

Wellington Botanical Society

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



NEWSLETTER

May 2009

Last issue: December 2008

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From the President

It is with great sadness that I note the passing of Geoff Park on 17 March 2009. Geoff was a member of BotSoc up until his death. When his family was young he and they were active participants on BotSoc field trips. Geoff understood New Zealand forest ecology in a way very few people do and his books – *Nga Uruora* and *Theatre Country* – are his legacy to the country he loved. An obituary will be published in the Bulletin.

On a happier note, I'm pleased to announce a new editor for the Bulletin. Leon Perrie replaces John Sawyer who has been Bulletin editor for the past six years. John brought a lot of energy to the role of editor and some excellent articles have been published. I welcome Leon to the role. Please note his call for submissions in this newsletter, and support him by contributing articles.

We've had a number of well-attended field trips over the summer including the very successful New Year trip to Westport and Karamea. You'll find notes on some of those trips in this Newsletter. I welcome you all to forthcoming evening meetings and field trips.

Carol West

BotSoc turns 70

Wellington BotSoc was established on 18 July 1939. Much was made of this in 1989 when the Society turned 50—see Bulletin 45.

We will have a modest celebration of our 70th birthday at our evening meeting on Monday 20 July. Bring your best travelling glass or mug to partake of a celebratory drink.

Thanks

Carol West

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
Tawa
Wellington 5028
ph 232 6828 (h)
ph 803 7878 to mobile
fax 803 7003
e-mail herbert.r@xtra.co.nz

Manawa Karioi Society Revegetation Programme Workbees

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

Bring your lunch.

Contact:

Peter Russell mob. 021 207 6011
Ross Gardiner mob. 021 0276 4154

Wellington Botanical Society

Address:	PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6143		
Web site:	www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz		
President:	Carol West	387 3396	
Vice-Presidents:	Sunita Singh	387 9955	
	Bev Abbott	475 8468	
Secretary:	Barbara Clark	233 8202	233 2222 (fax)
		e-mail: bj_clark@xtra.co.nz	
Treasurer:	Rodney Lewington	970 3142	
Auditor:	Peter Beveridge	237 8777	
Submissions			
co-ordinator:	Bev Abbott	475 8468	
Bulletin editor:	Dr Leon Perrie	381 7261 (w)	
		Te Papa, PO Box 467, WN 6140	
Newsletter	Chris Horne	475 7025	475 7253 (fax)
editor:		e-mail: jchorne@paradise.net.nz	
		28 Kaihuia St, Northland, WN 6012	
Annual	ordinary \$25; country \$20; student \$10;		
subscription:	group / family \$30.		

Send your 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 – 20 September 2009

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 Metlink, Greater Wellington's public transport network, 0800 801-7000.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS: JUNE – OCTOBER 2009

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 6 June: Field trip

Owhiro catchment and Tawatawa Reserve

Find some botanical gems on your doorstep. We will botanise two or three areas (streamside, wetland and valley slopes) in the lower Owhiro Stream catchment and the new Tawatawa Reserve, two adjacent areas in Wellington's southern suburbs. We hope to include an area in which no botanical survey has been undertaken. Meet 9.30 a.m. cnr Happy Valley Rd/Murchison St, Upper Owhiro Bay. Transport: no.7 bus to Brooklyn shops then 20–30 min walk down Owhiro/Happy Valley Rd, OR no.1 bus to cnr Humber St/The Parade, Island Bay, then ½-hr walk via Humber/Derwent/Moselle/Severn/Robertson streets and up Happy Valley Road. Map R27 Wellington, and street map. Leader: Dr Paul Blaschke 389 8545 or 027 246 2848; contact deputy-leader Chris Horne 475 7025 if you need a lift.

This trip will also suit people who are free for only half a day. Contact Paul to arrange afternoon meeting place.

Monday 15 June: Evening meeting

Vegetation and ecosystems on your doorstep

Speaker: Dr Paul Blaschke, Environmental and ecological consultant, Blaschke & Rutherford. Paul will talk about vegetation and ecosystems in some areas in Wellington's southern suburbs, concentrating on Owhiro Stream and its catchment. He will discuss his environmental and restoration work here and how it links up in a catchment framework.

Saturday 4 July: Field trip

Otari-Wilton's Bush

Walk through the Otari collections area guided by Rewi Elliot, Curator/Manager, Otari. The draft landscape plan is due for release for public consultation soon. This field trip will generate ideas for our submission on the draft plan. The day will start with a briefing by Rewi about what staff are trying to achieve. We will finish in the visitor centre with a whiteboard to record people's ideas. Co-leaders: Rewi Elliot (walk) 475 3245 (w), Bev Abbott (recording session) 475 8468. Meet 9 a.m. at Te Marae o Tane Information Centre, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wellington.

Monday 20 July: Evening meeting

Biogeography, phylogeny, and taxonomy of *Ourisia*— a research synopsis

Speaker: Heidi Meudt, Research Scientist (Botany), Te Papa. The genus *Ourisia* (Plantaginaceae) comprises 28 species found in the mountains of Tasmania, New Zealand, and Andean South America. Over the past ten years, Heidi has carried out biogeographic, phylogenetic, and taxonomic research on this beautiful and fascinating genus, using data from morphology, geography, DNA sequences, and AFLP fingerprinting. She will summarise her research, discuss the taxonomic implications, and show photographs of the species, including the Andean ones, and their habitats.

Saturday 3 August: Field trip

Orongorongo Track and valley

This is a good trip for anyone who has been thinking about a BotSoc trip, but not yet joined us. Learn some of the common Wellington-region native species along the well-formed, mainly level track. Friendly experts will be on hand to answer botanical questions, and help with identification of plants. Don't be embarrassed if you don't know ponga from pukatea! This is the chance to find out. At the river, assess the vegetation response after the massive March 2005 flood that scoured out the braided riverbed. Meet 9.30 a.m. in Rimutaka Forest Park carpark. Drive 12 km from Wainuiomata to park entrance, turn left, then 2km to carpark (far end near toilet block). Allow c. 1 hr from Wellington. Co-leaders: Jill & Ian Goodwin; 475 7248 (h), mob 021 211 7720.

Monday 17 August: Evening meeting

1. Annual General Meeting

2. AP Druce Memorial Lecture – backcountry botanists

Speaker: Neill Simpson, consultant botanist, will talk about his botanical experiences over the years, the wonderful people that make up Wellington BotSoc, and some of our outstanding flora. He will focus on his experiences and memories following Tony and Helen Druce and BotSoc. His first trip was to the Oterei Taipos in 1966, when based in home town, Wanganui. Ten years later, after joining the NP ranger service, the family moved south and persuaded BotSoc to visit Queenstown and Central Otago in 1989. Tony's records show that Neill and family did 76 field trips with Tony and Helen. In 1996 Neill retired from DOC as Otago Regional Botanist and set up Conservation Consultancy Ltd. Barbara and Neill are busy consulting, monitoring, surveying, planting native plants and managing native gardens.

Saturday 5 September: Field trip Otari-Wilton's Bush: Cockayne's impact on the natural areas

A little history and quite a bit of botanising. We will start with a short talk on what Cockayne and Andy McKay did in Otari between 1926 and 1933, then botanise the bush areas, identifying the paths by the names they used, discovering the remnants of their plantings, and considering what regeneration has occurred. We will have the plant list from the BioBlitz as a starter to see if we can add any native vascular species. If you have a GPS, please bring it, preferably set to NZMG. Meet 9.30 a.m. at Te Marae o Tane Information Centre, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd. Leader: Rodney Lewington 970 3142, deputy-leader Chris Horne 475 7025.

