



From the President

Kia ora koutou. As the year comes to an end, I'd like to thank all our speakers, trip leaders and the committee for their efforts. Clichéd but true, we wouldn't have BotSoc without them.

It's been a tumultuous end to the year, but there are bits of hope about. The Court of Appeal rejected a company's bid to quarry QEII covenant land (1) and Raukūmara Pae Maunga had massive success with their 1080 operation, recording 0% rat presence and between 0%-3.5% possum presence after the operation (2). And the BotSoc summer camp is just around the corner!

But there's still lots of mahi to do. The committee is looking for a submission coordinator, as there are many bills and proposals we would like to submit on, but we don't currently have the capacity in the committee. If you're keen, get in touch with me.

Have a great summer everyone – and toitū te Tiriti!

[1] <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/534885/j-swap-bid-to-quarry-on-qeii-covenant-land-rejected-by-court-of-appeal>

[2] <https://www.raukumara.org.nz/post/one-year-on-building-iwi-momentum-for-the-use-of-aerial-1080>

Kate Jordan, President

New members

We welcome the following people who have recently joined BotSoc: Hera Cook, Lorraine Cook, Sarah Goldberg, Richard Littauer, Sushanta Mudaliar, Sushila Pillai, Lynne Silcock, Tom Watson, Jack Welch.

*Membership Secretarial Team
Stephen and Karen Whitton*

What on earth?

Do you know what this photo depicts? You can find the answer at the bottom of page 4. Give yourself an extra pat on the back if you could identify both the feature and the species. It will likely be easier for people viewing it in colour—perhaps this is an extra incentive to subscribe to the digital PDF version of the newsletter instead of the printed version.



Articles for web site

We welcome articles for consideration for inclusion on our web site:

www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz

Please send your article to:

Richard Herbert

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

Writing for the Bulletin

Do you have a botanical observation, anecdote, or insight that you could share with others in BotSoc? If so, please consider contributing it to the Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin. There is still plenty of space in the next issue. For more details and assistance, contact Eleanor Burton: troggs@duck.com or 479 0497.

BotSoc on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/322939557873243/>

This is the unofficial page for Wellington Botanical Society.

Meetings

BotSoc meetings are usually held at 7.30 p.m., third Monday each month at Victoria University, WN – Lecture Theatre MYLT101, ground floor, Murphy Building, west side Kelburn Parade. Enter building 20m down Kelburn Pde from pedestrian overbridge. No meetings December and January.

Meetings are in person and usually available on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547154619?pwd=bE0zRXRWSXBBUkVoUjdPcElJNXIjUT09>.

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, and sometimes Easter and the first weekend in December.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 20 MARCH 2025

Articles may be edited for clarity and length

Wellington Botanical Society

Address:	PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6140	
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	Eleanor Burton	
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Submissions coordinator:	Vacant—volunteer sought—please contact Secretary	
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Annual subscription:	ordinary \$35; country \$30; student \$10; joint / group / family \$40.	
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Code:	Membership type	
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New subscribers:	Please complete form at the back of this newsletter.	

ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS

Ideas please

We welcome your ideas about:

- places to visit on field trips, and potential leaders of those field trips.
- topics and speakers for evening meetings

Please send your ideas to Sunita Singh, PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6140, ph 387 9955.

Field trips—single day

A field trip, usually lasting 4–5 hours, is an opportunity to learn how to identify native plants and adventive plants (weeds). During the trip, experienced participants record the species seen. After it, a new or updated plant list will be produced for the site. This list will be published on the NZ Plant Conservation Network web site, and copies sent to trip participants, landowners and managers.

If you intend to join a field trip, PLEASE phone or e-mail 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 or e-mail in advance, you are welcome to join on the day. If you e-mail your intention, the leader will send you a copy of the draft plant list, so that you can print it out to bring with you. If you do not have a printer, tell the leader. At the meeting place, the trip leader will ask you to write on the registration form your name, e-mail address (so that you can receive the updated plant list), and a phone number for the leader to ring your next-of-kin in an emergency.

Booking on field trips: Give the leader/s your cell-phone number so that we can contact you if you are running late.

What bring—clothing

Choose from the following items, according to the weather forecast, and your personal needs: sun hat, woollen or polyprop beanie or balaclava, waterproof / windproof rain-coat (parka) and over-trousers, long-sleeved cotton shirt*, singlet*, thermal or woollen top, woollen jersey or fleece jacket, nylon shorts or trousers*, polyprop long-johns, underclothes, thick socks, boots or walking shoes, gloves / mittens.

*Note: In wet, cold weather, do not wear cotton shirts, singlets, t-shirts and trousers.

What to bring—gear and food

Day pack with lunch, biscuits or scroggin, hot or cold drink, spare clothing, personal first-aid kit, notebook, pen, pencil, mobile phone, wallet. Optional: walking pole, clipboard, map or park brochure, camera, binoculars, hand lens, sun-block, sunglasses, insect repellent, whistle, toilet paper.

Field trips—overnight

Field trips usually last two days; at Easter, three days. We may be based at a campground with or without cabins, or a rented house, or a private bach. The field trip may last 4–7 hours each day.

