

### From the President

Members celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Society at the evening meeting in July, and acknowledged the occasion with cake and a drink. I would like to thank Bev Abbott for chairing that meeting and organising the refreshments, along with Sunita Singh, Jill Goodwin, and others on the night. At the AGM on 17 August all the committee and office holders were returned unopposed. The committee have done a grand job of running the Society over the past year. I'd like to thank Bev for chairing the AGM also.

This summer's trip is to the Coromandel Peninsula, based in the Kauaeranga Valley inland from Thames. Information and a booking form are in this newsletter. Coromandel Peninsula is home to many spectacular northern tree and shrub species, so I hope you can come and discover them with us. Some of you may be aware of the disease that is affecting kauri in Northland and Auckland: kauri PTA (*Phytophthora* taxon *Agathis*). It's a soil-borne fungus that can kill kauri of all ages, and can be spread on footwear. Please make sure that when you travel from place to place in New Zealand that you clean your footwear so that you do not inadvertently spread diseases such as kauri PTA. It will be particularly important not to transfer this disease to Coromandel's kauri populations.

*Carol West*

### New members

We welcome the following:

Stacey Gasson, June Gibbons, Jessie Prebble, Joe Prebble, Grant Taylor.

*Rodney Lewington  
Treasurer*

### Articles for web site

We welcome articles for consideration for inclusion on our web site: [www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz](http://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](mailto: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

<b>Address:</b>	PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6143	
<b>Web site:</b>	<a href="http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz">www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz</a>	
<b>President:</b>	Carol West	387 3396
<b>Vice-Presidents:</b>	Sunita Singh	387 9955
	Bev Abbott	475 8468
<b>Secretary:</b>	Barbara Clark	233 8202      233 2222 (fax) e-mail: <a href="mailto:bj_clark@xtra.co.nz">bj_clark@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rodney Lewington	970 3142
<b>Auditor:</b>	Peter Beveridge	237 8777
<b>Submissions</b>		
<b>co-ordinator:</b>	Bev Abbott	475 8468
<b>Bulletin editor:</b>	Dr Leon Perrie	381 7261 (w) Te Papa, PO Box 467, WN 6140
<b>Newsletter editor:</b>	Chris Horne	475 7025      475 7253 (fax) e-mail: <a href="mailto:jchorne@paradise.net.nz">jchorne@paradise.net.nz</a> 28 Kaihuia St, Northland, WN 6012
<b>Annual subscription:</b>	ordinary \$25; country \$20; student \$10; 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 p.m. 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 – 15 November 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, balaclava<sup>1</sup> or hat<sup>1</sup>, waterproof/windproof parka, long-sleeved cotton shirt, singlet<sup>1</sup>, bushshirt<sup>1</sup>, 1 or 2 jerseys<sup>1</sup>, waterproof/windproof overtrousers, nylon shorts, longjohns<sup>1</sup>, longs<sup>1</sup>, underclothes, swimming togs, 4pr socks<sup>1</sup>, hut shoes, boots, gaiters, mittens<sup>1</sup>, handkerchief.

### Day trip gear

First aid kit, compass<sup>2</sup>, map<sup>2</sup>, insect repellent, whistle, matches in waterproof container, water purification tablets, water bottle, thermos, pocket knife, camera<sup>2</sup>, binoculars<sup>2</sup>, hand lens<sup>2</sup>, note book<sup>2</sup>, pen and pencil<sup>2</sup>, 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, Glucose<sup>3</sup>, 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: OCTOBER 2009 – JANUARY 2010

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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 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. 780 m 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

In partnership with Greater Wellington, BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and revegetation in this important matai/tōtara/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, then left, off SH2 for 50m, along road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park. Coming by train?—*ring the leader* to arrange to be met at Upper Hutt Station Catch train on Hutt line Wellington Station/8.05 a.m. Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

### Monday 19 October: Evening meeting

### Greater Wellington Regional Council's biodiversity programmes

**Speaker:** Tim Park, Biodiversity Policy Advisor, GWRC, will explain the biodiversity programmes that GWRC is implementing across the region, targeting wetlands, coastal ecosystems, lowland streams, and providing assistance to landowners by supporting protection with QEII National Trust. If there is time, Tim will talk about GWRC's approach to the issues facing indigenous ecosystems in the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region.

### Saturday 7 November: Field trip

### Matiu/Somes Island

Botanise on-track, and off-track, with special permission from the Department of Conservation, to see if we can add to the island's native plant and weed plant lists. See the results of Lower Hutt Forest and Bird's revegetation efforts since 1981. A volunteer agreement form, to be completed by everyone, can be e-mailed/posted: contact Sunita Singh. Our packs will be checked for rodents. Make sure that your footwear is washed free of dirt, and that you don't carry any plant material. Catch East by West ferry Queens Wharf/10 a.m., or Days Bay/10.30 a.m. Return 3.10 p.m., or 4.25 p.m., to Queens Wharf, plus 3.45 p.m. or 5 p.m. to Days Bay. Let the leader know if you are coming, to help us make a block booking to safeguard our seats. Fares for members going from/to Days Bay will be a return trip fare, even though an extra journey will be made. To check status of sailings ph 494 3339. Leader-in-the-field: Brent Tandy; deputy leader: Sunita Singh 387 9955, 027 405 2987.

### Monday 16 November: Evening meeting

### Phil Garnock-Jones – research students

*Benjamin Magana Rodriguez:* Spatial patterns in the distribution of grassland plants - scale-occupancy relationships. *Danilo Coelho de Almeida:* Roles of chance and determinism in structuring ecological communities. *Peter Martin:* Taxonomy and phylogeography of the brown algal genus *Lessonia* around NZ and the sub-antarctic islands. *Samantha Jamieson:* Biodiversity of restored rear sand dune systems.

### Saturday 21 November: Field trip

### Dench garden weeding

Co-leaders: Arnold Dench and Eleanor Burton. Meet from 9.30 a.m. at 37 Lyndfield Lane, Newlands, ph 477 4490. Bring weeding tools, kneeler, gloves and food; hot drinks provided.

### Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 December: Field trip

### Western Wairarapa

Botanising possibilities include Kiriwhakapapa - Mikimiki Track; track to Blue Range Hut; forest beside Ruamahanga River; W A Miller Memorial Scenic Reserve. Your ideas welcome!  
Maps: Tararua Parkmap 274-02; NZTopo50 BN33 Levin, BN34 Shannon (NZMS 260 T25 Eketahuna, S25 Levin). Accommodation: house no. 2261, west side of SH2, 1 km past Ruamahanga Bridge. \$5/person. Nine beds, tent sites, kitchen, lounge, etc. Meals: pot-luck dinner, your choice for breakfast and lunches. Meet: 9 a.m., Dorset Square Native Reserve, cnr SH2 & Moore St, Featherston. Leader/Saturday: Tony Silbery. Wellington contact: Sunita Singh 387 9955, 027 405 2987.

## Saturday 12 December: Field trip

Celebrate indigenous northern rātā sites in suburban Lower Hutt, including Alicetown, Jubilee Park, Melling. See other native species including southern rātā. A 3-4 km walk, or shorter if you wish. Meet: 9.15 a.m. Hutt City i-SITE Visitor Centre, The Pavilion, 25 Laings Rd, Lower Hutt. Car parking is nearby. Catch: no. 91 Airport Flyer Courtenay Place/8.31 a.m., Molesworth St/8.43, to Queensgate; or no.83 Courtenay Place bus Eastbourne/8.45 a.m. to Queensgate; or no. 91 Airport Flyer Upper Hutt/8.30 a.m. to Queensgate. Short walk via Bunny St to i-SITE. Leader: Dave Holey 566 3124, deputy leader: Margaret Aitken 566 2731.

## 7th Hutt City flowering rātā walk

## Monday 25 January – 3 February 2010: Field trip

Accommodation: Kauaeranga Valley Education Centre, c. 15 km from Thames. Botanising possibilities: Table Mountain, Moehau, Te Aroha, Kopuatai, 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: NZTopo50 AZ34 Moehau, BA34 Coromandel, BA35 Whitianga, BB35 Hikuai, BC35 Paeroa (NZMS260 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](mailto:mtparsons@paradise.net.nz). Full details and a booking form are in this newsletter.

## Coromandel Peninsula

## AWARDS

- 15 November. **Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award.**  
*See article in this newsletter.*

## EVENTS

- 10–11 October. **Monitoring and restoration: Developing a plan for the future.**  
Workshops, presentations and field trips designed to enable groups to improve skills in planning and monitoring restoration projects. Speakers from around NZ, plus specialists from DOC, WCC, GWRC and QEII National Trust. Catchpool Centre, Rimutaka Forest Park, Catchpool Valley, Coast Rd, Wainuiomata. Numbers limited, so registration essential. *Bronwyn Bell 04 472 5821, e-mail [bbell@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bbell@doc.govt.nz)*
- 15–20 October. **2009 John Child Bryophyte Workshop.**  
Pukeora Estate., near Waipukurau, Hawke's Bay ([www.pukeora.com/](http://www.pukeora.com/)). A great opportunity to learn more about bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts) and lichens. Novices welcome, with guidance provided for beginners. Accommodation, meals, and transport during the workshop: c. \$340 per person. *Leon Perrie [leonp@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:leonp@tepapa.govt.nz), 04 381 7261, or Te Papa, Box 467, WN 6140.*
- 8 & 22 November, 13 Dec, 17 Jan, 14 & 28 Feb, 14 Mar, 9 & 23 May, 13 Jun. **Wainuiomata Catchment guided walking tours.**  
*Joanne Hunwick, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 40 847, Upper Hutt 5140. Ph 526 4133, [joanne.hunwick@gw.govt.nz](mailto:joanne.hunwick@gw.govt.nz)*
- 17 November. **NZ Plant Radiation Network Conference.**  
Lincoln University. \$65. Presentation of 15 papers. There will be a poster session.
- November. **NZ Plant Radiation Network workshop.**  
Landcare Research, Lincoln. Discussion about future activities of the network, and topics for research. \$40. *<http://awcmee.massey.ac.nz/NZPRN/>*
- 7–13 December; 13 – 19 January 2010. **Alpine flower tours.**  
*Tussock & Beech Ecotours, Staveley, RD 1, Ashburton 7771. Ph 03 303 0880. [ecotour@nature.net.nz](mailto:ecotour@nature.net.nz) [www.nature.net.nz](http://www.nature.net.nz)*

