
E-mail: btandy@doc.govt.nz; ph: (04) 819 7632.

Matiu matters

Three species have been added to the regionally threatened plant species beside Forest & Bird House on Matiu/Somes Island. They are *Leptinella nana*, *Acaena pallida* and *Tetragonia tetragonioides*/kōkihi, thanks to Jill Broome at Percy Scenic Reserve. Not threatened, but occurring at few sites on the island, is *Linum monogynum*/rauhuia, with large, white flowers. The nursery has been weeded and is looking tidy. The irrigation system failed to deliver sufficient water last summer, when the lack of significant rainfall, and warm weather, caused us concern. Working parties now go once a month; only limited potting up is required



Tetragonia tetragonioides.
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

The island's big news is the return of two young tuatara hatched from eggs laid on the island, and incubated at Victoria University. The occasion was celebrated on 24 November, when more green geckos and ornate skinks were

also released. There are now four skink species—green-spotted, copper, common and ornate, and three gecko species—common, forest and green. Then there are tuatara, present in 1877, and reintroduced in 1998. More North Island robins have been transferred from Karori Sanctuary, to augment the declining number from the original 2006 introduction. Perhaps the dry weather, and competition from the considerable lizard population, has reduced insect numbers in the leaf litter. We hope that the new arrivals survive and thrive.

Stan Butcher

Land protection

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

Whirokino Covenant-Kapiti Area

c. 6.85 ha. Protects a shallow dune lake formed by parabolic dunes on Whirokino Farm, near Foxton, the wetland being representative of dune lakes formerly found in Horowhenua. Contains raupo reed-land, flax and sedges.

The conservation covenant replaces and extends one of 6993m², registered when the farm was transferred to Landcorp in 1992. Public access is by arrangement with the owners, Doug and Glynis Easton, and Owen Tucker.

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

OBITUARY

Ruth Naomi Dench (née Jessop)

14.11.1926 – 21.12.07



Starting in the 1950s, Ruth, with her husband Arnold, converted a steep, wind-swept, paddock in Newlands, into a native plant garden of national importance. They specialised in our alpine flora, e.g. celmisia, myosotis, wahlenbergia, ourisia, ranunculus, ground covers, grasses and grass-like plants, learning, by trial and error, how to germinate the seeds, grow on the seedlings, and raise them to adulthood. Ruth and Arnold were thus able to provide threatened alpine plants to Percy Scenic Reserve, and Otari-Wilton's Bush, and at other times, accept seed and specimens from these reserves, and botanists from around NZ, for growing on. This two-way traffic has been of immense benefit to the conservation of numerous threatened species. The traffic has not been only in plant material, but also in knowledge, because Ruth, like Arnold, was always ready to pass on what she had learnt about the cultivation and horticultural use of our native plants, and as keen to learn from others.

Weeding their garden was a forte of Ruth's, and she did it most days of the week, including in harsh weather. She was as tough as she was determined to care for her plants. At other times, Ruth would guide visitors to the garden, and during BotSoc workbees on the property, would provide advice on the care of the plants.

Members who attend our evening meeting will remember that at most meetings, Ruth and Arnold would come with one or more trays of potted plants. Some were threatened species, to be described, but not sold, while others were for sale. It was typical of Ruth, and Arnold, that the proceeds of the sales went to BotSoc's Jubilee Award Fund.

Ruth made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the cultivation of our threatened native plants, especially alpine plants. Ruth has gone, leaving us with the memory of a stalwart among native plant lovers. Thank you, Ruth. Our sympathy goes out to Arnold and the family.

Chris Horne

Karori Tunnel eastern portal planting

Comparing a photograph of the site taken during the 2003 planting, with the site today, shows that the growth of the planted species since then has been remarkable. Last spring some of the kowhai began to flower and perhaps this spring the coastal flaxes will flower, attracting some of the many tui in these parts. The *Poa cita*, silver tussocks, are now very much at home in the dry, exposed, upper area where they are best suited. Recent showers have produced a surge of weed growth in the remaining gaps, which I am hoping to fill with this year's allocation of flax and silver tussock from Berhampore Nursery. WHEN THE TIME COMES, ALL OFFERS TO HELP PLANT WILL BE WELCOMED.