Overnight trip gear and food

Add to the day-trip gear, food and drink listed above: breakfast, fresh fruit, torch, spare bulb and batteries, candle, mug, plate, knife, fork, spoon, small towel, soap, tooth brush.

If accommodation is not provided for, bring tent, fly, poles and pegs, groundsheet, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, sleeping-bag liner and stuff bag. Optional: matches in waterproof container, water purification tablets, pocket knife, large plastic survival bag to line pack, gaiters. Note: dinners may be 'pot-luck'—ask the leader to suggest what your contribution might be.

Summer camps

These field trips last 7–10 days. Full details will appear in the newsletter.

Postponing field trips

The committee has decided to postpone field trips affected by bad weather or other reasons, rather than to cancel them. Generally, they will be postponed until the following Saturday. However, this will not always be possible. You must register with the trip leader and provide your phone number. If the trip is postponed you can then be contacted and told about rescheduling arrangements.

Health and safety

The leader will bring BotSoc's comprehensive first-aid kit, a topographic map, a mobile phone, and give a health and safety briefing.

The leader will describe the route, and approximate times for lunch, tea breaks and the end of the trip.

Bring your own first-aid kit. If you have an allergy or medical condition, bring your own anti-histamines and medications, tell the leader of any problems you may have, and how to deal with them.

Before the trip, if you have any doubts about your ability to keep up with the party, discuss this with the trip leader, who has the right to restrict attendance.

If you decide to leave a trip early, you must tell the leader, and be confident that you know your way back to the start. Enter your name on the 'register' under a windscreen wiper on the leader's car, or other agreed place, to record your safe return.

Fitness and experience

Our field trips are mostly on established tracks, and at a leisurely pace, but 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, you participate at your own risk.

Transport

When the use of public transport is practical, details will appear in the newsletter.

We encourage the pooling of cars for trips. If you need a lift, tell the trip leader.

Passengers: Pay your driver your share of the running costs. We suggest 10c per km / passenger. If a trip uses the inter-island ferry, pay your share of the ferry fare. If you change cars mid-trip, leave a written note for your driver, under a windscreen wiper on her or his car, and check that your new driver adds you to her or his list.

Drivers: Ensure that you know the route to the start of the trip, and that you have a written list of your passengers. Zero the odometer at the start, and agree on a return time. Check from your list that all your passengers are in the car. Collect contributions towards transport costs.

Trip leaders

Draft a trip report for the newsletter, including a list of participants, then send it to the editor.

When leading a field trip into a regional park please tell the park ranger beforehand.

Other matters

After your first BotSoc field trip, tell the leader if you think there is information newcomers would appreciate seeing about future trips, in the newsletter, on the web site, or on Wellington Glean Report.

If you would like to offer to lead a field trip, or be a deputy leader on a field trip, contact our programme organiser, Sunita Singh, sunita@actrix.co.nz

Meetings

Public transport to meetings

The following bus services stop on Kelburn Parade near Victoria University's Murphy Building Lecture Theatre M101:

TO MEETINGS

No. 18 Karori: 6.45 p.m. from Darlington Rd, Miramar, 7.17 p.m. @ VUW Stop B.

No. 18 Miramar: 6.51 p.m. from Allington Rd, Karori, 7.03 p.m. @ VUW Stop A.

No. 21 Courtenay Place: 7.02 p.m. from Karori Mall – Beauchamp St, Karori, 7.14 p.m. @ VUW Stop A.

No. 21 Wrights Hill: 7.00 p.m. from Courtenay Place – Stop B, 7.08 p.m. @ VUW.

No. 4 Mairangi: Strathmore Park 6.30 p.m., Courtenay Place 7.02, 7.22 p.m. @ VUW. Stop B.

No. 4 Strathmore Park: 6.50 p.m. from Norwich St, Wilton, 7.05 p.m. @ VUW. Stop A.

Cable Car: 00, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 minutes past the hour from Lambton Quay terminus to Salamanca Station. Ten minutes walk up Kelburn Pde to Murphy Building lecture theatre M101 at VUW.

FROM MEETINGS

No. 4 Strathmore Park: VUW Stop A 8.45 p.m., 9.15 p.m. or 9.45 p.m.

No. 4 Mairangi: VUW Stop B 8.57 p.m. or 9.27 p.m.

No. 21 Courtenay Place: VUW Stop A 9.14 p.m. or 10.14 p.m.

No. 21 Wrights Hill: V.U.W. Stop B 9.38 p.m. or 10.38 p.m.

Cable Car: No service after 8 p.m.

Further information info@metlink.org.nz Metlink, 0800 801-700.

Zoom link for meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547154619?pwd=bE0zRXRWSXBBUkVoUjdPcEljNXIjUT09>.

NOTICES

Events

2nd Saturday each month, except January. Ōtari-Wilton's Bush – Plant Care. Meet: Te Marae o Tāne Visitor Centre, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton at 9:00 a.m. Bus: No. 14 Wilton bus, Ct Pl 8.28, Molesworth St 8.36, alight Warwick St. Planting: winter months: weed clearance other months.

- Wilbur Dovey. Landline 499 1044.
Mobile 027 499 1044.