- 3–5 March 2010. **4th National Wetland Restoration Symposium.** Rotorua. Theme: "Wetland Management and Restoration - Freshwater and Estuarine".  
Practical-based forum, organised by Bay of Plenty Wetland Forum and National Wetland Trust. The Wetland Forum comprises [Environment Bay of Plenty](#), [Fish & Game New Zealand \(Eastern Region\)](#), and [DOC Bay of Plenty Conservancy](#). The Symposium is a training and networking opportunity for landowners, iwi, people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration, policy makers and wetland scientists from all over NZ.  
*Registrations: [www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/symposia.html](http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/symposia.html)  
[www.ew.govt.nz](http://www.ew.govt.nz)*

## GRANTS AVAILABLE

- **Sustainable Management Fund.** This funding round will be for projects starting in 2010. E-mail [funds@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:funds@mfe.govt.nz) for application form
- *Ministry for the Environment, Box 10 362, WN 6143. 04 439 7400. [www.smf.govt.nz](http://www.smf.govt.nz)*
- **October. Wellington City Council Environmental Grants.** Criteria, application forms and other information available now.
- *Grants Advisor, WCC, Box 2199, WN 6140. Ph 499 4444, [www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants](http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants)*
- **February-March 2010. Greater Wellington Regional Council Take Care Programme.** Funds community environmental restoration projects, up to \$19,000 over 5 years for restoring the region's threatened ecosystems.
- **Continuing. Greater Wellington Regional Council Wetland Incentive Programme.** Provides advice and financial assistance with protecting wetlands on private land throughout the region.
- *Tim Park, Biodiversity Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy Dept, Environment Management Div, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142. Freephone 0800 496 734, mob 021 972 759, DD 04 801 1036, fax 04 385 6960. [www.gw.govt.nz/wetlands](http://www.gw.govt.nz/wetlands), [www.gw.govt.nz/apply](http://www.gw.govt.nz/apply)*
- **March 2010. Project Crimson annual funding round.** Apply for eco-sourced northern rātā, or funding to assist with your project. Ph 0800 764 888, see [www.projectcrimson.org.nz](http://www.projectcrimson.org.nz)
- *Caroline Wallace, Conservation Manager, Project Crimson Trust, DOC/Te Papa Atawhai, 18-32 Manners St, Box 10 420, WN 6143. Ph 04 471 3271, mob 027 229 3623, e-mail [cwallace@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cwallace@doc.govt.nz). [www.projectcrimson.org.nz](http://www.projectcrimson.org.nz)*

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

# PUBLICATIONS

1a. **Conservation and the delivery of ecosystem services: a literature review.** KG McAlpine, DM Wotton. Science for Conservation 295. 81 p.

1b. **Vegetation monitoring in Whanganui National Park.** A Hawcroft, S Husheer 2009. DOC Research & Development Series 314. 29 p.

1c. **Conservation Action Te Ngāhau ki te kura taiao 2009.** 'Popular' annual report. 36 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.** 7/09. The land-sea connection; resource management reform; access to environmental databases; etc.

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

4a. **Biocontrol agents for weeds in NZ – A quick reference.** Brochure.

4b. **National Pest Plant Accord interactive key.** Free.

• [www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biosystematics/plants/nppakey/](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biosystematics/plants/nppakey/)

5. **Open Space.** 76 7/09. Focus on Wairarapa; the big podocarps; fencing; shingle beaches; protecting coastal ecosystems; Peter Ettema, new Wellington Regional Representative; etc.

• *QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140.*

6a. **Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy five-year review 2007.**

6b. **10-Year Plan 2009-19 – parks and forests p99-110; land management p127-138.**

6c. **Pest plants of the Wellington Region.** TC/RS/C/SL categories. 2009. 8 p.

6d. **Pest plants of the Wellington Region – Invasive creepers & climbers.** 2009. 6 p.

6e. **Pest plants of the Wellington Region – How to control common environmental pest plants.** Brochure.

6f. **Seen it? Call us!** 2009. 2 p.

6g. **Seen it? Call us!** 2009. 210 mm x 100 mm card.

6h. **Green Shoots 6/09.** DOC grant for Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park for a planting plan, and eco-sourced plants and fencing for an extension of the bush remnant.

• *Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142. 384 5708. [www.vot.nz](http://www.vot.nz)*

7a. **NZ Botanical Society.** 96 6/09: Regional BotSocs' news; Pimelea news; biographical notes – Ellen W Blackwell & Frank B Blackwell; book reviews – Chatham Islands Heritage & Conservation and Colenso's Collections; etc. 97 9/09: Audrey Eagle receives Allan Mere Award 2009; newsletter digitised; regional botsocs news; lichens on charred wood; Hebe breviflora; Pimelea urvilleana or P. urvilliana?; Isaac E Featherston; etc.

7b. **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. [www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz](http://www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz)*

8a. **Auckland Botanical Society.** 6/09: kauri dieback disease; etc. 7/09: eelgrass/Zostera muelleri; etc. 8/09: books and bulletins for sale; etc. 9/09: Coprosma propinqua; ABS Lucy Cranwell Student Grant for Botanical Research; etc.

8b. **ABS Journal Vol.** 64 (1). 6/09: trip reports incl. Waiheke Is., Sixtus Lodge/Ruahine Ra., Great Barrier, Webb Ck/Kauaeranga Valley; what is pikopiko?; Dactylanthus taylorii; etc.

• *ABS, Box 26 391, Epsom, AK 1344.*

9a. **Botanical Society of Otago.** 7/09: trip reports incl. mistletoes/Lake Wanaka; St Marys Ra, Taieri Gorge; etc.

• *BSO, Box 6214, North Dunedin 9059.*

9b. **2010 calendar.** Botanical Society of Otago. \$20 ea (or two for \$36), + \$2.50 p&p. Electronic payment: e-mail BSO: [bso@otago.ac.nz](mailto:bso@otago.ac.nz) with your name, address and payment details.

• *Robyn Bridges, University of Otago, Box 56, DN. 03 479 8372, 021 279 8372.*

10a. **Canterbury Botanical Society.** 7/09: Parsonsia; etc. 8/09: pollination & other research; etc.

10b. **CBS Journal.** 41 08/09: Chatham; Sophora microphylla in SI; cauliflory & ramiflory in NZ; Coprosma/Banks Pen.; David R Given; new interactive plant ID keys; etc.

• *CBS, Box 8212, Riccarton, CH 8440.*

11. **Manawatu Botanical Society.** 41 8/09: Turitea Reserve; Kōwhai & Kitchener parks; Moutoa Bush; etc.

• *MBS, Ecology Group, INR, Massey University, PNth.*

12. **Rotorua Botanical Society.** 52 6/09: RBS 25th anniversary; Waimangu Sc. Res.; Okareka mistletoe restoration; Motuotau Sc. Res.; new naturalised or casual vascular plant records for NZ from National Forestry Herbarium; etc.

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

13. **Trilepidea.** 67 6/09: ecosourcing; Mida salicifolia; the state of the native flora; Brachyglottis kirkii; forms of Spinifex sericeus; Waitakere Threatened Species Management Policy; etc. 68 7/09: NZPCN poster; draft NZPCN strategy 2010-2015; Hebe tetragona; Going Native: Growing and using NZ native plants reprinted; Dracophyllum longifolium var. septentrionale; ecosourcing; plant checklists sought; LucidKey for NPPA weeds; Dactylanthus newsletter: [pcashmore@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pcashmore@doc.govt.nz); etc. 69 8/09: companion native plants; Coprosma intertexta; Introduction to plant life in NZ; Philip Simpson wins Loder Cup; Network draft strategy 2010-15 for comment; Hebe breviflora; Botanic gardens – connecting people & plants (David Sole, WCC); restoration case studies sought for web site; on-line flora for Tasmania; etc.

• *NZ Plant Conservation Network, Box 16 102, WN 6242. [events@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:events@nzpcn.org.nz)*

14. **Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.** 9/09: walks and courses; Stan Reid's work at Otari 1932-83; Alfred Russel Wallace 'co-author' of theory of evolution; etc.

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

15. **Pipipi.** 31 9/09: tūi returned; NZ falcon; jewelled gecko; plants flowering and fruiting; weed and stock control; etc.

• *Hinewai Reserve, RD 3 Akaroa 7583.*

16a. **Forest & Bird.** 333 8/09: monitoring biodiversity; irrigation threatens Mackenzie Basin tussock ecosystems; plants on Three Kings; Aorangi Forest Park pest control; Pauatahanui wetland; Wanda Tait's work; etc.

16b. **Restoring health to our forests.** 12 p.

16c. **Forest & Bird – giving nature a voice.** 8 p.

• *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Box 631, WN 6140. 385 7374. [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz)*

17. **Kereru.** 40 8/09: Spring native flowers; planting a native garden; etc.

• *Karori Sanctuary Trust, Box 9267, WN 6141. 920 9200. [www.sanctuary.org.nz](http://www.sanctuary.org.nz)*

18. **Friends of Mana Island.** 39 6/09: Mana one of top 25 Australasian sites; > 0.5 million trees now planted; etc.

• *FoMI, Box 54 101, Mana, Porirua.*

19. **True colours.** Spring 09. Planting at Ian Galloway Park, WN, & Ascot Park, Porirua; Philip Simpson awarded \$100,000 Michael King Fellowship; etc.

• *Project Crimson Trust, c/o DOC, Box 10 420, WN. [www.projectcrimson.org.nz](http://www.projectcrimson.org.nz)*

20. **Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden.** 6/09: proposed interpreted bush walks; etc. 8/09: path signage; etc.

• *FoWBG, Box 28 065, Kelburn, WN 6150.*

21. **Trelissick Park Group.** Five-year plan 2009-15.