Barbara Mitcalfe

Karori Sanctuary Botanical Trail – now open!

Several years ago BotSoc offered to set up a Botanical Trail to encourage Sanctuary visitors to pause and learn about the native plants regenerating alongside Lake Road and Te Mahanga Track. The self-guided Botanical Trail has now developed from an idea into a reality, an easy walk from the Visitor Centre. Sub-titled "*An introduction to some native plants in Karori Sanctuary*", the accompanying Guide, available at the Visitor Centre, was designed to interest and inform. Particular care was taken to minimise the use of technical terms. A separate sheet with a botanical glossary, and a list of the common, Maaori and botanical names of the plants selected, is also available. Clearly-numbered posts, from 1 to 16, stand beside the plants selected along the Trail, which are illustrated and described in the Guide. BotSoc contributed to funding the printing, and the text was developed by BotSoc volunteers in consultation with the Sanctuary Marketing Team. May we suggest you try out the Botanical Trail next time you are in the Sanctuary? Comments are invited.

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne

EVENING MEETING REPORT

Members' Evening – 17 March 2008

We thank the following for their contributions to a fascinating evening:

- Sunita Singh, Syd Moore and Chris Horne – slides of Aotea/Great Barrier Island field trip.
- Carol West – slides of NZ and other species growing in England, Scotland and Ireland.
- Margaret Harper – South Coast Marine BioBlitz, and her recording 164 taxa of diatoms, including one new genus, and one new species.
- Arnold Dench – Comments on sadly neglected state of Cockayne Rock Garden at Christchurch Botanic Garden; specialised alpine plants from Banks Peninsula, Eyre Mountains, Southern Alps, Rimutaka Range.
- Bev Abbott – Druce Collection at Percy Scenic Reserve.
- Bryan Halliday – *Gunnera monoica*, Rakiura/Stewart Island.
- Dave Holey – ceramic plates depicting kowhai, NI tieke/saddleback, and native frog.

OBITUARY

(Alick) Lindsay Poole, CBE, D.Sc. 1908–2008

There will be BotSoc members who could write insightful and comprehensive obituaries for Lindsay Poole, based on decades of friendship or professional associations. This tribute is written from secondary sources as I didn't know Lindsay personally. What stood out, as I found the right Lindsay Poole on Google, was that he was still drawing on his professional knowledge, experience and wisdom, when he was well into his 90s, and that what he had to say is still highly relevant today.

BotSoc member, Dr Maggy Wassilieff, has prepared two obituaries on Lindsay Poole. I encourage members to read the comprehensive one in Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust's newsletter (3/08), or the short one on the Te Ara blog, (). Some of the milestones she mentions about his career include:

- starting as a trainee with the NZ State Forestry Nursery, Whakarewarewa, Rotorua, in 1927
- being appointed Assistant Director, Botany Division, DSIR, in 1947, and Director in 1949
- returning to the NZ Forest Service in 1951 as Assistant Director-General, rising to Director-General in 1961, and retiring for the first time in 1971
- chairing the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council for nine years.

Lindsay was a founding member of BotSoc, and was appointed President in July 1947. Bulletin no. 17 mentions his role as Assistant Director, Botany Division, and also notes: *Published results of his original research work cover a wide range, e.g. many aspects of forest botany, ragwort control, Phormium ecology, grass seed trials.* The same Bulletin contains extracts from his presidential address on 15 September 1947, in which he described aspects of a *two-month visit to the USA at the end of 1946.*

Many botanists will be most familiar with Lindsay through the book he prepared with botanical artist, Nancy Adams, *Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*. The copy on my shelf is dated 1980, but the book was first printed in 1963. It does a wonderful job of assisting people without formal botanical training to identify and name trees and shrubs correctly, primarily from leaf characteristics.

Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand also introduces two forest management themes which would remain part of Lindsay's life for many more decades, the management of indigenous forests, and the effects of introduced wild animals. It includes, for example: "*When opossums, which are primarily tree-canopy feeders, are present together with a browsing animal like the red deer, and a close-browsing animal like the goat, there is danger of complete*

*destruction of the forest if the country is steep.*¹

While serving as the Director of Botany Division, he completed a M.Sc at Victoria University of Wellington with an investigation of the taxonomy of NZ's *Nothofagus*.

His study of the southern beeches (*Nothofagus* spp.) was published in 1987². This book provides a detailed description and comparison of southern-hemisphere beech. With the benefit of DNA studies, we would now question the continental drift theory to explain its distribution. Lindsay would be the first to agree that science advances.

He was particularly critical of the dismantling of the NZ Forest Service in the mid-1980s. Years later, in 2001, he co-authored a hard-hitting paper with A.Graham D.Whyte,³ which reviewed the upheavals in land-administering departments, and concluded that the actual outcomes were worse than the predictions, particularly for indigenous forests.

We two, and some of our professional colleagues, have observed what appears to us major degradation in indigenous forest condition since 1987 in various parts of the country. The criteria and indicators required under the Montreal Process protocol, to which NZ is a signatory, have not and could not be reported over all indigenous forest without a major change of political and departmental attitude and support.

Whyte and Poole's paper concludes with several recommendations. Some of these may be contested if they were to be presented at a BotSoc meeting, but I doubt if anyone would disagree that: *Monitoring, auditing and transparent reporting of outcomes at local, organisational and national levels are essential for assessing whether or not ecosystems are being managed sustainably.*

When those systems are followed, Lindsay's full legacy to the management of forests in NZ will have been realised.

Bev Abbott, President

- 1 Poole, A.L.; Adams, N. 1980: *Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand*. P.D. Hasselberg, Government Printer, . p.19.
- 2 Poole A.L. 1987: *Southern Beeches*. DSIR Science Information Publishing Centre, Wellington.
- 3 Graham, A.; Whyte, D.; Poole, A.L. 2001: *New Zealand Forestry Politically Compromised*. Presented at the Annual Conference of the 2001 Commonwealth Forestry Association in Fremantle, Australia.

TRIP REPORTS

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

Day 1, Monday 30/1/08

We settled in at Orama Christian Camp, an ideal base, in a lovely setting. The catered dinners, Bev Abbott's catering for breakfasts and lunches, Rodney Lewington's management of the accounts and plant lists, intriguing plant communities and scenery, and 43 keen participants, made this a trip to remember. We thank Robyn Smith for suggesting places to botanise, Graeme Jane for plant lists, the staff at Orama, and the staff at Aotea Travel who drove us to and from our field trips.

Later, on Karaka Bay Rd, we were pleased to see many roadside plants of *Rhabdothamnus solandri* in flower.

The Old Lady (sic) Track provided us with a contrast between the Phoneline Track's exposed spur with its scrubby vegetation and poor soil, and a moist gully under coastal forest, descending to Port Fitzroy, where we had luxuriant nikau, kohekohe and puriri, and our first sighting of the NZ endemic, mairehau, *Leionema* (= *Phebalium*) *nudum*, with pleasantly aromatic leaves and reddish bark.

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne



Leionema nudum.

Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

stairways and boardwalks constructed to protect the nesting sites of taiko, black petrel, which breed on only Aotea and Hauturu, Little Barrier Island. At the summit, after digesting the superb view and our lunches, we briefly botanised the vicinity, noting the rare *Metrosideros parkinsonii*, the bronze-leaved *Pseudopanax discolor*, *Hebe macrocarpa* var. *latisejala*, and to our surprise, *Metrosideros umbellata*, southern rata.