Monday 21 September: Evening meeting

Lancewoods and five-fingers: hybridisation, conservation, and the ice-age

Speakers: Leon Perrie, Curator of Botany, Te Papa, and Lara Shepherd, Research Fellow, Allan Wilson Centre, Massey University. *Pseudopanax* comprises twelve species of small trees and shrubs. Some are common and widespread, while others are quite restricted. Many are popular in cultivation. Lara and Leon will discuss: 1) each of the species, including how to recognise them and where to find them; 2) their preliminary research results on hybridisation between lancewood and coastal five-finger, including field-identification, which is especially pertinent in Wellington since the hybrids and coastal five-finger have become weedy here; and 3) the results of their Jubilee Award-funded research on the population genetics of fierce lancewood, and what this tells them about how this species became so sparsely distributed, which in turn has a bearing on how NZ's forests fared during the ice age, as well as plant conservation in general.

Saturday 3 October: Field trip

Wainuiomata catchment

Botanise podocarp/broadleaf and beech forests, with over 50 species of ferns, along the historic 'Pack Track' from George Creek to c. 700m on the ridge above the Orongorongo River. Map R27 Wellington. Booking essential so that we can advise Greater Wellington staff. Meet 9 a.m. sharp at locked gate beyond end of Whitcher Grove off Moores Valley Rd. Allow 45 minutes from Wellington. Ring leaders if you need a lift. Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025, 027 474 9300, Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

Saturday 10 October: 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 weeding gear: 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. (250m north of Te Marua Store and then left, off SH2 for 50 m, along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park. Coming by train?—ring the leader to arrange to be met 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.

Monday 25 January – 3 February 2010: Field trip

Coromandel Forest Park

Accommodation: Kauaeranga Valley Education Centre, c. 15 km from Thames.

Botanising possibilities: Table Mountain, Moehau, Te Aroha, Kopouatai, Thames estuary, Waiomu kauri, Eastern Waikawau, Long Bay, Camel, Pauanui, Webb Creek – Hydro – Billy Goat, Pinnacles, Waionora, Tarawaere, Moss Creek, etc. Overnight options to sites at north end of Coromandel Peninsula. We thank Graeme Jane for this list.

Maps: 260-T12 Thames; T13 Paeroa; T11 Whitianga; T10/U10 Coromandel; DOC Parkmap 336/11 Coromandel; DOC brochures: Coromandel recreation information; Kauaeranga Kauri Trail.

Contact: Mick Parsons 972 1142, mtparsons@paradise.net.nz

Full details and a booking form will be in the next newsletter.

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, rodnejl@clear.net.nz; WBS, PO Box 10 412, WN.

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

SUBMISSIONS MADE

One of BotSoc's objectives is "to make, or to join or cooperate with any other group in making representations on any existing, draft or proposed legislation, regulation or planning document that has any repercussions on the preservation or protection of the flora of NZ".

It's been a busy couple of months as several councils in the region have asked for submissions on their planning documents.

- **Greater Wellington's Proposed 10-Year Plan 2009–19.** In April we submitted on this document which is the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) under the Local Government Act 2002. We were able to support many of the planned activities, because GW does a very good job in many ways. We did, however, believe that the anthropocentric "healthy environment" outcome statement should be changed to include "the best of what remains of the region's indigenous ecosystems is protected and restored". Unfortunately this can't happen for another couple of years. In other key points we asked GW to put their in-house Biodiversity Implementation Plan (BIP) on their web site because many people will be interested in it. We'll be watching the site to see if this happens. We also encouraged GW to allocate funding so that the public can be consulted when the BIP is reviewed in 2011/12. At the hearings in May our submission received many favourable comments from councillors and Chair, Hon. Fran Wilde.
- **Restoration of Te Raekaihau Point.** Following the Plimmer Trust's decision to gift \$350,000 towards restoration of Te Raekaihau Point (TRP), Wellington City Council (WCC) sent out a questionnaire seeking our views about this important site on Wellington's south coast. We summarised what we like and don't like about the site at present and some of the principles we'd like to see applied during the restoration, for example, limiting car access, opposing "landscape planting", and accepting that natural restoration will be a gradual process.
- **Wellington City Council's Proposed LTCCP.** Key points included congratulating WCC on identifying implementing the Biodiversity Action Plan 2007 as one of the highlights, and expressing our disappointment that there was no sign of any capital funding to implement the Landscape Development Plan at Otari-Wilton's Bush.
- **Hutt City Council's Draft Management Plan for Percy Scenic Reserve.** In the lead up to the plan's release, several members enjoyed a discussion with Kelly Crandle of HCC at Percy Scenic Reserve that covered many aspects of the reserve's management, including the re-development of the nursery and the care of the A.P. Druce alpine collection.
- **GW's Draft Regional Policy Statement.** The final submission this month is GW's Regional Policy Statement (RPS), now due on 8 June. This is possibly the most important of all these documents because the law requires regional, city and district council plans to give effect to the RPS. Our submission will focus on the indigenous ecosystems chapter. The main objective sounds fine:
Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values are maintained and restored to a healthy functioning state.
The key issue, however, is how councils decide to interpret the phrase *significant biodiversity values*. Policy 22 (RPS page 92) lists five criteria that local authorities must consider in identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values in their district plans. These are representativeness, rarity, diversity, ecological context and tangata whenua values. If these criteria aren't right, many patches of bush, streams and wetlands could be at risk because Policy 23 requires local authorities to include policies, rules and methods to protect indigenous ecosystems and

habitats with significant biodiversity values from inappropriate subdivisions, use and development. If anyone has thoughts about gaps in these criteria, please let me know.

- **Draft Conservation Management Strategy for Rakiura Stewart Island and Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan.** Earlier in the year BotSoc submitted on these two drafts prepared by DOC for Rakiura Stewart Island. Our engagement in this process started on our summer trip to the island two years ago when we read the discussion document. The management of deer has been a major issue during a long pre-release consultation process. The draft included an objective "to eradicate, control and manage introduced animals in Rakiura National Park in accordance with national plans, regional pest management strategies and Southland Conservancy priorities" but there is no clarity about how this applies to deer. We wrote:
"Our expectation is that this includes deer. The plan fails, however, to provide any real clarity about DOC's intentions for deer – is the intention to eradicate, control or manage them".
We also asked DOC to include some milestones or targets showing what they aim to achieve for indigenous biodiversity in the next 10 years, and for policies requiring DOC to:
 - conduct surveys every 5–10 years to identify changes in the health of the forest ecosystems first monitored in 1998/99 and to identify the relationship between forest health and management input
 - ensure continuation of the marram control work at Mason Bay.
- **Review of Wellington Conservancy's Conservation Management Strategy.** In our September 2008 newsletter I reported that DOC's Wellington Conservancy had started reviewing the Conservancy's (CMS). The latest advice from DOC is that the review has been delayed until 2010, because of plans to amalgamate Wellington Conservancy with the Hawke's Bay area.

Join in

If you have views on the botanical aspects of any of these or future planning documents, it's worth putting in an individual submission because numbers may count. If you'd like to contribute ideas to the BotSoc submission, please ring me at 04 475 8468.