• *TPG, P. Reimann, 51 Heke St, WN 6035*

22. **Trees for survival – children growing our future.** 9 6/09: Friends of Trees for Survival Trust launched; resource packs available; etc.
- *TfS, Box 11 836, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542. Info@tfsnz.org.nz*
23. **Ecolink.** 6/09: tackling climate change; Budget cuts threaten species & destroy carbon sinks; protecting wild rivers; RMA changes; etc.
- *Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc, Box 11 057, WN 6142. 385 7545. www.eco.org.nz*
24. **The work of KEA – Kapiti Environmental Action Inc.** 2008. June Rowland and Daphne Steele. 89 p. \$10 + p&p. Publication supported by Kapiti Coast District Council.
- *KCDC, PBag 601, Paraparaumu.*
25. **East Harbour Environmental Association.** 129 8/09: revegetation of quarried area on beach; etc.
- *EHEA, Box 41 029, Eastbourne.*
26. **Friends of Galapagos.** 10 8/09: Galapagos Nat. Pk. now 50 years old; extension of park; invasive species; etc.
- *FoGNZ, Box 11 639, WN 6142. www.galapagos.org.nz www.galapagos.org.nz*
27. **Muelleria - Plant and Fungal Taxonomy & Systematics.** Vol 27(2) 09: Resolution of Thelymitra variegata complex of OZ & NZ; etc
- *Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, PBag 2000, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra, Victoria 3141, Australia. Available on loan from BotSoc.*
28. **Willdenowia 39 (1) 09.**
- *Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Freie Universität Berlin, Konigin-Luise-Str. 6-8, D-14195, Berlin. Available on loan from BotSoc.*
29. **Reconstructing the species phylogeny of Pseudopanax (Araliaceae), a genus of hybridising trees.** Leon R. Perrie \*, Lara D. Shepherd, Museum of NZ Te Papa Tongarewa, Box 467, WN 6140.
- *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 52 (2009) 774 – 783. www.elsevier.com/locate/ympev*
30. **Recent discovery of Equisetum hyemale near Levin:** <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2009/05/26/weed-alert-%e2%80%93-watch-for-horsetails/>, Dr Leon Perrie, Te Papa.
31. **Restoration blog post.**
- <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2009/06/16/restoring-our-surrounds/>

## SUBMISSIONS MADE

- **Wellington City Council's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)** . A letter from WCC in July provided feedback on their response to BotSoc's submission. Lots of good news, including:
  - *Otari-Wilton's Bush draft Landscape Development Plan:* funding from 2011/12 for three major projects, upgrading of visitor centre, reconfiguration of Curator's House, and construction work on central path through collections
  - *Biodiversity Action Plan:* funding retained at existing levels and possible reconstitution of a steering group/forum to guide its implementation and monitor its delivery.
- **Hutt City Council (HCC) Draft Management Plan for Percy Scenic Reserve and Jubilee Park.** A few days before the hearings, HCC staff circulated the changes they proposed that Council make to the Draft Management Plan as a result of the submissions process. These included setting the priorities for the PSR collections: threatened species from Wellington Conservancy in the first instance, followed by NZ alpinines, coastal and off-shore island plants. More significant, however, was the statement that "as part of the nursery development, alternative sites for the nursery will be investigated". Speaking at the hearings, I stressed that on-site

propagation facilities are essential for the efficient and effective care of the collections, and that, with appropriate security and interpretation, would add significant interest for visitors. Other sites within PSR could offer advantages such as more sun, more room for growing-on plants, and less noise from SH2. It seems, however, that the investigation may include offsite options.

- **Draft Conservation Management Strategy for Rakiura Stewart Island and Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan.** Neill Simpson spoke on BotSoc's behalf at the hearings in Invercargill. His ecological and botanical knowledge meant he was well equipped to respond to the panel's questions.
- **Sand and Gravel Extraction, Fitzroy Bay.** In July we lodged a submission with HCC and Greater Wellington on an application from Horokiwi Quarries Ltd to extract 17,500 m<sup>3</sup> of sand and gravel p. a. for 35 years from above and below mean high water springs. The company supported restoration work in recent years, and the records of what worked and what didn't could become a valuable source of information to other groups trying to restore biodiversity on difficult coastal sites. We've asked the councils to authorise extraction of quantities more closely related to the volumes previously extracted, and to limit the term to 15 years.

Bev Abbott

## 2009–10 subscriptions are now due

At the AGM on 17 August 2009, it was agreed that the annual subscriptions remain the same as the previous year:

Ordinary membership	\$25
Country membership	\$20
Each reduced by \$5 if paid by 30 Nov. 2009	
Group/family membership	\$30
Student membership	\$10

**If you have not paid already, there will be a yellow invoice enclosed with this newsletter.** Invoices will be posted to those who receive their newsletter by e-mail.

Rodney Lewington

## 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

## Dr Philip Simpson honoured

BotSoc congratulates Philip who has been awarded the Loder Cup for 2009, one of New Zealand's top conservation honours, and also received the \$100,000 Michael King Writers' Fellowship. Philip, a botanist, is a founding member of Project Crimson Trust, which works to protect rātā and pōhutukawa. He is also the author of *Dancing Leaves – The story of NZ's cabbage tree, tī kōuka, and Pōhutukawa and rātā – NZ's iron-hearted trees.*

Sources: The Dominion Post, 1 August 2009 and True Colours Spring 09

The committee

## National dawn redwood survey

Some country members of BotSoc might know of dawn redwoods and therefore be able to contribute to the following survey.

Carol West  
President

A survey is being conducted of all NZ's significant dawn redwoods—*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. Of particular interest are the first generation trees planted in the late 1940s—early 1950s. Planting notes, stories and individuals associated with the trees are of great interest, e.g., the owner of property at time of estimated planting. I would also be interested to learn of any other *Metasequoia* in your area that might merit being recorded, as there may be other fine specimens of this era in your region.

Trees of interest include those:

- planted pre-1955 or are;
- over 25 m high, or have
- a circumference of 350 cm or greater

I would be most grateful to obtain recent measurements of the tree/s.

I seek the following data:

**Height:** By reliable methodology - a climb & tape drop is preferred especially for champion status; or by clinometer)

**Circumference of stem:** (cm) IUFRO standard @ 1.3 m high

**Average canopy spread** (m) (average of N/S/E/W)

**GPS:** if possible

**A photo:** if possible

**Any historical notes especially on source and date received:**

**Recorder details:**

**Plantations**

**Details of any forestry plantations of this species are also of interest.**

I appreciate any assistance you are able to offer.

Brad Cadwallader, Nelson,  
Ph: 03 544 0346, fax: 03 544 2682, mob: 027 2261 666

## BotSoc Bulletins

The following back issues of our "flagship" publication 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. Thank you!

Rodney Lewington  
Treasurer

## QEII Trust Open Space Covenants

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

- Tararua D.C./Gower. 17.1 ha landscape, shrubland
- Tararua D.C./I & G Bolton Ltd. 16.6 ha forest, rushland, wetland
- Tararua D.C./Johnston & Trafford. 3.3 ha wetland
- Masterton D.C./Nicholson. 0.02 ha treeland
- Carterton D.C./Nicholson. 0.4 ha treeland

Source: *Open Space* 76 7/09

## New Environmental Interpreter

Kia ora koutou—I'm Tiff Stewart, the new Environmental Interpreter for the Wilton Foundation Te Tiaki Taiao.

My exciting task is to develop learning programmes for school pupils, then to deliver them in class, at Otari-Wilton's Bush, and further afield if necessary. At the moment I'm in an intensive research phase, deciding what programmes to develop, and whom I might develop them with and for! I'm really enjoying meeting so many encouraging supportive people.

Nga mihi nui

Tiff Stewart  
Environmental Interpreter  
Wilton Foundation Te Tiaki Taiao  
04 389 3132  
021 1410895

## New threatened plants book available soon

The book *Threatened Plants of New Zealand* by Peter de Lange, Peter Heenan, David Norton, Jeremy Rolfe and John Sawyer, published by Canterbury University Press, will become available early in 2010. The book provides detailed descriptions and images of the 190 species that are classified Extinct, Critical, Endangered, or Vulnerable under the New Zealand Threat Classification System. See the flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information

## 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. •**

**Sat 10 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

**Tel: 04 384 7770 Fax: 04 384 7773**

**E-mail: [wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz)**

**Web: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)**



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## President's report

### 70th annual general meeting 2009

#### Some highlights

- Patrick Brownsey was awarded the Allan Mere. He received the award at the October evening meeting when Peter Johnson, the previous recipient, was speaking. Peter's talk was titled "A very merry Mere"
- Publication of *Bulletin 51*.
- A very successful summer field trip based in Westport and Karamea
- A.P. Druce lecture by Peter de Lange: Flora of the Chatham Islands
- Celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Society.

#### Membership

The Society had 287 members in August 2009. The membership includes 132 ordinary members, 52 group/family members, 55 country, 45 life and 3 student members. During the year 21 new members joined.

#### Trips

Our regular trips continued to provide opportunities for members to visit new places and share or improve their plant identification skills. Plant lists prepared on our trips are passed to DOC and made available to wider audiences through the NZ Plant Conservation Network web site. Trip notes in the newsletter alert readers to significant finds and other trip highlights.

A number of new members joined after their first field trip. We help new members with their plant identification, filling their heads with masses of new knowledge. It's incredible how long it takes to go hardly any distance when plant id tutorials and plant listing are happening.

The summer trip to Westport and Karamea, as in previous years, had the greatest number of participants. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all for most of the time. Unfortunately Norovirus struck towards the end of the Westport leg and ripped through the systems of most people before the trip was over. The Westport-based part of the trip could be characterised as wet and interesting, and the Karamea-based part dry and interesting. Mick Parsons had organised a varied programme that got us into a broad range of vegetation types. Sheelagh Leary had organised excellent food and everyone contributed to camp organisation. Chris Horne took care of recycling. Both venues, Westport and Karamea holiday parks, were comfortable, and the use of the local school hall in Westport made the interminable wet weather more tolerable.

The next most popular trip was to Rocky Bay and Whitireia Park, led by Robyn Smith. Twenty-five people bravely snooped about the Rocky Bay coast in a gale. At least one beanie was plucked from the wearer's head and flung inland, and spume coated the cliffs in the most exposed corners of each bay. A fair amount of botanising was achieved and the shelter of Whitireia Park subsequently was much appreciated.

Given that bad weather in the winter seemed to be a deterrent to attendance at field trips, the committee agreed to shift the focus of winter trips closer to urban Wellington, and to start them at a relatively sedate hour. Perhaps we're all getting older and can't cope any more, or maybe our programme is a victim of global warming.

#### Meetings

This year's speakers have been stimulating, informative and very well prepared. We had the usual tussle with the data projection facilities, but trouble-shooting by various members always got the show on the road. Talks ranged from general interest to fairly high-powered science, and we had a lively debate about vegetation restoration after Paul Blaschke's presentation. Members contributed slides, artworks, readings and commentaries on plants to the Members' Evening in May. The limit of 20 slides/person meant that the meeting finished at a reasonable hour.

As with last year, the A.P. Druce lecture attracted the biggest audience. This year we were treated to a fascinating and comprehensive account of the flora of the Chatham Islands by Peter de Lange. We published a summary of his talk in the December newsletter.