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne

Day 4, 2/2/08

Trip 1: Tramline Track Ten of us took this track, straight as a Roman road, regardless of terrain, up and down through gumland, scrub, swamp edge and bush. Of note were horrible hakeas, flagelliformis-like *Baumea tenax* at 3 m, a *Cordyline pumilio* that towered over Barry, an 8-m *Halocarpus kirkii* with no appressed leaves, an epiphytic kanuka, a *Brachyglottis repanda* leaf decidedly exceeding A4. This later provoked Chris to search his musical memory aloud, in snippets, for several km—something from Gilbert and Sullivan about an actor's aspirations for the role of 'the elephant's bottom'. Then we admired an elephantine boy weta with 'nice legs'.

Owana Falls were a straight drop onto sculpted rocks; very pretty. And later at the inviting Kaitoke hot springs, we met other BotSoc groups. A good day.

Sheelagh and Cliff



View from Orama. Photo: Barbara Mitcalfe.

Day 2, Tuesday, 31/1/08

A plant new to some, as we climbed Phoneline Track, was *Lepidosperma laterale*, sword sedge, aptly named for its laterally-flattened, sharp-tipped leaves. On an outcrop of igneous rock we saw the succulent herb *Peperomia urvilleana*, and the strongly-aromatic *Scandia rosifolia*, both palatable species thriving in the absence of possums throughout the island. Also of interest were the swarms of hybrid lawyer, *Rubus australis* × *R. cissoides*. Further on, the party hotly debated the identity of a trackside fern, *Blechnum fraseri*, those to whom it was new, staunchly defending their doubts about it, on the basis that the sterile fronds did not differ enough from the fertile fronds, for it to be a blechnum. (It was a useful debate—see Brownsey and Smith-Dodsworth 2000, p. 144).

Day 3: Wednesday 1/2/08

The highest peak on Aotea, maunga tapu of the Ngati Rehua iwi, Hirakimata rises to 621 m in the centre of the island. At the start, in Windy Canyon, we were dwarfed by towering, vertical, andesite bluffs clothed with clinging rata. From there, Palmers Track took across 2 km of mostly-indigenous scrubland, regenerating after early burning. Up ahead we could see where the virgin forest began, and before long we were in it, enjoying the community of typically northern species, reminding us of how far we were from Wellington—kauri, taraire, toru, manoao, kawaka, tawari, *Coprosma macrocarpa*, *C. dodonaeifolia*, *Alseuosmia quercifolia* and a suite of dracophyllum species. The climbing fern, mangemange, and *Cordyline pumilio*, dwarf cabbage tree, were new to many. In places, we climbed timber

Trip 2: Kaitoke Hot Springs

Day 5, 3/2/08:

Trip 1: Whangapoua Estuary

Trip 2: Burrill Route. This was an eight-hour trip in the Te Paparahi Block, at the north end of the island, from Mabey Rd, Whangapoua Estuary, to Tataweka Trig, 628m, so we botanised on the move. The “route”, a track bulldozed in the early 1970s by copper prospectors, began in kanuka forest, then climbed to unburnt, mature, cutover forest, where we saw the highlight of the day, a very large totara, plus big puriri and taraire. After about 1 km from the start, the parent rock is greywacke, one of two occurrences on Aotea.

About halfway to the summit, we re-entered burnt kanuka forest which had been farmed. This area is being damaged by wild cattle. Pig rooting is common along the entire route. We had lunch at Tataweka trig, enjoyed the views, and removed clothing and equipment abandoned in the area. We found several *Raukaua edgerleyi*, and understory species indicative of a wetter climate than elsewhere on the island, e.g. water fern, filmy ferns.