Bev Abbott,
Submissions Co-ordinator

EVENTS

- **10–12 July. ECO Conference.** Theme: "Greening our way out of a recession". Karanga Camp, Te Henga Rd, Waitakere City, Auckland. Programme and registration: www.eco.org.nz. Contact eco@eco.org.nz ph/fax 04 385 7545.
- **13–20 September. Conservation Week.** Theme: "Get involved". Contact Matt Barnett, DOC, PO Box 5086, WN 6145, ph 472 5821, e-mail mbarnett@doc.govt.nz, www.conservationweek.org.nz.
- **19 September. Otari Open Day.** Native plant sales, displays, talks, walks. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Confirm times ph 475 3245). Conservation Week theme: "Get involved". Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, Wellington.
- **15–20 October: 2009 John Child Bryophyte Workshop. Pukeora Estate.** (www.pukeora.com/), near Waipukurau, Hawke's Bay. This is a great opportunity to learn more about bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts) and lichens. Novices are welcome, with guidance provided for beginners. Cost of accommodation, meals, and transport during the workshop is c. \$340 per person. Contact Leon Perrie leon@tepapa.govt.nz, 04 381 7261, or Te Papa, PO Box 467, Wellington 6140.

AWARDS

4 September. **Greater Wellington Community Environmental Awards**

- www.gw.govt.nz/environmentalawards. Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142. 384 5708.

15 November: **Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award.**

- See “Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award 2008—applications sought” on page 8.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

17 June 2009. **Community Conservation Fund.** www.doc.govt.nz/communityfund

Guidelines.

www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/in-your-community/community-conservation-fund/ccf-round2-guidelines.doc The main application form is the Project form: www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/in-your-community/community-conservation-fund/ccf-round2-app1.doc If applying for fencing, complete: www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/in-your-community/community-conservation-fund/ccf-round2-app2.doc If applying for equipment, complete: www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/in-your-community/community-conservation-fund/ccf-round2-app3.doc

- Contact Alan White, DOC, Box 10 420, Wellington 6143. Fax: 04 381 3057, 0800 86 2020 awhite@doc.govt.nz www.doc.govt.nz

1 July 2009. **Biodiversity Advice and Condition Funds.**

ONLINE APPLICATIONS: You are encouraged to submit applications online using the appropriate form for the Advice Fund or Condition Fund. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/apply. Refer to the online application guide for helpful notes and hints
MANUAL APPLICATIONS: If you are submitting an application manually, applicants must use the appropriate and revised application forms.

- For information contact Stephanie Weller, DOC, 18–32 Manners St, PO Box 10-420, Wellington 6143 DDI 0800 86 2020, fax: 04 381 3057 www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/conditionapps.html

10 July. **Lottery Environment and Heritage Grants.** Support projects that promote, protect and conserve NZ's natural, physical and cultural heritage.

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

31 July, 31 October. **Wellington City Council Environmental Grants.** Criteria, application forms and other information available 6 weeks before closing dates.

- Grants Advisor, WCC, Box 2199, WN 6140, 499 4444, www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants

October. **Sustainable Management Fund.** This funding round will be for projects starting in 2010.

- Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN 6143. 04 439 7400. www.smf.govt.nz, funds@mfe.govt.nz

? **Project Crimson funding for northern rata planting, pest and weed control, fencing etc.**

- www.projectcrimson.org.nz, 0800 764 888. s.jones@auckland.ac.nz.

PUBLICATIONS

1a. **Science and technical publications 2008.** Research and Development Group.

1b. **Fire-induced changes to the vegetation of tall-tussock (*Chionochloa rigida*) grassland ecosystems.** IJ Payton, HG Pearce. *Science for Conservation* 290. 42 p.

1c. **Ecology, management and history of the forests of the Mamaku Plateau, NZ: an annotated bibliography.** AE Beveridge, BR Christensen, MC Smale. 2009. 154 p.

1d. **Estimating the benefit of early control of all newly naturalised plants.** S Harris, SM Timmins 2009. *Science for Conservation* 292. 25 p.

1e. **Factors causing dune ephemeral wetlands to be vulnerable to weed invasion.** PD Champion, PN Reeves. 2009. *DOC Research & Development Series* 310. 53 p.

- Publishing Team, DOC, Box 10 420, WN 6143.

2. **Wild orchids of the lower North Island – Field guide.** P de Lange, J Rolfe, I St George, J Sawyer 2007. \$15.

- DOC Visitor Centre, 18–32 Manners St, WN.

3. **EnviroNZ 3/09.** Resource Management Act reform; etc.

- Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN 6143. 917 7400.

4. **Open Space 75, 3/09.** Protecting Dr Cockayne's plots in Dunstan Mountains; fencing and pest control in forest fragments; native and weed vines in covenants; recording ecological change in covenants; etc.

- QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140.

5. **Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa Annual Report 2007/08.**

- Te Papa, Box 467, WN 6140. 381 7000, www.tepapa.govt.nz

6a. **Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy.**

6b. **Biodiversity Implementation Plan 2008–12.** 33p.

6c. **Streams and planting.** 2 p.

- Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142. 384 5708. www.gw.govt.nz

7. **Branch Out 31 Summer 08.** Rimu failing to regenerate; restoring dune plant communities on South Coast's 'Frying Pan'; restoring Ngāio's Orleanns-Makererua Reserve; etc. **No. 32 Autumn 09.** spraying weeds; Long Gully Bush covenant; winter tasks for restoration groups; etc.

- Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN 6140. 499 4444. lyn.murphy@wcc.govt.nz

8a. **NZ Botanical Society 95 3/09.** Call for nominations for Allan Mere Award; call for suggestions for Loder Cup nomination; regional BotSocs' news; biographical sketch of Thomas S Ralph (as in *Pittosporum ralphii*) by Val Smith; etc.

8b. **NZ BotSoc Newsletter.** Back issues: Nos. 1 (8/85) – 46 (12/96) \$2.50 ea; 47 (3/97) – 50 (12/97) \$3.00 ea; 51 (3/98) – 72 (6/03) \$5 ea; 73 (9/03) onwards \$7 ea.

- NZBotSoc, c/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Ave, CH 8001.

9a. **Auckland Botanical Society 2–3/09.** Kauri dieback; aquatic plants workshop; *Danhatchia australis*; etc. **3/09.** research into *Eleocharis sphacelata*; annual report with botanical highlights; etc. **5/09:** Bull kelp/*Durvillaea* sp.; cleaning your boot (see article in this issue);

9b. **Auckland Botanical Society Journal 63 (2).** 11/08: the flowers of manuka; *Schoenus brevifolius* and *S. tendo*; the flowers of *Toronia toru*; etc.

- ABS, Box 26 391, Epsom, AK 1344.

10. **Botanical Society of Otago 56 4/09:** *Hebejeebie*; *Hebe* vs *Veronica*; **plant foods of six bird species in Dunedin Botanic Garden; etc.**

- BSO, Box 6214, North Dunedin 9059.

11. **Canterbury Botanical Society. 1–2/09:** Peter Wardle obituary; etc. **3/09: 4/09; 5/09.**

- CBS, Box 8212, Riccarton, CH 8440.

12. **Manawatu Botanical Society.** No.40 3/09: *Samolus repens*, quadrivalens maidenhair spleenwort; list of ferns found in Manawatu; etc.

- MBS, Ecology Group, INR, Massey University, PNth.

13. **Rotorua Botanical Society.** No.51 12/08: Okareka mistletoe restoration and walk; *Dactylanthus taylorii* discovery; RBS 25th anniversary; etc.

- RBS, c/- National Forestry Herbarium, Scion, Te Papa Tipu Innovation Park, PBag 3020, Rotorua 3046.