A good-sized crowd also attended the Allan Mere talk to hear Peter Johnson speak about "A very merry Mere", and see Anthony Wright award the Allan Mere to Patrick Brownsey. We were very proud of both Patrick's and Peter's achievements.

#### Communications

The committee had a good look at all our communication tools to consider how the *Bulletin* might come out more often, how to shorten the newsletter, and what should go on the web site. We agreed that substantive information from field trips and obituaries could go in the *Bulletin*, and that the web site needs revamping. We are seeking a cost-effective option for redesigning it.

#### Newsletter

Our Newsletters are valued by members in many parts of the country. Editor Chris Horne compiled the content for three newsletters: September, December and May; and Jeremy Rolfe's professional production added to their quality. Members contributed items, particularly summaries of field trips.

#### Web site

[www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz](http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.wellington.net.nz)

Richard Herbert keeps the site up to date and is investigating options for a revamp. Julia White ensures that people contacting the Society via the web site receive answers to their diverse queries and requests.

#### Bulletin

*Bulletin 51* was published in November, containing many excellent and interesting articles. We farewelled John Sawyer, thanking him for all the work he put in as *Bulletin* Editor, and we welcomed Leon Perrie into the role. Leon has several articles submitted and more in the pipeline.

#### Community outreach

##### Displays

Displays at several community events raised the Society's profile, increased awareness of native plants, and attracted new members. Barbara Mitcalfe designed the displays for more than ten years: I still have deep cuts in my table-top from helping her mount pictures for our very first display. Mick Parsons and Sunita Singh are now doing a great job of keeping the display up to date. There are some superb pictures highlighting not only interesting plants but also

BotSoccers in interesting places. When not in use at events, the display is set up at Otari's Te Marae o Tane Information Centre and can be viewed there.

#### Submissions

Bev Abbott has done a sterling job of preparing submissions on a range of national and regional issues and local places. She has been ably supported by input from committee members who have reviewed and added to her considered and well-researched responses. We've been told our submissions are influential in helping protect indigenous flora.

#### Awards

The main objective of the Society is to "To encourage the study of botany, the New Zealand flora in particular". One way this is to be done is to "To offer or award any prizes, medal or award for any original research, literary contribution, essays or efforts in furtherance of the objects of the Society".

*To this end the society has, over the decades, built up funds from legacies, donations and surpluses. In the current financial year awards totalling \$4,476 have been made.*

#### Jubilee Award

The Society's Jubilee Award for 2008, valued at \$2,500, went to David Glenny, as co-editor of the Flora of Liverworts and Hornworts of New Zealand to pay for photographs of liverworts to illustrate the 2nd Volume of that Flora. The purpose of the Award is to assist applicants to increase knowledge of New Zealand's indigenous flora.

#### Student Field Grants

We awarded \$1,727 to post-graduate students studying at Victoria University of Wellington School of Biological Sciences to help with travel and other costs incurred in their research projects. The recipients in October 2008 were:

Denilo Coelho de Almeida:	\$343.70 to help towards the cost of materials for fieldwork.
Benjamin Rodrigues:	\$400 to help towards the cost of fieldwork.
Peter Martin:	\$583 to help towards the cost of fieldwork.
Sam Jamieson:	\$400 to help towards the cost of travel and accommodation.

#### NIWA Science Fair Botany Prize

We donated a \$100 prize for the best exhibit involving native flora. In August 2008 this was awarded to Louis Olsen-Stahl, a fourth-year pupil at Wellington College. Louis presented the results of a study of succession in coastal forest of East Harbour Regional Park.

#### Tom Moss Student Award in Bryology

We administer this award for the John Child Bryology Workshop, granting \$150 to assist a Masters student to attend the Bryology Workshop in November 2008.

In addition to the awards the Society provides, we also nominate or support nominations of botanists for other awards:

#### Allan Mere Award

We successfully nominated Dr Patrick Brownsey for the Allan Mere Award in 2008.

#### The committee

The Committee held five meetings in 2008/09, appreciating the comfort of members' homes as we tackled ambitious agendas. I thank all members for their extensive contributions and support. Each committee member takes responsibility for specific areas of work, some of which have been referred to above. In particular, I'd like to thank Sunita Singh for the calibre of the programme of speakers and field trips that she compiles and, in support of her, the trip leaders for offering or agreeing to lead trips, as well as the speakers who enlighten us with their knowledge; Barbara Clark for keeping the committee on track with agendas, minutes and information, and Rodney Lewington for judicious management of the Society's funds. Fortunately all committee members are willing to stand again and I look forward to another interesting year.

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks and acknowledgements are due to many other people, including:

- Jeremy Rolfe for formatting the newsletter and *Bulletin* and advice on our publications
- Arnold Dench for sharing his knowledge of special NZ plants and donating to the Jubilee Award Fund the proceeds from the sale of plants he has grown
- Barry Dent for preparing address labels for the newsletters and *Bulletin*
- Julia White for dealing with enquiries received via the web site
- John Sawyer for editorship of *Bulletin 51*
- Prof. Phil Garnock-Jones for arranging access to VUW lecture theatre M101
- Kevin Clark for cooking up a feast on the barbecue for the February committee meeting—it's the one we look forward to most
- Peter Beveridge for auditing the accounts.

#### Evening meetings

18-8-08	Peter de Lange	Flora of the Chatham Islands	66
15-9-08	Kevin Burns	Adaptations to moa	36
20-10-08	Peter Johnson	A very merry Mere	55
17-11-08	VUW students	<i>Plantago/Lessonia/</i> Hygrochasticity	27
16-2-09	Carlos Lehnebach	<i>Uncinia</i> – delimiting species	37
16-3-09	Carol West	Changes on Raoul Island	48
20-4-09	Ilse Breitwieser	Evolution of NZ's everlasting daisies	32
18-5-09	Members' evening	Nine presenters	27
15-6-09	Paul Blaschke	Vegetation on your doorstep	46
20-7-09	Heidi Meudt	<i>Ourisia</i>	46

## Field trips

6-9-08	Sheena Hudson	Dry Creek, Belmont Regional Park	6
4-10-08	Robyn Smith	Rocky Bay & Whitireia Park	25
1-11-08	Owen	Eastern Hutt catchment Spearpoint	12
6/7-12-08	Tony Silbery	Eastern Tararua Range	17
13-12-08	Dave Holey	Rātā walk, Petone	20
16/26-1-09	Mick Parsons	Westport – Karamea	36
7-2-09	Lisa Clapcott	Waikanae wetlands	11
7/8-3-09	Chris Hopkins	Palliser Bay coast	13
10/12-4-09	Chris Horne	Pongaroa-Akitio	9
2-5-09	Bev Abbott	Korokoro-Maungaraki Bush	15
6-6-09	Paul Blaschke	Owhiro Valley/ Tawatawa & Paekawakawa reserves	12
4-7-09	Rewi Elliot/ Bev Abbott	Otari-Wilton's Bush	16
3-8-09	Jill & Ian Goodwin	Orongorongo Track & valley	14

## Workbees

20-9-08	Glennis Sheppard / Sue Millar	Te Marua Bush	11
9-11-08	Barbara Mitcalfe/Chris Horne Makara Foreshore workbee	21	
22-11-08	Arnold Dench	Dench garden weeding	13
21-2-09	Helen Druce	Druce garden workbee	10
25-4-09	Glennis Sheppard/Sue Millar	Te Marua Bush	12

*Carol West, President  
14 August 2009*

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](http://www.govt.nz)  
Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai  
New Zealand Government

## 2009/10 committee

At the 70th Annual General Meeting, held on 17 August, the following were elected:

<b>President</b>	Carol West	387 3396
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Sunita Singh	387 9955
	Bev Abbott	475 8468
<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Clark	233 8202
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rodney Lewington	970 3142
<b>Auditor</b>	Peter Beveridge	237 8777
<b>Committee</b>	Frances Forsyth	384 8891
	Jill Goodwin	475 7248
	Richard Herbert	232 6828
	Chris Horne	475 7025
	Mick Parsons	972 1148
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Leon Perrie	381 7261 (w)

## Financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2009

The main change from the previous year is the decline in investment receipts, from \$8,189 in the year ended 30 June 2008, to \$6,928 in the 2008-9 year.

Funds invested have increased during the year by \$10,064, from \$105,706 to \$116,819. This is, in part, the result of substantial donations to the Society's award funds (\$4,209). A further \$3,150 came from grants to Victoria University students not taken up over the past decade. These funds have been credited to the Student Field Grant Fund and invested. The balance of the increase in invested funds comes from reinvested earning.

The Society's investments are mainly in time deposits. \$10,620 was held in the Tower Mortgage Fund at 30 June 2008. This fund has closed and capital is being returned as the mortgages mature or are sold off. At 30 June 2009 the Society held \$6,490 in this fund and has received income during the year of 4% on funds held. Whilst there is no certainty it seems likely that there will not be a capital loss on this investment.

The Jubilee Award for the 2008-9 is to be paid out in August and September 2009. This outstanding amount shows as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

A transfer of \$880 from the general (operating) account to the Student Field Grant is equivalent to what we would pay in hire for the lecture room for monthly meetings.

\$2,000 has been transferred from the General Account to the Jubilee Award Fund. This continues the policy of last year to build the capital value of these funds so that we can maintain the spending value of the awards. The transfers also help build a cushion so that, as interest rates drop, we don't face difficult decisions such as reducing the value of the award, or spending capital.

A copy of the audited accounts follows.