Owen and Shelley

Day 6, 4/2/08: Coopers Castle Track

Coopers Castle is a three-hour walk along a ridge from the saddle, where Aotea and Karaka Bay roads meet. After a twenty-minute walk through regenerating scrub, with manuka and kanuka forming the canopy, we entered mature forest with fine, spreading, specimens of taraire and puriri. As always in northern forests, nikau was common. Here we first saw the ferns *Asplenium lamprophyllum*, rock fern/*Cheilanthes sieberi* ssp. *sieberi*, and soft tree fern/*Cyathea smithii*. In the absence of browsing animals, wharanui/*Peperomia urvilleana* occurred well inland from the coast, as a low epiphyte on tree trunks and rock faces, and *Brachyglottis kirkii* (var. *angustior* ?) was a common shrub in the understory. At higher elevations, needle-leaved neinei/*Dracophyllum latifolium*, with its elbowed branches, gave the forest a prehistoric touch. Coopers Castle tested our resistance to vertigo, with an enormous sheer face down to the bush below. It also gave us a great view of Whangapoua Beach and swamp, areas that we had

botanised on 6 February. We were concerned by the amount of fresh pig-rooting we saw, and the damage that these animals must cause to the island's flora and fauna.

Chris Hopkins

Day 7, 5/2/08

Trip 1: Starting from the Tramline Track not far from Whangaparapara, we climbed Witheys Track, the route of an old stream hauler, descended into Wairahi Stream, followed the stream up to the Pack Track which took us back over the ridge to the Tramline Track. The warning in the track brochure about allowing extra time for photos led me to anticipate coastal views, but they didn't eventuate. It was views of the stream that first excited our photographers. The highlights of the trip, however, were the regenerating kauri near the top of the Pack Track. These were trees, not saplings; dense stands, not isolated individuals; and each trunk was a new visual delight. This is a site to treasure and visit again.

Bev Abbott

Trip 2: Whangaparapara Trig

Trip 3: Mangati Bay

Day 8, 6/2/08:

Trip 1: Harataonga Walkway

This long, coastal trip, from Harataonga to near Okiwi, featured great views, pa sites, Aotea's other greywacke area, manuka/kanuka shrublands, and some fine, regenerating, coastal forest.

Chris Horne

Trip 2: Awana Estuary



Awana Estuary. Photo: Shelley Heiss-Dunlop.

Day 9, 7/2/08: Kaiaraara Track.

This well-formed, easy track is ideal for gaining an appreciation of the regenerating vegetation, typical of Aotea, being quite rich in species. It follows Forest Road, near Port Fitzroy, under a mature kanuka canopy, with regenerating kauri. The track then follows an attractive stream, with large boulders.

Along Forest Road we saw a large patch of *Deparia petersenii*, *Lastreopsis microsora*, *Macherina sinclairii*, and large-leaved *Meliccytus* and *Macropiper* species. A huge northern rata towered above the kanuka canopy. Exotic wattle and pine species are degrading the ecosystem.

Along the Kaiaraara Track, notable species include *Sticherus cunninghamii* and *S. flabellatus*, a small patch of *Loxosoma cunninghamii*, a *Rumohra adiantiformis* on ponga, and some large *Lastreopsis hispida*. Tutu is surprisingly abundant along the stream banks, but we saw only one mature tree fuchsia.

We heard, or saw, long-tailed cuckoo, silvereye, tui, kereru, greywarbler, fantail, kaka, kingfisher, but usually only single individuals.

A feature of the Kaiaraara Valley is the kauri dam, built in 1926, by George Murray of Kauri Timber Company. It is 14m high and 14m wide.

Jo and Shelley

Day 10, 8/2/08:

Homeward bound by ferry or aircraft.



Sticherus flabellatus. Photo: Barbara Mitcalfe.

Snail collections from Great Barrier Island

I collected nine samples of leaf litter from various spots on our field trips, and delivered them, sieved, bagged, and labelled, to Phil Parkinson. He identified about thirty species, and noted several other minute species that are not yet identified. Phil is a



Kauri Dam, Kaiaraa Valley. Neill Simpson on stream bank below the dam. Photo: Chris Horne.

volunteer at Te Papa, working for Bruce Marshall, who co-ordinates the snails collection.