14. **Trilepidea 61 12/08.** *Embergeria grandifolia*; recollections of *Trilepidea adamsii*; Prof. Ian Spellerberg wins Science Communicator Award 2008; riparian restoration; pillwort name change; *Olearia telmatica* on Chatham Island; *Hebe saxicola* described; renaming the Network?; etc. **No. 62 1/09.** *Asplenium lamprophyllum*; *Hypericum* research; *Cardamine*; plants threatened by animal pest control; NZPCN committee; kauri dieback; etc. **No. 63 2/09.** *Leptinella calcarea*; snow hebes; images required for threatened plant book; are we failing on weeds?; 2010 = International Year of Biodiversity; etc. **No. 64 3/09.** *Gahnia xanthocarpa*; David Given Scholarship; south-west corner of Chatham Island special; Waitakere CC survey of threatened plants; NZPCN conference proceedings; alien species classification; new threatened plants list; global assessment of plant translocation; *Plants that poison – a NZ guide*; etc. **No.65 4/09.** *Olearia semidentata*; Brooklands Lagoon salt marsh vegetation; swamp maire restoration; Lincoln BioBlitz; marae-based training courses; number of native plant species under threat increases; *Field guide to the native orchids of NZ*; etc. **No.66 5/09.** *Austrofestuca littoralis*; native ecosystem restoration trial; wetland conservation; restoration of Mangere Island; Rotorua BotSoc 25th anniversary; progress with Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; vegetation survey course; etc.

- NZ Plant Conservation Network, Box 16 102, WN 6242. info@nzpcn.org.nz

15a. **Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust 3/09.** Dr John Dawson a Fellow of the Linnean Society, as was Dr Leonard Cockayne; etc.

15b. **First of series of A4 monographs: Northern rātā; Rimu; Job Wilton.** Gold coin donation.

- OWB Trust, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN 6012.

16. **Pipipi 30 12/08.** how Hinewai copes with recession; *Anamanthele lessoniana* found; *Arthropteris tenella* found on Banks Peninsula; etc.

- Hinewai Reserve, RD 3 Akaroa 7583.

17. **Forest & Bird 330 11/08.** Weeping tree broom; Matiu/Somes Island; etc. **No.331 2/09.** Waiheke Island wetlands; totara; etc. **No.332 5/09.** Kaimai-Mamaku Forest monitored; Hinewai Reserve beats gorse; Matiu/Somes Island; etc.

- Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Box 631, WN 6140. 385 7374.

18. **Rahui Summer 08.** Taputeranga Marine Reserve; conservation on private land; greening Wellington; etc. **5/09.** greening Wellington; revegetation at Maaroa Roa; Taputeranga Marine Reserve; etc.

- Wellington Branch, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Box 4183, WN.

19. **Kereru 39 4/09.** War on weeds; etc.

- Karori Sanctuary Trust, Box 9267, WN 6141. 920 9200.

20. **Tracing the whakapapa of cultivated NZ plants.** Brochure re research project based at Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution.

- Lara Shepherd, AWC for ME&E, Massey University, PBag 11 222, PNth. 06 356 9099 x 4779, l.d.shepherd@massey.ac.nz

21. **Ecolink 12/08.** Climate change; RMA changes; etc. **3–4/09.** RMA changes, including removal of any generic urban tree protection; etc.

- ECO NZ Inc, Box 11 057, WN 6142. 385 7545.

22. **The work of KEA – Kapiti Environmental Action Inc.** 2008. June Rowland and Daphne Steele. 89 p. Publication supported by Kapiti Coast District Council.

- Bookshops.

23. **Maioro to Manukau Heads – a botanical journey through Awhitu District.** Tricia Aspin. 2008. \$51.50 incl p&p.

- PA Aspin, 195 Hatton Rd, RD 4, Waiuku 2684. 09 235 1074.

24. **Genus *Solanum* paper.** www.springerlink.com/content/gmm700927409465h/

<http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2009/03/26/colensos-collections/>

25. ***Alternanthera nahui*, a new species of Amaranthaceae indigenous to NZ.** PB Heenan, PJ de Lange, J Keeling. 2009.

- NZ Journal of Botany 47: 97–105.

26. **Additional records of indigenous and naturalised plants with observations on the distribution of *Gunnera tinctoria*, on Stewart Island, NZ.** PB Heenan, PJ de Lange, BD Rance, WR Sykes, CD Meurk, MA Korver. 2009.

- NZ Journal of Botany 47: 1–7.

27. **Threatened and uncommon plants of NZ (2008 revision).** PJ de Lange, DA Norton, SP Courtney, PB Heenan, JW Barkla, EK Cameron, R Hitchmough, AJ Townsend. 2009.

- NZ Journal of Botany 47: 61–69.

28. **Friends of Mana Island.** No. 38: karaka a weed; science on Mana; etc.

- FoMI, Box 54 101, Mana, Porirua.

29. **Coprosmapolitan.** Summer 2009: whau; Chilean rhubarb/ *Gunnera tinctoria*; etc.

- Nga Uruora – Kapiti Project, Box 1, Paekakariki 6583.

30. **Trees for survival – children growing our future.** No. 7 10/08: 60,000 trees planted nationwide; etc. **No. 8 3/09:** trees for carbon offsets; Wellington region activities; etc.

- TJS, Box 11 836, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542. Info@tjsnz.org.nz

31. **Friends of Galapagos.** Brochure.

- FoGNZ, Box 11 639, WN 6142. www.galapagos.org.nz

32. **Muelleria - Plant and Fungal Taxonomy & Systematics.** Vol 27(1) 2009: Revisions of *Brachyscome linearifolia*, *Asperula* and *Galium*.

- Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, PBag 2000, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra, Victoria 3141, Australia. Available on loan from BotSoc.

33. **BBC Gardens Illustrated.** 11/08: pp 64–67 – “A nation in a backyard”. This is the story of Arnold and the late Ruth Dench’s native plant garden, Newlands, Wellington.

DOC Wellington Visitor Centre



**Te Pae Manuhiri, Te Rohe
ō 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. •

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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**

New members

We welcome the following:

Tony Harcourt, Nikki McArthur, Catherine Rawnsley, James Smith, Dr Jennifer Vinton.

*Rodney Lewington
Treasurer*

Subscription reminders

If your subscription for the year ended 31 June 2009 has not yet been paid, there will be a yellow reminder included with this newsletter. If you get your newsletter by e-mail, you will receive your reminder by post.

The Treasurer will be away from 3 June to 27 July. During that period subscription enquiries should be sent to the President, Carol West (carolwest@xtra.co.nz).

Tom Moss Student Award in Bryology

The next annual Award will be made at the John Child Bryophyte Workshop to be held in October 2009, based at Waipukurau, Hawkes Bay

Tom Moss was an active member of Wellington Botanical Society for many years. He had an interest in bryophytes and was a participant in the very first John Child Bryophyte Workshop in 1983. To commemorate his name, the *Tom Moss Student Award in Bryology* provides a small annual prize for the best student contribution to New Zealand bryology.

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 before the Workshop and submitted for judging by **21 September 2009** (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 before 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 \$200 will be made by a panel of three judges attending the Workshop and appointed by 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 **21 September 2009** 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 enroll for the Workshop.

Further information about the Award is available from Dr Patrick Brownsey, Te Papa, PO Box 467, Wellington 6140. Ph 04 381 7135; e-mail patb@tepapa.govt.nz.

Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee

Award 2008—applications sought

Wellington Botanical Society invites applications for an Award of up to \$2500 to encourage and assist applicants to increase knowledge of New Zealand's indigenous flora, and to commemorate the Society's 50th Jubilee in 1989.

Purpose of the award

The Award is open to anyone working in New Zealand. It will be granted for: fieldwork; artistic endeavour; publication; research; propagation or cultivation of NZ native plants for educational purposes and/or other studies which promote the better understanding of NZ's 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 NZ's indigenous 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 6143

by *15 November 2009*.