*Rodney Lewington  
26 August 2009*

**Wellington Botanical Society Inc.**  
Income and Expenditure for the Year ended 30 June 2009

General Account					
2008	Expenditure	2009	2008	Income	2009
2,551	Printing and Stationery	1,203	1,840	Ordinary subscription	2,002
420	Post and telephone	482	975	Country subscription	660
374	Meeting expenses	920	105	Student subscription	10
56	Sundry expences	106	800	Group subscription	800
300	Subscriptions to other organisations	225	105	Subscriptions in arrears	195
			3,825	Total Subscriptions	3,667
200	Depreciation on equipment and computer written off.	323	3,617	Interest on investment	2,945
1,470	Transfer to Student Award Fund	880			
800	Karori Sanctuary Botanical Trail Contribution		350	Increase in stock of postage paid envelopes	0
80	NZPlant Conservation network Sponsor a School				
13	Purchase of publications		95	Sale of publications	20
78	Transfer to Jubilee Award Fund-				
78	surplus on sale of publications				
1,000	Transfer to Jubilee Award Fund	2,000			
545	Surplus on General Account for the year	493			
<u>7,887</u>		<u>6,632</u>	<u>7,887</u>		<u>6,632</u>

Jubilee Award Fund					
2008	Expenditure	2009	2008	Income	2009
			45,012	Opening Balance	49,031
			1,000	Transfer from General Account	2,000
100	Science Fair Award*	100	1,491	Donations	2,581
			78	Surplus on sale of publications	
2,500	Jubilee Award	2,641	233	Plant sales	243
			22	Card sales (net of cost)	67
49,031	Closing Balance	54,491	3,795	Interest on Investment	3,311
<u>51,631</u>		<u>57,232</u>	<u>51,631</u>		<u>57,232</u>

Tom Moss Student Award in Bryology					
2008	Expenditure	2009	2008	Income	2009
			1,607	Opening Balance	2,092
			350	Donations	1,628
2,092	Closing Balance	3,711	135	Interest on Investment	141
<u>2,092</u>		<u>3,861</u>	<u>2,092</u>		<u>3,861</u>

Student Field Grant					
2008	Expenditure	2009	2008	Income	2009
			7,649	Opening Balance	8,367
				Unexpended funds from previous years	3,150
			5	Donations	
1,400	Grants to Students	1,727	643	Interest on Investment	531
8,367	Closing Balance	11,201	1,470	Transfer from General Account	880
<u>9,767</u>		<u>12,928</u>	<u>9,767</u>		<u>12,928</u>

Provision for Bulletin					
2008	Expenditure	2009	2008	Income	2009
			7,015	Opening Balance	7,069
0	Printing Bulletin	3,975	54	Sale of bulletins	357
0	Distribution costs	332		Grant for Bulletin from WCC	3,000
7,069	Closing Balance	6,119			
<u>7,069</u>		<u>10,425</u>	<u>7,069</u>		<u>10,425</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009					
2008	Liabilities	2009	2008	Assets	2009
2,010	Life Membership Fund	2,010	1,698	BNZ Current Account	2,431
			283	less unrepresented cheques	
49,031	Jubilee Award Fund	54,491	2,477	BNZ Savings Account	
2,092	Tom Moss Student Award in Bryology	3,711		BNZ Business on-call Account	4,237
8,367	Student Field Grant Fund	11,201	3,892	Bank funds on current account	6,668
7,069	Provision for Bulletins	6,119	203	Computer less depreciation	129
			161	Fax Machines less depreciation	348
			435	Display unit less depreciation	30
			30	Projector	
	Jubilee Award Account Award made		16	Stock of Bulletins	16
	not uplifted at 30 June 2009	2,641	24	Camping Equipment	24
			350	Stock of postage paid envelopes	50
			160	Stocks of cards	30
2	Sundry creditors			Sundry debtors	9
				Investments	
43,458	Accumulated fund as at 30 June 2008		10,620	Tower Mortgage Plus Fund	6,490
	add surplus for the year	493	10,915	National Bank	11,612
	Accumulated fund at 30 June 2009	43,951	54,224	BNZ Finance	66,697
			30,997	Westpac Term Investment	32,021
					116,819
<u>112,028</u>		<u>124,124</u>	<u>112,028</u>		<u>124,124</u>

The projector, bulletin stocks and camping equipment are held at a nominal value

Note that the Society has a No 2 Current Account used for handling moneys for field trips. At 30 June 2009 this had a credit of \$644.21  
This account is not included above and is not subject to audit.

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

Peter Beveridge  
Hon Auditor  
Date

## Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee

### Award 2009 – 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

### Dr Elsie Craig Gibbons 1916–2009

We regret to report that Elsie, a long-time BotSoccer, and enthusiastic participant on many field trips, died on 17 September, in her 94th year. An obituary will appear in an issue of the Bulletin.

The committee

## Percy Scenic Reserve

### SH 2 re-alignment

The caretaker's house has been moved. The caretaker has moved out, and will not return owing to traffic noise. A single garage has been built. The house will be hired to the Horticultural Society and other community groups for meetings. The turning circle is almost complete, and Fletcher-Higgins will complete the surfacing of the car park area this month.

A new entrance landscape plan has been designed to link the new car park to the rockery and entrance into the reserve proper. The new entrance gardens have yet to be planted. A sewage pumping system has replaced the septic tank.

#### General news

Winter planting is complete, with more threatened plants planted in the reserve, including the rockery, Chatham Island garden, and new boardwalk border.

Propagation is plodding along, with some good results. *Hebe breviracemosa* (see NZPCN *Trilepidea* newsletter no. 69) has been raised from seed from clones propagated from the only parent plant left in the reserve (May 07). The clones have been planted and the seedlings will be a good grade for planting in 2010.

Robyn Smith gave some seed for propagation, from a Nelson trip. About half has germinated so far, including *Celmisia*, *Elymus* and *Anisotome* species.

Tiny *Hebe elliptica* seedlings were less of a success, some succumbing to mildew. The remainder are now thriving in a windier open position.

Seed of the Charleston gentian, *Gentianella scopulorum*, was sown fresh in February and took six months to germinate in cool conditions (c. 60 seedlings).

Jill Broome  
Plant Collections Supervisor  
Percy Scenic Reserve

### Conservation Week at the Cathedral organiser stands down

A desire to promote the "astonishing" number of Greater Wellington groups working for conservation and a better environment prompted BotSoccer, and Lay Canon Emeritus, Ted Abraham, to organise an annual Conservation Week event at Wellington Cathedral. He persuaded the Cathedral to host displays by these groups, run a special conservation service, and host talks on conservation and environmental topics during Conservation Week.

Ted and his organising committee have sustained the event for over 12 years, encouraging an impressive annual line-up of high-profile New Zealanders to speak at lunchtime talks at the Cathedral. Leading academics, chief executives, politicians, and renowned authors happily accepted his invitations to speak and debate on sometimes controversial topics including climate change, the church and conservation, the collapse of past civilisations through environmental destruction, and whether too much is being spent on roads, and too little on public transport.

Ill-health has forced Ted to relinquish his role as committee leader, but he's confident to leave future Conservation Week celebrations in the capable hands of

fellow organisers and Cathedral staff who have provided “continuing and considerable support”. Committee member Elizabeth Smaal says the committee was largely run by Ted, who had an “enormous number of contacts across the Wellington region and was able to attract top quality speakers”.

A former Rangitikei farmer who chaired the Diocesan creation and environment council for many years, Ted says he immensely enjoyed organising Conservation Week at the Cathedral “despite on occasions being on the verge of chaos”, and appreciated the support and encouragement given by DOC.

“Coming down from remote Mangaweka hill country where there was not much people contact, it was fun to be involved with all those people. It was a creative opportunity rather than work”.

This year the Cathedral hosted a Transition Towns Expo during Conservation Week. Displays and exhibits were open daily 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. from 6–20 September, and public debates/discussions were held during the week of 6-11 September.

*Bev Abbott*

## Introduction of NZTopo50 maps

The new Topo50 maps series replaced the old NZMS 260 series in September. The co-ordinates used in the new maps supersede those in the old maps, and have shifted by c. 200m.

The change, from the old NZ Map Grid to NZTM (NZ Transverse Mercator), brings New Zealand into line with international mapping standards.

Users of GPS units must ensure that their units are set to the new grid system. Recent model GPS units are already set up with both datum systems. It is a matter of using the right setting for the map one is using.

Google “NZTM2000” to get sites explaining the change. A comprehensive one is [www.maptoaster.com/maptoaster-topo-nz/.../nztm/nztm.html](http://www.maptoaster.com/maptoaster-topo-nz/.../nztm/nztm.html).

For botanists, the change means that any records (field books, packets and herbarium specimens) will need to say what datum the map reference is based on. You can tell from the numbers because the NZMG and NZTM datum series start at different points. As a consequence, the easting co-ordinate for NZMG runs from 2,000,000 in Fiordland to 3,000,000 in East Cape, while the NZTM runs from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000. Even so it would be safer to state in the record.

The Land Information New Zealand website has detailed information about the Topo50 map series, and has an on-line calculator to convert grid references and co-ordinates from the old system to the new: [www.linz.govt.nz/geodetic/conversion-coordinates/online-conversion-service/converter/index.aspx?advanced=0](http://www.linz.govt.nz/geodetic/conversion-coordinates/online-conversion-service/converter/index.aspx?advanced=0).

All of the Topo50 maps may be downloaded free from the LINZ website, although the high-resolution tiff files are very large. Printed maps are also available from map retailers. Sheets are smaller than previously and are printed in portrait format. Recommended retail price is \$9 / sheet.

*Rodney Lewington*

## Audrey Eagle responds to our congratulations

Dear Barbara Clark,

Thank you and Wellington Botanical Society members for the congratulations upon my being awarded the H H Allan Mere for my botanical work. After receiving book awards, which I very much appreciated, I was delighted to receive a botanical award as well. I have so enjoyed our botanical New Year camps over a long period. The company has always been great and the plant finds exciting. Regretfully I think the trips are rather too strenuous for me nowadays. I never thought that I would say that, but I was deluded into thinking that I could go on forever. My best wishes are always with you during the New Year camp times. Every good wish to all of my botanical friends, and kindest regards.

*Audrey Eagle*

P.S. I have taken up drawing animals for a change. [aeagle@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aeagle@xtra.co.nz)

## Matiu matters

Forest and Bird’s Lower Hutt branch continues forest restoration on the island, now in its 28th season. A green cloak of maturing bush covers most of the areas planned for planting. Now the work is to enrich the understorey with shade-tolerant species. Peter Russell, employed by DOC, has prepared a plan for this work which delineates c. 40 small areas, each to be filled with appropriate plants. We hope that some volunteers will adopt an area to plant and care for. The nursery produced plants for this season’s planting, and is potting-up species for next year. Peter is systematically waging war on weeds from one end of the island to the other. “Weeds” include native species such as karo that do not occur naturally in the Wellington Ecological Region.

In the past, Forest and Bird has planned the planting programme, and now the task is passing to DOC who have taken it up with enthusiasm, while relying on input from Forest and Bird.

Lower Hutt branch has commissioned an author to write a book telling the story of Matiu/Somes Island restoration since 1981. We look forward to having it available for sale for the 30th anniversary in July 2011.

*Stan Butcher*

## Mistletoe on Kaukau

I found two plants of green mistletoe, *Ileostylus micranthus*, growing on the upper part of the main Mt Kaukau track, in Khandallah Park. They are on *Coprosma foetidissima* shrubs at about waist/chest height. They are in a typical environment for the species according to the Plant Conservation Species web page. [www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular\\_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=874](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/vascular_plants/detail.asp?PlantID=874)

*Jonathan Anderson*

It is unlikely that these plants were planted, so they may have reappeared thanks to Greater Wellington Regional Council’s and Wellington City Council’s c. six years of intensive possum control, with by-kill of rodents.