Two of the more productive samples were those taken on the first day, and on the last day. The first was from the track between Orama and Nimaru Bay, and had twenty-nine snails of seven species. The other was from just below Cooper's Castle and

contained eight species. The most interesting sample was from the top of Tataweka, 628 m, with sixty-three specimens, of eight species, several of which were unfamiliar, or uncommon.

One snail of special interest to BotSoccers who remember Pauline Mayhill, was in the sample collected at Kaitoke hot springs. It is an undescribed *Flammocharopa* which has been informally named "*F mayhillorum*".

Jill Goodwin

Participants: Bev Abbott, Jonathan Anderson, Joanne Beresford, Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Barry Dent, Gavin Dench, Raewyn Empson, Jo Fillery, Sue Freitag, Ian & Jill Goodwin, Bryan & Robyn Halliday, Clare Hart, Shelley Heiss-Dunlop, Margaret & Richard Herbert, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Sheena & Stuart Hudson, Brenda Johnston, Allison Knight, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Cliff Mason, Johanne McComish, Lorna McCullagh, Belinda McLean, Barbara Mitcalfe, Syd Moore, Les Moran, Donella Moss, Deborah Olson, Darea Sherratt, Barbara & Neill Simpson, Sunita Singh, Val Smith, Owen Spearpoint, Julia Stace, Yvonne Weeber

Saturday 23 February 2008: Druce garden workbee

This was our annual opportunity to help with the maintenance of this nationally important garden. It contains many threatened indigenous plant species established by Tony and Helen Druce over the last forty years. It is protected in perpetuity by a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant.

We each chose one or more of the tasks that Helen had listed beforehand. We weeded gorse, broom, tradescantia, selaginella, veld grass, Spanish heath, old man's beard, pine seedlings, montbretia, oxalis and dodder/*Cassytha paniculata*, a weedy, native, parasitic liane from the Far North. It is parasitic on herbs and shrubs, forming tangled masses. (See *Flora 1*, page 137). Other work done included clearing the track network, and pruning some fruit trees.

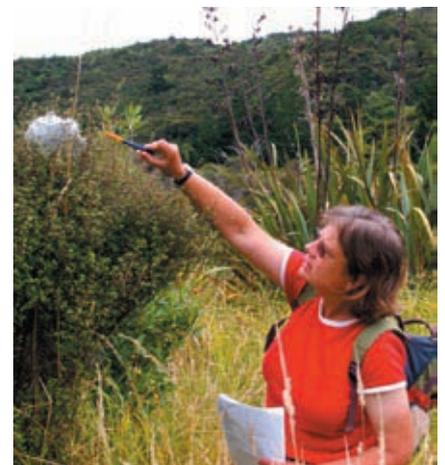
Participants: Jill Broome, Barbara Clark, Helen Druce (leader), Chris Horne (scribe), Archie & Lynsie Kerr, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Sue Millar, Darea Sherratt, Val Smith, Carol West.

Saturday 1 March 2008: Gracefield Scrub

This area of regenerating bush lies alongside Wainuiomata Hill Road, on the Wainuiomata side of the hill. It is part of the corridor linking East Harbour Regional Park to the Eastern Hutt hills. A small swamp lies on the valley floor, and perhaps indicates the species of wetland plants that existed in the Wainuiomata Valley before it was drained for farming. Though the swamp contains no open water, a thick sward of *Carex* forms the main groundcover. One plant of note in the swamp is swamp buttercup/*Ranunculus macropus*, status Gradual Decline. Another plant uncommon here is *Olearia virgata*. In contrast on the valley floor, narrow-leaved mahoe is abundant. Also here, the next sequence of canopy trees was either emergent, or present as seedlings, e.g. kahikatea, hinau, and tawa. In hills above the swamp we saw a healthy population of waterfall fern/*Blechnum colensoi* on a site we thought too dry for it. Elsewhere amongst the regenerating scrub we saw seedlings or saplings of rimu, miro, northern rata and tawa. On the ridge east of the swamp is a

mature forest of black beech and hard beech. These areas have escaped the fires that have started from the hill road. We hope that since the hill road's reconstruction and widening of the firebreak at the top of the valley, fire is past history.