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 2009. 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 the 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

Ecological corridors

This article follows *Connecting key forest and wildlife areas of Hutt City with natural corridors* published in the May 2008 newsletter.

The following areas are the natural treasures of Lower Hutt Forest and Bird's patch that we want to connect:

- Wainuiomata water catchment (Potential reintroductions of kākā, kiwi, robin and kōkako)
- Orongorongo water catchment
- Turere Stream, Rimutaka Forest Park (Successful reintroduction of kiwi)

- East Harbour Regional Park – forest (Robins reintroduced January 2009)
- East Harbour Regional Park – lakes and wetlands (Resident bittern and crane)
- Speedys Stream, Belmont Regional Park
- Korokoro/Maungaraki bush

Our concern is that we humans tend to develop everything we can get our hands on, and in time the land outside the perimeter of these treasured areas would become more hostile to indigenous flora and fauna. They would become isolated and their relatively small size, would decrease:

- species and community diversity
- stability of interactions
- ability to recover from extreme events
- potential for regeneration
- migration or seasonal movement
- protection from plant pest colonisation
- immunity from edge-effects
- ability to retain nutrients

The corridors that we want to achieve connect Belmont Regional Park and East Harbour Regional Park (forest block and lakes block) to Rimutaka Forest Park. They would wrap around the major population centres of the Hutt Valley.

The Hutt Valley crossing is at Hulls Creek, Silverstream, and is being planted by Upper Hutt Forest and Bird. The Wainuiomata Valley crossing is near the Wainuiomata landfill. These two crossings were thought to be the hardest parts of the corridors project to achieve, although a corridor across private land connecting the forest block and lakes block of East Harbour Regional Park also has difficulties. There are also disconnections in streams and rivers, the most notable being the sewer across the Hutt River below Silverstream, and the lake-to-sea connections of the Pencarrow lakes. These are part of the project.

The project, initiated by Lower Hutt Forest and Bird, focuses on connecting areas in our patch. This gives us major initiatives to discuss with authorities and the public. It provides an objective for groups undertaking restoration, revegetation and reintroductions. It also provides a rationale for the protection of areas that would otherwise be developed. For example, the Eastern Hutt hills could not at present become a corridor because they contain areas of private land. However, if the owners seek a scheme change to develop their land, the establishment of an ecological corridor through it could be sought. Hutt City Council knows our objective, so can be prepared when this happens.

The Hutt corridors could provide connections to areas in Upper Hutt, Wellington and Porirua. Work is being done on part of a bush corridor across Belmont Regional Park by Friends of Maara Roa who are revegetating Cannons Creek Covenant, Porirua. The fault scarp along the Hutt Road could be targeted to connect via Kaiwharawhara Stream to Karori Sanctuary/Zealandia.

The project could grow significantly. It could capture the public imagination and provide avenues for the spread and interconnection of indigenous plants and animals throughout the region. That is its vision.

A PowerPoint presentation, our main publicity device, has been well received. If you know any groups that would be interested, contact Russell Bell rbell@slingshot.co.nz.

Russell Bell

Has anyone seen the Ruahine grass tree?

The new national threatened plant list published in March has identified a new suite of plants about which we have little information—they are the Data Deficient plants. One taxon is quite close to home—the Ruahine grass tree, *Dracophyllum longifolium* var. *septentrionale*. This is an endemic shrub or small tree found in the southern Ruahine Range on and close to Mt Maharahara. It grows near the upper limit of silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*) forest and within subalpine scrub dominated by *Olearia colensoi* var. *colensoi*). Perhaps BotSoc would be keen on hunting down this plant on one of its forays, or perhaps there is an energetic member who would like to head up to the Ruahine Range. If you do find the plant, please give population details to DOC so that we can make sure it is not listed as Data Deficient next time around. The NZ Plant Conservation Network does not even have a photo of it on its website, so any images would be useful for illustrating the plant on-line. For more information see the Network factsheet at: www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=105

John Sawyer, DOC, jsawyer@doc.govt.nz
04 470 8427, www.doc.govt.nz
www.nzpcn.org.nz

New *Bulletin* editor – Leon Perrie

It was with some trepidation that I accepted the invitation of the Committee to become the editor of Wellington Botanical Society's *Bulletin*. As Curator of Botany at Te Papa, I have written plenty of articles for journals or newsletters, and peer-reviewed those by other authors. This new role will, however, be my first experience with the editorial and production side of publication. I look forward to growing into the job, with guidance from those around me.

Key to the success of the *Bulletin* are the contributions from members, and this is my initial call for material. Anything of botanical interest to the Society's members will be considered. Examples include:

- observations on a particular species or group, be it in the wild or cultivation.
- tips or guides for identifying particular groups.
- new records of native and/or adventive plants.
- lists of species for particular areas.

Articles may be detailed or whimsical. They may be based on intensive research or a chance observation. They might have their foundations in your own garden, or stem from explorations of the back-of-beyond.

If you are unsure of whether your idea is suitable and/or of what is required to write an article for the *Bulletin*, please contact me. It's my job as editor to advise and assist.

I encourage, even urge, members to share their botanical knowledge, and the *Bulletin* is a great way to do this. Sharing information means we each learn more about our plants, and this will help us better manage them, whether this be conserving rare species or controlling weeds. Knowledge retained only in one's own head is worthless for the botanical community.

leonp@tepapa.govt.nz; Te Papa, PO Box 467, Wellington 6140;
04 381 7261 (w).

Percy Scenic Reserve report

SH 2 realignment

The Dowse Drive interchange opened to traffic on 3 March 2009. The new entrance to the reserve car park is off the bottom of Dowse Drive.

The caretaker's house will be moved soon. The area north of the entrance has been graded and landscaped, and will be the first of the new plantings to go in. The garden will feature Wellington-region coastal species (DOC's Kapiti & Poneke areas), some of which are nationally threatened, others regionally threatened, and the rest locally sourced to boost numbers and add to the overall design.

Draft reserve management plan

The first reserve management plan for Percy Scenic Reserve was released in March—submissions closed on 22 May 2009. Several meetings on site with consultants and specialists generated ideas for collation by Parks and Open Space Management Consultancy Ltd for the draft plan. The Reserve Management Plan will give council and its contractors direction for the future of the reserve and plant collections.

A Development Design Concept, complementing the management plan, was created by Neil Aitken, the consultant landscape architect dealing with the redevelopment of the nursery and entrance.

A wetland area concept is being considered, to take advantage of the wet/boggy nature of the southern lawn below the escarpment, and the need to highlight the loss of wetlands in the district. If the concept proceeds, plants would be sourced from the Wellington region. A footpath and boardwalk structure will be built through the lawn area to offset the loss of pedestrian access caused by the motorway widening.

General news

The kingfisher population at Percy Scenic Reserve has increased with at least three birds calling during the mating season. Kākā have been heard in the reserve but not yet sighted.

The NZ poplar, *Homalanthus polyandrus* (Euphorbiaceae) from the Kermadec Islands has flowered and seeded consistently since planting in 2007.

Jill Broome
Plant Collections Supervisor
Percy Scenic Reserve

Report on GW-BotSoc trials of selected indigenous species on riparian sites

Landcare scientists Drs C. Phillips, A. Watson and M. Marden have completed their analysis and report on the five-year trials which began in 2002, at three selected sites on the Hutt River. The report has not yet been officially received or commented on by BotSoc or Greater Wellington, so we look forward to a resumé of it in the next newsletter. Meanwhile it seems that some questions that the trials were set up to investigate have not been answered.

Barbara Mitcalfe.