*Editor*

## **Botany prize, 2009 NIWA Science and Technology Fair**

Wellington Botanical Society's prize for the best project involving native plants was shared between two year 8 pupils from Maidstone Intermediate School.

- Kyra Thomson received \$100 for her project on the antifreeze properties of some native plants. She first obtained distillates from the leaves of NZ flax, cabbage tree, mānuka, hebe and lancewood. She placed these in a freezer. Her tap water control froze within an hour, whilst it took 5 hours for the plant distillates to freeze solid. There was little difference between the plant distillates in the time they took to freeze. Kyra would like to see if NZ plants could be a source of environmentally friendly antifreeze.
- Christopher Larson received \$50 for his project comparing differing methods of preparing kōwhai seeds for germination. Sanding did a little better than clipping. He showed that dropping seeds into boiling water before sowing was an old wives' tale - they failed to germinate.

It was a pleasure to see the displays and discuss them with both pupils. Their exhibits were clearly set out to show the hypothesis, their initial research, experimental method, results and conclusions.

*Rodney Lewington*

We thank Rodney for judging the entries.

*The committee*

## **Mana Island's fledgling forest expands**

Volunteer groups this winter added almost 11,000 plants to the native forest being re-established on Mana Island. Friends of Mana Island (FoMI), Ngāti Toa, Hutt Valley and Wanganui tramping clubs, and Plimmerton School, have planted mainly canopy species including nikau, titoki and kōwhai amid the hundreds of thousands of pioneer species such as māhoe, mānuka and karamū, planted on the island over the past decade. Thousands of kohekohe seeds have also been hand-sown on the island.

This year the planting was concentrated in two large blocks, one to the south and one in the centre of the island near the weather station, with a wetter than usual May and June giving the plants a good start. Seeds were eco-sourced by Alan Corry from FoMI, and volunteer Kelvin Hunt, from 100 m a.s.l., to ensure the best possible chance of survival once they begin growing at that elevation on Mana.

*Source: Footnotes, August 2009*

## **Wellington's Taputeranga Marine Reserve one year old**

Taputeranga Marine Reserve celebrated its first birthday on 28 August.

Located on Wellington's south coast, the reserve is a focus for marine study, outdoor recreation, and community events aimed at raising awareness of the marine environment.

*Source: Footnotes, August 2009*

## **Volunteers sought to help control weeds in Tararua Forest Park**

DOC is seeking 15 volunteers to help control Spanish heath in eastern Tararua Forest Park in November. Spanish heath is an exotic plant infesting kākara shrubland in the Tauherenikau Valley. Registrations with DOC's Wairarapa Area Office by *Friday 16 October 2009*.

*Source: Footnotes, August 2009*

## **Karori Tunnel, eastern portal planting**

Karori Tunnel, completed in 1900, is part of Wellington's industrial heritage, dug out with pick, shovel and barrow, and constructed with locally-fired bricks from a kiln in Aro Valley. Along with a few other locals I have always felt that it merits recognition in the form of landscaping to replace the unsightly weeds and accumulated rubbish above its eastern portal, the portal to Karori and to the Sanctuary. In response to my letter, in 2002 WCC agreed to help clear and plant the area with indigenous species, as part of its road-reserve programme, and since then, two or three of us volunteers have planted more native trees and tussocks, and tried to keep on top of the weeds. Last winter's abundant rain prompted the trees to put on such growth that they now form a closed canopy over most of the site, helping to suppress weeds, but unfortunately an unparalleled assortment of weeds has also benefited from the moisture, to the extent that they are now shoulder-high in places, needing hand-weeding. Spraying with herbicide is not an option because of the risk of damaging non-target species. To compound the weed problem, tree lucerne and Taiwan cherry have established on the site, and their seedlings and saplings are now abundant. Although several people have expressed their appreciation of this ecological restoration project, noting for instance, that tūi are now visiting the kōwhai grove, no one has offered to help maintain it. So this month I wrote to Vikki Muxlow, Acting Manager, Parks and Gardens, WCC, requesting help, also suggesting that the unsightly, blackberry-infested approaches to the tunnel from town, be brought into the project by being cleared and planted with low/no maintenance, indigenous species, such as closely-spaced coastal flax and a few kōwhai, as drawn in the original landscape plan. Within days, Parks and Gardens staff made a site visit and Vikki has since confirmed that they will do additional weed control, remove the larger lucernes, spray the blackberry and gorse on the approaches this spring, and over the next two winters, plant 40% of the approaches. This is an excellent response, especially when one considers the hazardous nature of the approaches, requiring workers to be harnessed. I stress however, that the rest of the site is not hazardous, so if you're interested in occasionally helping there as a volunteer, please don't be put off. Most of the site is not steep, and it's quite a buzz to be working there among indigenous plants, while traffic surges past below.

*Barbara Mitcalfe, ph 04 475 7149.*

# TRIP REPORTS

## 16–26 January 2009, Westport–Karamea

Here are reports of some of the summer trip's marvellous botanical forays:

### Day 1, 17/1/09: Mt William

Peter Lusk and Rona Spencer, knowledgeable locals, led us up Myra's Track from Burnetts Face, south-east of Denniston, to Mt William 1062 m. In drenching rain, we saw striped sun orchid/*Thelymitra cyanea*, beside the track, in the shrublands, soon after leaving the road, and later, in wet, moss-laden forest, a small tree of *Metrosideros parkinsonii*. The weather on the summit was not conducive to botanising! We were impressed at how the stream, so low in the morning, was a raging torrent when we returned to the vehicles.

Chris Horne & Barbara Mitcalfe



*Metrosideros parkinsonii*.  
Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

### Day 2, 18/1/09: Truman Track, Pancake Rocks and Pororari River Track

The forecast was not good as we drove to three sites near Punakaiki.

**Truman Track** is promoted as a 15-minute walk through semi-tropical rainforest to a headland with stunning views up and down the coastline, and access to a fine gravel beach at low tide. It offers botanists much more. We gasped at the huge rātā descending a huge matai, enjoyed giant coastal flax and gahnia (*G. rigida*), and ferreted

for little plants trackside in the coastal turf on the cliff tops. The track down into the bay brought another flurry of ticking on Graeme Jane's plant list as we found *Tetragonia implexicoma*, *Adiantum cunninghamii*, *Olearia avicenniifolia* and others. A fossil leg bone in the overhanging roof was an unexpected bonus. On our return to the car park, we were much wetter than the tourists who had strode past us, so lattes in the tourist trap were welcome.

The walkway to **Pancake Rocks** and blowholes is sealed, and fences and steps help handle the continuous flow of visitors. The rocks are mainly limestone, worn and sculpted by the weather and sea, leaving unique stacks resembling pancakes piled one on another. Weathered stacks with fresh gold patches showed that erosion continues. Botanical highlights included fruiting nikau in the forest, and *Euphorbia glauca* and *Craspedia* sp. on the cliffs above the blowholes. It didn't pay to think about weeding in such hazardous surroundings! We learnt that four BotSoccers will fit under the same umbrella during the heaviest showers. Tourists in shorts, T-shirts and jandals must have wondered at our boots, parkas, overtrou and plant lists!

From the track on the true left bank of the **Pororari River**, running swift and brown, we saw a giant log lodged mid-stream. It was an interesting study of colonisation, and the puzzle of its luxuriant fringe took time to solve—it was *Anaphalioides trinervis*. Fern highlights included lance fern/*Anarthropteris lanceolata*, and a frond of *Hymenophyllum scabrum* almost 0.5 m, growing on a tree. The weather hadn't finished with us, so we had hailstones about 8 mm in diameter that lasted on the ground for some time.

An infestation of wilding hydrangeas, mostly lace tops, near Fox River, gave an insight into emerging weed problems.

Bev Abbott & Julia Stace



*Euphorbia glauca*.  
Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

### Day 3, 19/1/09: Charming Creek Walkway and lower Ngakawau River

Charming Creek Walkway, near the coastal village of Ngakawau, is described as one of the South Island's top five short walks. It is 5.5km long, and is low-altitude, rising no more than 100m, although botanically is in two sections, with the lower Ngakawau Valley comprising largely lowland coastal vegetation, and the interior Charming Creek section supporting vegetation that could be expected to be seen at higher altitudes. The gradient is mostly gentle, following the route of a disused bush railway built for timber extraction. The Charming Creek end of the track is through flatter terrain.

The steepest section of the gorge is the only known habitat of the threatened *Celmisia morganii* which flowers from December to January.

The old farm paddocks in the upper section are now regenerating kānuka/mānuka forest, although large areas of these stands appeared to be dying off. There are good areas of beech forest left in patches along the route, and numerous regenerating tōtara, celery pine and other conifer species. Birdlife was abundant with bellbirds, tūi, fantails and robins aplenty.

Charming Creek lived up to its name, giving us an enjoyable trip in superb West Coast weather.

Richard Herbert

### Day 3, 19/1/09: Stockton

In the afternoon we drove to Granity, then took the broad, new, mine road to Stockton that featured a spectacular cutting of blasted rock, and bypassed Millerton Township. Of the old mining town itself, home to over 500 in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there remains a chimney, a water tank and a few sagging fences. The prospect to the south and east was of moorland with the chain of steel-lattice towers of the mine's aerial ropeway rising up and over the escarpment. We took the Repo Track, ascending from the eastern ridge of the town flat over sandstone barrens with a thin covering of rushes, *Gleichenia dicarpa* and *Epacris pauciflora*, the pathway spattered with red rosettes of *Drosera spathulata*. Higher up, gentler slopes had a covering of flowering mānuka above a dense sward of *Lycopodium laterale*, and glaucous-green mounds of *Oreobolus pectinatus*. Near the ridgeline, a shallow gully held a remnant of mixed beech forest with mature emergent rimu.

We paused for late lunch in sunshine between light showers, amidst a low heath of prostrate mānuka, *Gleichenia*, miniature herbs such as *Gonocarpus micranthus*, and scattered fine specimens of *Gahnia xanthocarpa*, harakeke, and shrubby toro, with glimpses of the sea to westward, and expansive views to the cloud-capped Glasgow range to the east.

The botanical diversity was limited but we gained a strong impression of the landscape of the "North Buller Moorlands".