Participants: Rosie Doole, Jill & Ian Goodwin, Chris Hopkins (leader/scribe), Chris Horne, Brenda Johnston, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Mick Parsons, Darea Sherratt.



Rosie Doole points out a nurseryweb spider nest on *Coprosma tenuicaulis*. Photo: Rodney Lewington.

Friday 21 March – Monday 24 March 2008: Western Ruahine Range

After settling in at Sixtus Lodge in the Pohangina Valley, we spent the afternoon botanising the foothills near Coal Creek, in beautiful weather which lasted throughout Easter. Under tall, red beech, we noted numerous *Alseuosmia pusilla* with crimson 'jelly bean' fruit.

Day 2, 22/3/08

We set off to climb from Coal Creek to the Ngamoko Range, via Shorts Track. Forest cabbage trees were unusually plentiful, and mountain cabbage trees were prominent, thrusting their unmistakable, spiky crowns into the canopy. Other highlights were a pink pine, *Halocarpus biformis*, 60 cm d.b.h., and in the leatherwood belt, *Pittosporum rigidum* and *Euphrasia cuneata* in flower.



Leatherwood / *Olearia colensoi*.
Illustration by Bryan Halliday.

Above the bushline, with a clear view up the spur, we were dismayed to see large numbers of emergent

stagheads of *Libocedrus bidwillii*. This forest is near collapse because of browsing by pest animals, including deer and possums. We noted deer browse even on carex, uncinia, broad-leaved bush tussock, and bush rice grass, which are not often browsed. Extensive areas of crown fern, mountain horopito, and bush rice grass, all unpalatable species, and the scarcity of palatable species such as tree fuchsia and hen and chickens fern, indicate the serious plight of this montane forest. It is in desperate need of regular, intensive, pest animal control, by all means available.

Near the bottom of the descent to the Deerford Loop track, above the TL of Coal Creek, we saw an extensive area of total dieback of kamahi and red beech. Was this the result of the cumulative effects of drought, possum browse, insects and disease?

Day 3 23/4/08

From the carpark on Petersons Rd, we botanised in the Oroua River valley towards Heritage Hut, where we had lunch. We continued up valley on the 'high water' track, to the point where it zigzags steeply down to a TL tributary of the Oroua River, making about forty-five additions to the plant list, including narrow-leaved mahoe, black beech, *Clematis foetida*, and lace fern, *Leptolepia n-z*. The weed, catmint, *Nepeta cataria*, was abundant on the zigzag, and we pulled out buddleia

in the flood-ravaged gully of the tributary.

Day 4 24/4/08

After packing, and tidying Sixtus Lodge, we drove along Pohangina Valley East Rd to Makiekie Scenic Reserve, perched on bluffs on the True Right bank of Horopito Stream. Mick spotted a "hole in the edge of the scrub", near the bridge—the start of a pest control line with about 20 bait stations. We clambered up to the top of the bluffs, and entered impressive podocarp forest with large totara and rimu—truly worth pest control.

We drove down valley to lunch by a large totara in Pohangina Scenic Reserve. This forest remnant was suffering from severe desiccation—seldom had any of us seen a forest with such widespread wilting. No doubt the drought, plus the narrowness of this remnant, river-terrace, forest, and its exposure to 'edge effect', accounted for its sad appearance.

We thank Sixtus Lodge Trust for the use of their excellent facility, Graeme Jane for supplies of plant lists, and John Sawyer, DOC/WN, for copies of Tony Druce's plant lists 148 and 124.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Bryan Halliday, Chris Horne, Graeme Jane, Brenda Johnston, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Mick Parsons, Darea Sherratt.