Nominations sought

Who should BotSoc nominate for:

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

Cleaning your boots

The spread of kauri disease is a timely reminder that you can spread many undesirable diseases and weed seeds on your boots when you are out in the bush. To ensure that BotSocers do not spread weeds and diseases, please ensure that your boots are totally free of soil when you come on a field trip.

Source: Adapted from Auckland Botanical Society
May 2009 newsletter

QEII Trust Open Space Covenants

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

- Tararua D.C./Alderson & Omundsen. 4.7 ha forest and treeland
- Tararua D.C./Barrow. 0.7 ha forest
- Tararua D.C./Beagley. 269.5 ha forest
- Tararua D.C./Checkley. 0.7 ha forest
- Tararua D.C./Elliott. 8.3 ha forest, rushland, wetland
- Tararua D.C./Landcorp Farming Ltd. 49.0 ha forest
- Upper Hutt C.C./Leary. 3.8 ha forest
- Porirua C.C./ Gray, Stanley & Meads. 0.7 ha forest

Source: Open Space 75 3/09

Horticultural use of native plants

Wellington City Council Berhampore Nursery's planting north of the "Taj Mahal" site, now the Welsh Dragon Bar, between Cambridge and Kent terraces, is an example of the well-planned and attractive use of native plants and cultivars. The plantings include *Aciphylla squarrosa*, *Anamanthele lessoniana*, *Coprosma acerosa*, *Cordyline australis*, *Desmoschoenus spiralis*, *Geranium* sp., *Haloragis erecta*, *Hebe elliptica*, *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, *Myosotidium hortensia*, *Pimelea prostrata*, *Scleranthus* sp., *Xeronema callistemon*. On a traffic island nearby are *Carex flagellifera* and *Podocarpus totara*.

Chris Horne

NZ Botanical Society seeks new members

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer from NZ BotSoc offering you a complimentary back issue of NZ BotSoc's quarterly newsletter to help you to decide if you would like to subscribe. The flyer can also be used as a subscription form. Subscribe now, and you will receive this year's back issues free!

If you receive your Wellington BotSoc newsletter electronically, you will receive the flyer with it.

Source: NZ Botanical Society flyer

Taputeranga Marine Reserve
 For any Conservation-related illegal activity,
 call the 24-hour conservation emergency helpline

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
 For Search & Rescue—call 111

All other enquiries to your local DOC office or visit our
 website www.govt.nz

Department of Conservation
 Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

QEII Field Representative

Peter Ettema has been appointed as Field Representative for the Wellington region (Kapiti Coast District Council, Porirua City, Wellington City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City). He can be contacted at: 04 970 0324; 021 1748 651, pettema@openspace.org.nz

Source: Letter from QEII National Trust

Te One Bush funding

The Te One Restoration Project in Kawhatau Valley has received \$12,630 from DOC's Biodiversity Condition Fund towards fencing, planting, and seedling-raising costs over the next three years.

Margaret Mitcalfe

Demise of the Daly St northern rata, Lower Hutt

Sadly, the stately, healthy, northern rātā which first captured my admiration in 2001, (see image) is no more. It grew in a small, grassed area, near the Hutt River stopbank. I estimated its height at c. 10 metres in that year, and added it to my personal list of "plants of interest". In 2005, to my amazement, I saw that a café had been constructed to completely encircle the rātā's trunk, cutting off all natural rainfall from the roots. I found out from Hutt City Council (HCC) that the tree was on private property and that the café's construction had received resource consent because it complied with the District Plan. Despite HCC's written assurance to WBS (25 January 1995) that the tree was "... being continually monitored and assessed by HCC's contracted arborists", the rātā continued to decline. Each

National Wetland Trust

Vision: "The appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders, and the enhancement and restoration of wetlands throughout New Zealand".

Annual subscription: \$20. Send your cheque, name, address, phone/fax no., and e-mail address to:

Treasurer, National Wetland Trust, c/o Postal Centre, Te Kauwhata. www.wetlandtrust.org.nz

Source: National Wetland Trust flyer

BotSoc Bulletins

The following back issues are available:

1950s: 23 (9/50); 30 (12/58).

1960s: 32 (12/61); 33 (2/66); 34 (11/67); 36 (12/69).

Index to Bulletins Nos. 1–35.

1970s: 37(11/71); 38 (9/74); 39 (10/76); 40 (8/78).

1980s: 41 (9/81); 42 (9/85); 43 (4/87); 44 (11/88).

1990s: 46 (12/94); 47 (9/96).

2000s: 48 (9/02), 49 (12/05), 50 (3/07).

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

Copies of our latest *Bulletin*, 51 (11/08), 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.

Rodney Lewington, Treasurer

December as our group of BotSoc Rātā Walkers passed nearby, we noted a significant decrease in its foliage density, and last December the tree was skeletal. It seems the owners of the site were not amenable to taking steps to save it. The café has closed and the rātā has now been sawn down. (Note: Although northern rātā is not considered by DOC as nationally threatened, in March 1999 DOC produced "Northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta*, in Wellington Conservancy, Current Status and Future Management" (McKessar and Sawyer) which is effectively a recovery programme for the species in the wild, but in urban sites, including on private property, as here, it is frequently under threat of damage or destruction.

Barbara Mitcalfe



The Daly St rata, from left: 2001, 2004, 2006. Photos: Barbara Mitcalfe.

TRIP REPORTS

7 February 2009: Jack's Bush, Waikanae

This 7.87-ha lowland primary swamp forest, with secondary kanuka forest, owned by Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC), was obtained from a property developer as a reserve contribution for a subdivision. KCDC has protected the site, part of the Bristed Block, with a Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Open Space Covenant. Greater Wellington Regional Council kills possums and rodents in the area.

Equipped with Pat Enright and Tim Park's plant list, we climbed a grass-covered dune from the end of Jack's Rd, off Ngarara Rd, and first botanised the bush edge, then the flat forest floor, and wetland margins. We were amazed at the size of some of the swamp maire/*Syzygium maire*: one

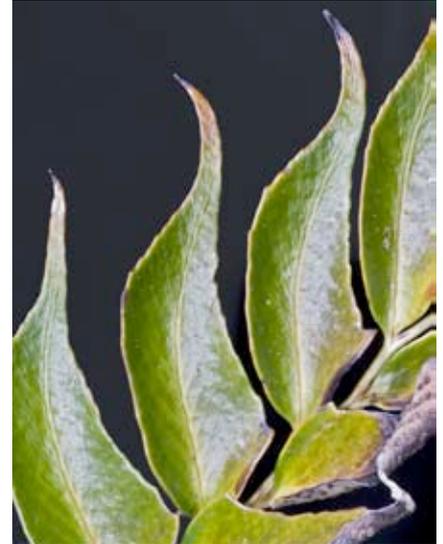
example had three trunks—30 cm, 20 cm and 20 cm d.b.h. respectively! Another surprise was our adding to the list a kāmahi/*Weinmannia racemosa*, of 45 cm d.b.h. We saw two native species which are weedy in Foxton Ecological District—pūiri/*Vitex lucens*, and karo/*Pittosporum crassifolium*. We urge KCDC and the QEII Trust to remove these, and other pest plant threats, promptly.

After lunch, we visited another part of the site and saw a massive swamp maire with a single trunk of 80 cm d.b.h., and later found a garden escape, holly fern/*Cyrtomium falcatum*, growing on a kāmahi near a neighbouring garden. Dr Leon Perrie*, Te Papa, identified the specimen.

We made several other additions

to the native and adventive plant lists, and will send these to Pat, Tim, KCDC, and QEII Trust.