Cliff Mason

### Day 5 21/1/09: Birchfield Swamp East.

Rodney met Carol West at the airport, then we drove to the hamlet of Birchfield, just south of Granity. We met DOC ranger, Julie Geritzlehner, our leader for the visit. The swamp is 5 m a.s.l., at the back of the coastal plain along the base of an escarpment. It is about 200 m x 1 km, between the escarpment and the railway.

The weather was hot and sunny which was great, because some people waded up to their waist! Julie gave us a brief history of the swamp, and its current status, then we split up and surveyed the area east of main access.

The highlights for me were *Schoenus maschalinus* and *Myriophyllum* spp. in the more open waters, including the rare *M. robustum*, *Viola lyalli* growing in mats of *Eleocharis* and *Isolepis* dotted with *Phormium tenax* and swamp coprosma/*Coprosma tenuicaulis*, and best of all seeing the native fernbird *Bowdleria punctata vealeae* at very close quarters (about 1.5 m) for the first time. The swamp margins had their share of weeds, but the wetter areas were relatively weed-free, although *Lotus pedunculatus* is starting to threaten these areas.

We lunched under a sub-adult kahikatea, then drove to Lake Hanlon, en route taking photo of the magnificent flowering of northern rātā on Karamea Bluff. The lake is a wonderful swamp well worth protecting, a great place to cool off, and to botanise.

Owen Spearpoint

### Day 6, 22/1/09: Karamea Estuary, Little Wanganui coast, Kongahu Swamp, South Terrace

*Karamea Estuary*  
(NZTM E1525244 N5431205)

We enjoyed the early morning experience of botanising the relatively sparse estuarine plants between a desert-like expanse of tidal sand to the west, and a rich forested terrace slope to the east. Among the patches of *Juncus kraussii* and *Samolus repens*, we found *Atriplex prostrata* masquerading as *Tetragonia implexicoma*. Later we saw the real one. The margins of a gorse-covered peninsula had a few natives: *Coprosma propinqua* x *C. robusta*, *Dicksonia squarrosa*. However one quote encapsulates the peninsula: "Adventives have certainly got the upper hand here."

The ornithologists saw red-billed gulls, black-backed gulls, S.I. pied oystercatchers, pied stilts, banded dotterels, godwits, Caspian terns, white-fronted terns, welcome swallows, skylarks, ducks and bellbirds.

*Little Wanganui coast*  
(NZTM E1522544 N5420610)

On a five-minute nip out to the coast, Mick Parsons told us the local farmer said the coast had eroded by 150 m in only a few decades. Planting to limit the erosion comprised: *Phormium tenax*, *Olearia traversii* and *Ammophila arenaria*/marram.

*Kongahu Swamp Forest*  
(NZTM E1523244 N5420810,  
10 m a.s.l.)

At the south edge of Kongahu Swamp, Little Wanganui, we botanised an area of c. 50 ha of maturing secondary growth swamp fern-land and swamp forest, which has probably been dried out by neighbouring swamp drainage. The fern-land and forest has a diverse range of species and provides many niches and habitats. Stands of kāmahi are reaching maturity and providing opportunities for kahikatea, rimu, Hall's tōtara and other podocarps. One interesting find was a *Drosera binata* 250 mm tall, hiding in bracken.

*South Terrace*  
(NZTM E1526843 N5431004,  
90 m a.s.l.)

Nicola Holt joined us here. From a roadside monument describing the origins of the schoolhouse on this original site for Karamea, we botanised second-growth forest. The pākihi land had proved to be unyielding for farming, so had reverted to bush. Trees of interest included: *Phyllocladus alpinus* (with cladodes growing from the tips of cladodes), *Halocarpus biformis*, and *Lagarostrobos colensoi*. We emerged onto a gravel track leading to several hectares of exposed stone "desert". The process known as "flipping" had been used to break the underlying iron pan, bringing the subsoil to the surface, mixed with peat. We found 25 indigenous species colonising the solitary old *Metrosideros robusta* left in this pebbly desert!

Ian & Jill Goodwin

**Participants:** Bev Abbott, Beth Andrews, Rita Chin, Barbara Clark, Gavin Dench, Barry Dent, Rewi Elliot, Sue Freitag, Ian & Jill Goodwin, Bryan & Robin Halliday, Richard & Margaret Herbert, Nicola Holt, Chris Horne, Brenda Johnston, Allison Knight, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Cliff Mason, Pascale Michel, Barbara Mitcalfe, Syd Moore, Moira Parker, Mick Parsons (leader), Emil Schmieg, Darea Sherratt, Barbara & Neill Simpson, Sunita Singh, Maya Singh, Val Smith, Owen Spearpoint, Julia Stace, Carol West.

## 6 June 2009: Owhiro catchment and southern suburbs bush reserves

On a fine, crisp morning we botanised some under-appreciated “vegetation on our doorstep” in the Owhiro and Paekawakawa (Island Bay) catchments. The vegetation we looked at was all relatively recent regeneration following clearance and farming, but now regenerating prolifically and diversely, aided by the dedicated efforts of local revegetation groups.

First we walked along Ohiro Road, past the fantastic fauna (scrap metal sculptures) of “Carlucciland”, to view the riparian revegetation plantings of Friends of Owhiro Stream. This was a good opportunity to discuss the problems facing urban vegetation and catchment management. We then went up to the Murchison Street entrance to WCC’s 52-ha **Tawatawa Reserve**, from where we circled the valley on a track cut by the Southern Environmental Association (SEA), as

part of an ambitious and well-planned revegetation project. We found a surprisingly diverse flora under the canopy—mainly ngaio-māhoe—but with a few large kohekohe trees. Our brief reconnaissance yielded nearly 80 native species, as well as over 40 adventive species, some decidedly weedy. At least 16 woody species have been planted by SEA. There are also wetland areas on and behind the former landfill surface. We enjoyed meeting members of SEA over lunch in their large plant nursery.

We then moved over the ridge into Island Bay to make the first species list for **Paekawakawa Reserve**, on the Island Bay slopes below the City-to-Sea Walkway. This is SEA’s most recent initiative, saved from likely residential subdivision in 2008 after an extraordinary community fundraising effort. Under the canopy we found,

as expected, a more meagre flora of 37 vascular native species, 19 of them trees or shrubs. In contrast, the adventive flora totalled 55 species, including canopy-formers and many nasty invasive tree, shrub and vine species. SEA and the community have a major weed-control challenge on their hands, but have also enabled a great opportunity to rehabilitate native ecosystems near the heart of Island Bay.

The plant lists we compiled have been sent to SEA, WCC and DOC.

**Participants:** Bev Abbott, Paul Blaschke (leader/scribe), Barbara Clark, June Epsom, Christine Gregory, Bryan Halliday, Chris Horne (deputy leader), Jenny Jones, Robert Logan, Andy Malone, Barbara Mitcalfe, Sunita Singh.

## Saturday 4 July: Otari-Wilton’s Bush

### Part 1: Tour of collections

Rewi Elliot, Curator/Manager, led us around the collections areas, explaining the changes proposed in the draft Landscape Development Plan. We visited the Fernery, Dracophyllum Garden, Wild Garden, North-of-38°S Garden, Rock Garden, Canopy Walkway, Cockayne Lawn, Lookout, and the new Braided River Garden.

The plan will affect how people arrive at and move around Otari, the entrances, interpretation, use of the house, etc. Not included in the draft plan are the content of collections, or extension of the forest area. Recent changes include those to the hierarchy of paths which, when complete, will make it easier for visitors to find their way around the collections.

*Chris Horne & Barbara Mitcalfe*

### Part 2: Discussion

After the walk around the collections, we adjourned to Te Marae o Tane visitor centre to discuss how to shape BotSoc’s submission on the draft Landscape Development Plan (LDP), when it is released for public comment. These notes capture some of the ideas and opinions expressed in a wide-ranging discussion.

*Pathways:* General support for rationalisation of paths, but concern about the loss of some mature plants and the expense of creating a new route up to the Cockayne Lawn from the terraces.

*House:* Strong support for integrating house platform with garden, and for new uses of the house including a botanical library, offices and accommodation for interns.

*Collections:* Recognition that the limited size of the collections areas means that hard decisions have to be made about numbers and types of plants. Ideas included demonstrating the natural variation within a species such as mānuka, in preference to planting multiple specimens of a particular variant. Use of cultivars is contentious.

*History:* Support for strengthening the links with history by, e.g., retaining older trees to maintain a living link with Cockayne’s vision, and naming new paths after more recent botanists.

*Funding:* Determination that increased investment in visitor facilities and services should not be at the expense of pest animal and weed control in collections and forest areas.

*Visitor orientation:* Many visitors may find a 3-D model more helpful than a 2-D map in planning their visit and finding specific attractions, particularly visitors concerned about steepness of paths and presence of steps. Help in finding different types of natural forests also seen as important, e.g. original forest.

*Wetland:* Interest in creating a wetland by channelling stormwater off buildings or paths into a depression.

*Children:* Agreement that opportunities for children to learn more about NZ plants should be part of the Otari experience, e.g. a crawl-through tunnel with plants labelled. Adults would also appreciate an aroma trail.

*Signs and labels:* A huge topic for another time. “This way to the tree ferns”.

*Bev Abbott*

**Participants:** Bev Abbott (leader – discussion), Barbara Clark, Margaret Crimp, Rewi Elliot (leader – tour), John Dawson, Bryan & Robin Halliday, Chris Horne, Olaf John, Sheelagh Leary, Barbara Mitcalfe, Alan Munro, Phil Parnell, Mick Parsons, Sunita Singh, Julia Stace, Carol West.

## 1 August 2009: Orongorongo Track

The weather in Wellington was wet and dark, and the forecast was for similar conditions, but we were rewarded with a surprisingly mild day, no rain once we left the cars, and even some sunshine.

The Orongorongo Track is an enjoyable and familiar walk for most of us, yet it provided some botanical highlights including Spring earina/*Earina mucronata* with stems up to 1.5 m long, kiekie fruit in abundance, a morepork sleeping in a ponga just 3 m from the track, etc.

The various sites along the track, e.g., valley floor forest, nikau grove, beech forest, and exposed clay ridge, support different plant communities of interest to us. Two small orchids tested our identification skills: gnat orchid/*Cyrtostylis rotundifolia*, and trowel-leaved orchid/*Diplodium trullifolium*.

The lists we compiled of native and introduced plants, and native and introduced birds, will be sent to DOC and the NZ Plant Conservation Network.