Barbara and Chris

Saturday 5 April 2008: Eastern Hutt River

On an overcast morning, with southerlies and rain forecast, we met at the Ranger's house, Kaitoke Regional Park, and were then driven over the 4wd road to the Eastern Hutt, arriving at 9.45 a.m.

We botanised two areas. The first was the river terraces on the True Left bank. They support mature podocarp/hardwood forest. Mature matai was the most common podocarp, with *Nestegis* spp. common in the canopy. Another feature was a small pond and wetland containing *Potamogeton suboblongus* and *Eleocharis acuta*. We had lunch in a grove of rimu, 1 km upstream from the vehicles. Plants of note were a 2-metre long *Huperzia varia*, *Raukaua edgerleyi* and a mature white maire. We saw numerous titoki

saplings, testimony to the mild climate on that side of the river. Also of note was the almost complete absence of beech spp. The area shows signs of recovery from deer browse, with palatable species such as karamu present in the understory.

After lunch, and still no rain, except for a few spits, we crossed the swingbridge to botanise the terraces on the True Right. This forest is different - it contains a larger component of beech spp., with red, silver and black beech present, indicating a cooler climate. We went down stream from the bridge to the sign, then upstream from the bridge along the track. At the sign, we saw mountain toatoa/ *Phyllocladus alpinus*, uncommon in the valley. Other highlights were

Ourisia lactea var. *drucei* and *Parahebe lanceolata* (uncommon). Several of the smaller shrub species were fruiting well, e.g. *Melicope simplex*, *Coprosma grandifolia* and *Alseuosmia pusilla*. The number of fruit on the *Alseuosmia*, up to ten on some plants, and the size of the fruit, made it one of the features of the day. Thanks to everyone for a great day, the drivers, and Huey for no wet stuff. We added twenty-three species to the plant list.

Participants: Gavin Dench, Barry Dent, Pat Enright, Glenys Evans, Sue Freitag, Chris Horne, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Mick Parsons, Sunita Singh, Owen Spearpoint (leader/scribe), Julia White.

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Wellington Botanical Society

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



Field trips/evening meetings: May–October 2008

For details see www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz
or phone trip leaders.

Meetings held 7.30 p.m., 3rd Monday each month, room M101, Murphy Building, Victoria University, Kelburn Parade

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 10 May: Field trip

Korokoro-Maungaraki Bush

Explore 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, 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.

Monday 19 May: Evening meeting

Teaching restoration at VUW: Is the emphasis right?

Speaker: Murray Williams, Senior Lecturer, Ecological Restoration & Conservation, VUW, is the course coordinator 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".

Saturday 7 June: Field trip

East Harbour Regional Park

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.

Saturday 14 June: Field trip

Te Marua Bush workbee

Please help BotSoc celebrate Arbor Day week, by planting the new area immediately north of Te Marua Bush. It was GW Ranger Steve Edwards' idea to extend the Bush in this way, adding to local, indigenous biodiversity and amenity, with a roadside avenue of totara and matai. Our planting will be made easier by a post-hole borer which Steve has organised. Since 1989, in partnership with Greater Wellington, we have honoured our commitment to two workbees each year in Te Marua Bush, a significant, matai/totara/maire forest remnant. Bring lunch and a drink, gloves, kneeler, trowel, grubber or spade. Meet at Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. (250 m north of Te Marua Store and then left, off SH2 for 50 m, along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park. Or, if you plan to use the train, **ring the leader beforehand** to arrange to be met on arrival at Upper Hutt Station; catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. Co-leaders: Sue Millar 526 7440; Glennis Sheppard 526 7450.

Monday 16 June: Evening meeting

Monitoring Regional Council lands

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*.

Saturday 5 July: Field trip

Ngaio reserves

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 supplied. Catch 9.02 a.m. train on Johnsonville line from Wellington to Ngaio. 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.