We thank Lisa for leading this, her first BotSoc trip, and Rob, from KCDC, for his company and knowledge.



Cyrtomium falcatum. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

*Check the blog post that Leon has put up for holly fern: <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/category/plants/> Te Papa staff have done other botanical blog posts, all of which are accessible through the site.

Participants: Shauna Baillie, Lisa Clapcott (leader), Barbara Clark, Rae Collins, Rob Cross, Glenys Evans, Bryan & Robin Halliday, Chris Horne (scribe), Barbara Mitcalfe, Karen Palmer.



Syzygium maire. Photo: Colin Ogle.

21 February 2009: Druce garden workbee

Covenant owner Helen Druce had made a list of priority tasks for the day, and this, plus her annotated sketch map of the site, helped make our work more efficient. Some chose to weed *Ehrharta erecta*/veld grass, from the lower orchard, while others cleared debris that had fallen on the steep bush track which is still in beautiful condition decades after Tony made it. Others weeded the roadside berry-and-vege garden, and three more of us climbed to the upper orchard which is in two sections, both of them over-shadowed and no longer producing well. We wrenched out 40 sq. m of dense, in-seed veld grass from the

upper section, and later, after sharing our concerns with Helen about the threat of this infestation to the whole covenant, she asked for suggestions. Since there is no possibility of mulching the site, we three decided that the only sure way was to smother both orchard sections with weed mat, pinned down with wire ties. This has now been done: lengths of a 50 m × 2 m roll of woven weed mat cover both sections, closely fitted round the remaining tree trunks. Subsequent workbees will now need to eliminate veld grass from only the uncovered margins. Using weed mat in this way may be considered unorthodox,

but as a temporary solution in an ecological emergency, on a site which normally receives no maintenance because of its difficult access, it will prevent huge quantities of weeds from spreading further into the covenant. If eventually another strategy can be found and applied, the weed mat can be re-used in other parts of the site.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Barbara Clark, Helen Druce (leader), Bryan Halliday, Nicola Holt, Chris Horne, Archie & Lyndsay Kerr, Barbara Mitcalfe (scribe), Darea Sherratt, Carol West.

7–8 March 2009: Turakirae Coast to Barney’s Whare

The forecast rain cleared at the last minute, to give us a dry weekend. From the Orongorongo River mouth we botanised the coast to Turakirae Head, seeing many sand tussocks/*Austrofestuca littoralis* growing in association with the sand-binding sedge *Spinifex sericeus*. Behind the dunes on more consolidated ground, large mats of *Raoulia australis*/scabweed were helping to prevent the movement of sand inland. At Turakirae Head, on a cluster of large rocks, we saw *Sophora molloyii*/kowhai, shaped against the rocks by this exposed site’s severe winds. Further inland, we saw the dwarf mistletoes, *Korthalsella clavata* and *K. lindsayi*, heavily infesting their preferred hosts here, *Olearia solandri*/coastal tree daisy and *Coprosma propinqua* subsp. *propinqua*; to the point that some hosts were dying.

From Turakirae Head to Barney’s Whare is an interesting mosaic of earthquake-raised beaches that impound peaty bogs and standing water, or have drier areas, depending on how the water seeps through the scree and fractured rock from the coastal hills behind. The exception

is the larger catchment of Barney’s Stream which has laid gravels and angular rocks over the raised beaches. Some plants of interest along this section were *Drosera binata*/forked sundew, *Euphrasia cuneata*/eyebright, and what may be a discovery of *Coprosma virescens* at three sites along the crest of an older raised beach.



Euphrasia cuneata. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

We were concerned to see, beyond Barney’s Whare, the purple plumes of *Cortaderia jubata*/pampas grass covering an extensive area of a scree fan, which should be eradicated urgently to stop it spreading along the coast. Also of concern, *Erica lusitanica*/Spanish heath, is threatening the *Drosera binata* site. A marked plot of the erica should be

sprayed, after the drosera seed has fallen, to see if this kills the heath, yet maintains the drosera population.

The plant species list we used, provided by Pat Enright, covered from the Wainuiomata River to Windy Point. It was compiled from surveys by Aston, Bagnall and Wassilieff, and Druce, who later extended it up to 1000ft elevation. Others people’s listings since then, including those of BotSoc, are included. The list includes c. 530 vascular plants, with just over 360 being native. Of note also is that about 90 native species are listed as uncommon. This is owing to the unique landscape of raised beaches, rocky terrain, and the sheer variety of wetland and drier areas along the coast.

In hindsight, had our trip been in October-November, when most of the smaller plants, including sedges, grasses and more orchids, were in flower, they could be more easily identified. Participants: Bev Abbott, Barbara Clark, Gavin Dench, Pat Enright, Jill & Ian Goodwin, Christine Gregory, Chris Hopkins (leader/scribe), Chris Horne, Sheelagh Leary, Sid Moore, Barbara Mitcalfe, Mick Parsons (deputy leader), Sunita Singh.

Easter 10–12 April 2009: Wairarapa

10 April 2009: Alfredton Domain, north Wairarapa

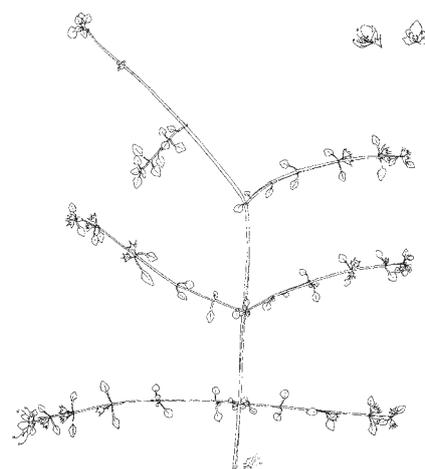
This site, our lunch stop three hours drive from Wellington, was the first bush we botanised on our Easter field trip. The impressive podocarp/broadleaf forest is on a well-drained true right terrace of the Ihuraua River. It is fenced, and protected by possum bait stations. The understorey is developing well, but amongst it are elderberry, sycamore and rowan, three worrisome weeds. There are numerous big kahikatea, tōtara and matai, and matai seedlings are common. Among the list of 54 native vascular plant species we recorded, the find of the day was *Teucrium parvifolium*, at the base of a big tōtara.

Chris Horne

Right: *Teucrium parvifolium*.
Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

11 April 2009: Moanaroa Covenant, Akitio, Wairarapa Coast

Dan and Barbara Ramsden placed 23.5 hectares of coastal forest under a QEII National Trust Open Space Covenant in 2003. Since then cattle and sheep have been effectively excluded. Possums have been controlled using poison bait stations.



Goats remain in the general area and are occasionally seen in the covenant.

We met Dan and his daughter Fiona at the station entrance where Dan outlined the history of the station and gave us a tour of the historic woolshed. It was built in 1883 and is still in use. The covenant boundary is near the station cemetery.

The covenant protects broadleaf coastal forest. It has steep slopes with some gullies, rising from about 40 to 280 metres, facing ESE. The drainage is “sharp” and the area is generally dry.

There is a good representation of mature broadleaf trees with a few podocarps. The ground cover has numerous tree and shrub seedlings. Some of these show signs of browsing perhaps one or two years ago. There is an absence of sub-canopy consistent with a long period of browsing.

The predominant tree in the canopy is karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), with a good representation of tītoki (*Alectryon*



Fiona and Dan Ramsden (foreground) discuss the missing middle storey with Chris Horne.

excelsus) and tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*). Rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*) is emerging above the canopy. A full list of vascular plants seen during the visit was prepared for the Ramsdens and QEII National Trust.