**Participants:** Gavin Dench, Ian Goodwin (co-leader), Jill Goodwin (co-leader/scribe), Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Ros Iles, Ilona Keenan, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Moore, Phil Parnell, Alan Perry, Darea Sherratt, Sunita Singh.



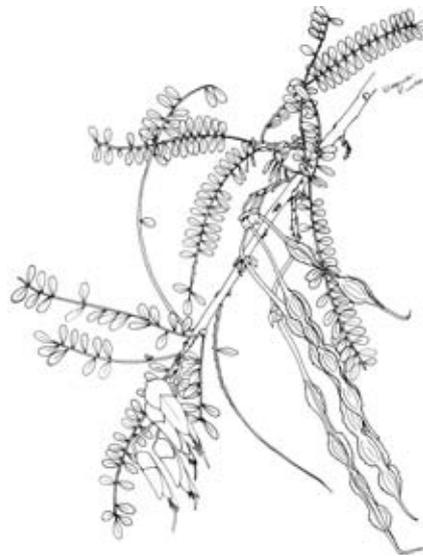
*Cyrtostylis rotundifolia* (left) and *Diplodium trullifolium*. Photos: Jeremy Rolfe.

## 5 September 2009: Otari-Wilton's Bush - Cockayne's plantings in the natural area

We spent a fine, almost windless, day looking at the plantings on the spur above and below the Flax Clearing. To guide us we had relevant extracts from Otari gardeners' diaries on plantings done from 1929 to 1957.

Sharp eyes found a mature kōwhai, *Sophora microphylla*, on what is now called the Circular Walk. This tree may be the remnant of "an elegant avenue of kōwhai". It is mature enough to be part of the planting recorded by Andy McKay on 4 July 1933 on what was then called Raoul Path.

Our main objective was to determine the extent of the kauri and beech plantings immediately above the Flax Clearing. We took GPS readings around the perimeter of the early (1929-1933) planting, and that in the adjacent basin planted in 1957. We also recorded the rows of beech (*Nothofagus* spp.) on the west and east sides of what had been pasture. All of these planted trees are now just part of a well-grown forest.



*Sophora microphylla*.  
Illustration: Elanor Burton.

A discovery, for this party anyway, was a line of very aged akeake/*Dodonaea viscosa*, presumably the remains of the shelter-belt from the time of the original planting.

Alan Perry found *Halocarpus kirkii* on the spur below the Flax Clearing. We then explored this spur that, in Cockayne's scheme, was to

be a rimu grove commemorating E. Phillips Turner. We did not find rimu, but when descending the spur we found several groups of podocarps: *Podocarpus cunninghamii*, *P. totara*, *Libocedrus plumosa*, *Prumnopitys taxifolia*, *Phyllocladus trichomanoides* and some well-grown kauri, *Agathis australis*. We also noted *Metrosideros robusta* growing terrestrially, and *Ackama rosifolia*. Some of these have not previously been recorded as being in the natural area of the reserve.

This visit has to be regarded as a preliminary look. To establish the true extent of the planting, and record the size of the kauri and other planted trees, will require more fieldwork. It would help if we could find the results of work done by others in the kauri section.

**Participants:** Bev Abbott, Annadele Bouche, Ian Goodwin, Chris Horne, Illona Keenan, Rodney Lewington (leader/scribe), Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Moore, Phil Parnell, Mick Parsons, Alan Perry, Darea Sherratt, Sunita Singh, Tiff Stewart, Carol West.

# Threatened Plants of New Zealand

Peter de Lange, Peter Heenan,  
David Norton, Jeremy Rolfe & John Sawyer

One in 13 of New Zealand's native plants is now threatened with extinction. Six species are already extinct – like the moa and the huia, they are gone forever. Even the popular kakabeak (*Clianthus puniceus*) is in a serious plight, with just one plant left in the wild. Another 24 species are known in the wild from fewer than 200 plants.

This beautifully illustrated book combines precise botanical descriptions with lavish illustrations in describing the 189 species defined by conservation scientists as Extinct or Threatened, using the New Zealand Threat Classification System. Each description contains information on how to identify the plant in question, the specific threats it faces, and its current distribution.

*Threatened Plants of New Zealand* is designed to be an essential tool in the fight against extinction, as well as a stunning showcase of the spectacular flora of a country in which new plant species are still being routinely recognised, 240 years after the first specimens were brought to the attention of the world's scientific community.

This book is an initiative of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network: [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz).

December 2009, \$99.95  
Hardback, 500pp (approx), 195 x 260mm  
ISBN 978-1-877257-56-8  
Category: NZ Botany/plant ecology  
Market: Botanists, ecologists, general



**Peter de Lange** is a threatened plant scientist with the Department of Conservation, focusing on taxonomy, genetics, ecology and threat classification systems.

**Peter Heenan** is a plant taxonomist with Landcare Research, and has served on the New Zealand Threatened Plant Panel since 1999.

**David Norton** is a botanist and ecologist who heads the Rural Ecology Research Group in the NZ School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury.

**Jeremy Rolfe** is a botanical photographer who has worked at the Department of Conservation since its inception in 1987, working mainly on interpreting the natural sciences to the public.

**John Sawyer** is a plant ecologist who has worked for the Department of Conservation for 16 years, focusing on the conservation of threatened plants.

Between them, they have published over 400 journal articles, and written a number of books.



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# WELLINGTON BOTANICAL SOCIETY SUMMER TRIP

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## Coromandel: 25 January - 3 February 2010

We will be based at Kauaeranga Education Camp, a 15-minute drive up Kauaeranga Valley just south of Thames.

### Transport

We assume that if you plan to attend you will find your own way to Thames.

InterCity buses run from Hamilton and Auckland to Thames, c. 1 hour from Hamilton, and c. 1 hour from Auckland airport. If you plan to travel this way, join the rest of the group at Thames.

Please give the best estimate of your travel plans on the registration form below.

### Accommodation

Kauaeranga Education Camp accommodates c. 40 people in bunks. Bring your own bedding and pillows. It has a fully equipped kitchen, showers and fridges (all gas). Electric power (petrol-powered generator) is available for special purposes such as audio-visual equipment.

Cost: \$12.50/night.

Details of the camp are at [www.camps-directory.co.nz/Kauaeranga\\_Forest\\_Education\\_Camp.pdf](http://www.camps-directory.co.nz/Kauaeranga_Forest_Education_Camp.pdf) or [www.kfec.org.nz/](http://www.kfec.org.nz/) for photos and maps of the camp surrounds.

If you wish to use your own tents, there is a DOC camp a 5-minute walk from the Education Camp. [www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/conservation-campsites-by-region/waikato/hauraki/totara-flat-kauaeranga-valley/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/conservation-campsites-by-region/waikato/hauraki/totara-flat-kauaeranga-valley/) Fees at this camp are \$9.00/night, to be paid at Kauaeranga DOC Visitor Centre. There is a further charge of \$3.50/night if you choose to use the shower and kitchen facilities of the Education Camp.

### Food

We are fortunate that Sheelagh Leary has offered to plan meals and buy the food. We will all share the tasks of meal preparation and cleaning. If you have special dietary requirements, please note them on the form below.

### Possible botanical trips

Details of the trip format have yet to be decided. Graeme Jane, Tauranga, has suggested several sites of interest—the camp is situated within an hour's drive of most. They range from Te Aroha to the south (1 hour's drive) to Eastern Waikawau/Moehau to the north (2 hours' drive). If you wish to go further afield, e.g. to the north end of the peninsula, be prepared for an overnight or two with a tent at another location in an unserviced campground such as Stony Bay. There are also many shorter walks within walking distance of the camp.

### Collection Permits

We will apply for a DOC permit to collect specimens for identification and education. If you want to take specimens for other specific purposes, we may be able to include your needs in the general permit—tell Mick as soon as possible—or you can arrange your own permit

### Registration

Early registration of participants will simplify planning. Accommodation is limited. If you are thinking of going, but aren't certain, **please tell** the trip co-ordinator, Mick Parsons, either by **phone** 04 972 1148 or 027 249 9663 (leave a message), **or e-mail:** [mtparsons@paradise.net.nz](mailto:mtparsons@paradise.net.nz)

A **\$200 per person deposit** is required with each booking for food and other expenses that may be incurred before and during the trip. Any balance will be paid/refunded on receipt of the invoice at the end of the trip.

**Wellington Botanical Society**  
**Registration form for Summer Trip:**  
**Coromandel 25 January – 3 February 2010**

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Contact address

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ mob (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

**Travel and accommodation arrangements**

Dates of arrival January 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Departure (please circle date) February 1 2 3

- Type of accommodation required (please tick one)
- Bunk accommodation (\$12.50/day)
  - DOC tent site.....independent (\$9/day)
  - DOC tent site....PLUS meals/showers at camp (\$12.50/day)
  - Other (please specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Mode of travel to Thames (indicate your best estimate)
- Flying and/or bus to Thames.
  - Driving own vehicle/rental car
  - Other – please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Transport for botanical trips - please circle relevant answers

Will have own car	yes / no
Will be able to transport others	yes / no. Number ( __ )
Will require transport	yes / no

Meals: Please indicate any dietary requirements that need to be catered for.

**You will be given an invoice to be paid at the end of the trip – less the \$200 deposit.**

Please tick one **Deposit payment methods**

Cheque for \$200/person **enclosed**, made out to Wellington Botanical Society (Inc)

A direct transfer of \$200/person to our account **02 0536 0017812 02**  
**Please cite your name in the particulars/reference sections of the payee account**

**Forward this completed registration form, with your deposit of \$200/person, to:**  
**Frances Forsyth, 55 Holloway Road, Aro Valley, Wellington 6021**  
**Or e-mail attachment to [frances.forsyth@paradise.net.nz](mailto:frances.forsyth@paradise.net.nz) Ph 04 384 8891 (h) or mob 021 072 120**



# Wellington Botanical Society Inc. – Membership Application

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

I wish to join the Society

My name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr ..... Phone (.....) ..... (h)

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

..... Fax (.....) .....

I would like to receive my newsletters by e-mail as a PDF  Please tick if appropriate.

My/our e-mail address .....@

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.

Membership fees for the year ended 30 June 2010 are:

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:

**Wellington Botanical Society Inc., PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6143**

My cheque is enclosed for	Ordinary membership	\$.....
	Country membership	\$.....
	Student membership	\$.....
	Group / family membership	\$.....
	Donation	\$.....
	TOTAL	\$.....

## Authority to release your name, address and phone number to other members of the Society.

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 and return it with this membership application.

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.

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 form unsigned.*