Other notable species seen were NZ laurel/pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*), and several examples of two species of milk tree (*Streblus heterophyllus* and *S. banksii*). Podocarps are represented by scattered matai (*Prumnopitys taxifolia*) and tōtara (*Podocarpus totara*). There are numerous seedlings of karaka and titoki.

We saw two groups of whau (*Entelea arborescens*) saplings. Both consisted of 20- to 30-cm-tall woody stems, obviously eaten off in the past, with re-growth of soft stems and leaves.

Lianes are well represented in the covenant. Of exceptional size are several vines of bush lawyer (*Rubus schmidelioides*) obviously decades if not centuries old. The widest stem is about 14 cm diameter.

We congratulate the Ramsden family on this covenant and their determination to see it regenerate

Participants: Barbara Clark, Chris Horne, Brenda Johnston, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington (scribe), Pat McLean, Barbara Mitcalfe, Kaaren Mitcalfe, Darea Sherratt. The party was accompanied by Dan Ramsden for the morning and his daughter Fiona Ramsden for the whole day.

12 April 2009: Pongaroa Scenic Reserve

We made a jovial start with joking interpretations of the signed 'Bridal Trail' we were about to walk. The times given for the walks added up to about an hour but the botany was spectacular, with nearly 200 indigenous plant species, so we spent five pleasurable and interesting hours there.

Most notable were all the 'maire': *Nestegis cunninghamii*, *N. lanceolata* and *N. montana*, *Syzygium maire*, and a *Mida salicifolia* well over 6m. We compared *Melicope simplex*, *Melicytus micranthus*, and *Raukaua anomalus*. Of the five species of podocarp there, the grand kahikatea at 'Kahikatea corner' was the most impressive. We ate lunch II under it with many tūi feasting vocally on the seed receptacles above. We made seven additions to the plant list provided by Pat Enright.

Threats to the native flora were most evident on the edges of the reserve. Tradescantia at the base of some of the larger trees was a major concern because spraying is known, on occasion, to have killed large trees as well as weeds.

Sheelagh Leary



Raukaua anomalus. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

25 April 2009: Te Marua Bush workbee

We began the planting season early, hoping that the plants will be well established before Spring winds dry out this stony area. The southern extension of the bush, and the newer northern strip along the edge of the Pony Club paddock, needed some infill planting, although the mild winter, and good summer growing season, had resulted in a good survival rate, and good growth

We planted 60 trees at the south end where there is now enough growth to provide some shelter from north-west gales. We planted 57

trees in the northern strip, carefully leaving the long grass intact, to try to discourage browsing by rabbits and hares, as happened after we planted into low-cut grass in 2008. "Hare nets" of fine plastic mesh over wire supports were used where the grass was short. The plants near the fences are unpalatable species such as mānuka, kānuka, flax and tōtara. Over 100mm of rain fell following the planting, so the plants got a good start!

We looked for weeds in the main bush. Some exposed areas near SH2

have infestations of tradescantia, so should be sprayed. We were encouraged to see large numbers of seedlings throughout the bush, but noted that a few older trees had been blown down by violent gales last winter.

Participants: Steve Edwards (GWRC ranger), Bryan Halliday, Dave Holey, Chris Horne, Sue Millar (co-leader/scribe), Barbara Mitcalfe, Rodney Lewington, Allan Sheppard, Glennis Sheppard (co-leader), Darea Sherratt, Owen Spearpoint, Jennifer Vinton.

2 May 2009: Korokoro-Maungaraki Bush

We started at the pipeline in Akatea Rd and followed O'Donahoos track up through regenerating bush, where "gorse is being over-topped, and the future belongs to the bush", said Kate. We had scroggin in the sun on Sugarloaf, a rocky crag that offers wonderful views over the harbour, and a new perspective on Matiu/Somes Island. Continuing over the top, we detoured towards Acacia Ave where last year's kohekohe flowers had turned into bunches of green 'grapes', but none of the many *Metrosideros fulgens* plants were displaying their scarlet plumage.

We found our lunch spot, near a large pukatea, by turning off 'Corin's Kohekohe Climb' track not far above the top dam and dropping into 'Percy Stream' which still contains original forest. It was here that we saw our only filmy ferns for the trip—luxuriant *Hymenophyllum demissum*. Later on, the heavily-silted dam and its grass surrounds stimulated visions of richer botanical futures for the site.

We had planned to botanise Galbraith's Gully and complete the figure-of-eight by returning up the Bush Track, but that loop will have to wait for another day.

If you don't know this area, it's well worth exploring. Kate and Barry Malcolm have produced *Walk Korokoro*, an excellent, A4, coloured brochure with map and notes about the history of each of the tracks and some ecological information. Ask Kate and Barry, 566 6010, for a copy.

We were pleased to welcome several local residents who joined us to learn more about the area's botany. The other good news is that in late 2008, Hutt City Council decided to protect several blocks of land in this catchment that had been considered for subdivision. They will also classify the land above Percy Scenic Reserve between Korokoro and Maungaraki as Scenic Reserve so that the catchment can be managed in an integrated way. BotSoc put in a submission on this proposal.

Participants: Bev Abbott (leader/scribe), Bryan Halliday, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Damian Manu, Barbara Mitcalfe, Allan Munro, Bev O'Brien, Jim O'Brien, Amanda O'Connor, Sean O'Connor, Keone Shelley, Darea Sherratt, Carol West.

EVENING MEETING REPORT

18 May 2009: Members' evening

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

Eleanor Burton – colour pencil, water-colour, and pen-and-ink images of plants

Arnold Dench – numerous native alpine plants grown from seed, all uncommon, but not necessarily threatened

Bryan Halliday – water-colour paintings of plants; several native plants

Chris Horne – reading from Dr Leonard Cockayne, quoted in BotSoc's "Our living cloak"; *Lepidium oleraceum* purchased as a vegetable seedling at a local garden centre

Rodney Lewington – slides of Moanaroa QEII covenant, Akitio, Wairarapa

Barbara Mitcalfe – specimen of *Streblus smithii*; slides of Makara Foreshore Reserve; Poplar Ave wetland/QE Park; northern rātā in flower

Colin Ogle – slides of Gordon Park Scenic Reserve, near Wanganui; swamp forest Pohangina Valley; *Crassula alata*, a weed

Mick Parsons – slides of Kongahu Swamp, and beach, Little Wanganui, near Karamea, taken in 1972 and 2009

Sunita Singh – slides of Atiwahakatu, West Coast, and Palliser Bay coast trips.

Chris Horne



Metrosideros fulgens. Kaitoke Ridge Track, Te Marua end. April 2007. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Wellington Botanical Society Inc. – Membership Application

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

I wish to join the Society

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

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

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

Type of membership: Ordinary \$25; Country \$20; Student \$10. Group / family \$30.

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

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

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My cheque is enclosed for Ordinary membership \$.....

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The Society holds the names and addresses of all members to use for post-outs of news letters etc.

The committee sees benefit in circulating the membership list to all members. This is done by many societies to enhance social interaction as well as being of practical value.

Under the Privacy Act the circulation of names on such lists requires the approval of the individual members.

If you are agreeable to your name and address being on the circulated list please sign the authorisation below

I agree to my name, address and telephone number being on the membership list to be circulated to members of the Wellington Botanical Society. I understand that this list is to be used only by members, and that the circulated list will include the caveat that the list is for social and society use and is not to be used for any other purpose. Specifically the list is not to be used for marketing, soliciting or political purposes.

(Please make any changes you require)

Name..... Signed..... Date / /

Name..... Signed..... Date / /

If you do not agree it would assist processing if you could please put a line through paragraphs above and return the sheet unsigned.