Letters to the editor

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

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

Thank you,

The committee

Subscription reminder for the year ending 30 June 2025

Friendly reminder for membership renewals. Please email the Membership team if you are unsure of your status wellingtonbotsocmembers@gmail.com

- Ordinary membership \$35
- Country \$30
- Joint/family \$40
- Student \$10

Please pay direct to BotSoc's Bank Account: 02 0536 0017812 00, including your name and Sub25 as Reference.

Paul Bell-Butler, Treasurer

New members

We are keen to welcome more people to the delights of botany via BotSoc. If you know someone who might enjoy our field trips, newsletters, bulletin and informative meetings, please encourage them to join. Give them our web site address www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz, then tell them that there is a membership application form at the back of our newsletter.

Karen and Stephen Witton, Membership Secretariat

Submissions writer sought

If you would like to consider being the person who drafts BotSoc's submissions, e.g., on city council or regional council draft management plans for public lands, or on DOC plans for Scenic Reserves, National Parks, on Significant Natural Area proposals or on the future of Stewardship Lands we would welcome the chance to discuss the role with you. Please contact us: secretary@wellingtonbotsoc@gmail.com.

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

Newsletter by e-mail?

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically in PDF format, please contact Memberships Secretary, wellingtonbotsocmembership@gmail.com. The PDF newsletter includes hyperlinks to e-mail and website addresses, and colour images instead of the black-and-white images in the print version.

Ngā mihi, Laura Girvan West, Secretary

'What on earth?' revealed

The inflorescence of tōi / mountain cabbage tree / *Cordyline indivisa* is very different from that of other *Cordyline* species, being a panicle composed of tightly crowded racemes emerging from a stout central axis.

Photos: Jeremy Rolfe.



FIELD TRIPS & EVENING MEETINGS

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.

Non-members are welcome to come to our meetings and to join us on our field trips.

FEBRUARY–MAY 2025

Saturday 1 February: Field trip

Kaiwaru Wetlands, Waikanae

These degraded wetlands in Waikanae Park require significant restoration effort. Dominant native species: kānuka canopy with individual kohekohe, matai and pukatea. The wetland, dominated by exotics, is one of two known Kāpiti mainland sites containing Nationally Critical tirauriki / *Korthalsella salicornioides* hosted on mānuka and kānuka. If time permits we will also visit Russell Reserve—a small area of kohekohe-titoki forest, a habitat type uncommon in Foxton Ecological District and which is much reduced in Wellington region. It provides habitat for kererū and large-leaved milk tree—*Streblus banksii*, an At-Risk Relict. The site is also partly protected as Recreation Reserve. **Meet:** 10 a.m. in front of Wrestling Club off Park Ave, Waikanae Park, or 9.30 a.m. at Waikanae Station to collect people arriving by train. From here we travel in convoy. **Train:** 8.14 a.m. Kāpiti line train from Wellington Station to Waikanae Station. **Maps:** Street map; NZTopo50-BP32 Paraparaumu. **Co-Leaders:** Andy McKay 027 555 653; Anne Tuffin 027 457 6234.

Monday 17 February: Evening meeting

25 years of Long Gully Bush

Speaker: Chris Cosslett, Long Gully Bush ranger. Chris will talk about 25 years of progress in restoring this privately-owned reserve from a goat-ravaged gorse block to early stage native forest. Long Gully Bush lies between the southern end of Zealandia and South Karori Rd. It is thought to have been clad, before clearance for farming, in kohekohe-podocarp forest similar to that seen in Porirua Scenic Reserve. LGB is not only a recovering native forest ecosystem but is also home to threatened native birds that have colonised it from Zealandia. Most of the area is owned by the Wellington Natural Heritage Trust. The Trust manages the whole, including contributions from several neighbours, under a management plan prepared in 2015.

Saturday 1 March: Field trip

Johnston Hill Scenic Reserve, Karori

Botanise this 33.5 ha regenerating native forest with some plantings. Managed by WCC and subject to pest control since 2001 by GWRC. Botanise forest along loop track network, with side track to the summit—360 m—with panoramic views. **Species list:** Leader will e-mail it to you. **Bus:** No. 2 Karori bus—alight in Marsden Village—walk 15 minutes via Hatton St to car park at top end. **Driving:** Park in Johnson's Reserve carpark, accessible from the end of Hatton St. **Maps:** Street map; NZTopo 50-BQ31 Wellington. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. at car park. **Leader:** Kate Jordan 027 899 0018; **Co-leader:** John Barnett 021 063 1590.

Monday 17 March: Evening meeting

Where to for New Zealand's biodiversity – eradicating predators or managing ecosystems?

Speaker: John Leathwick, DSc, Conservation Science Consultant. In two recent science papers John worked with co-authors to raise fundamental questions about how best to achieve New Zealand's biodiversity goals. In his first paper he explored the current emphasis on eradicating just four introduced predators (Predator Free 2050), highlighting both the considerable technical challenges that this poses, and the need to also consider the impacts of other major biodiversity pressures including browsers and weeds. In his second paper he demonstrated how a systematic ecosystem-focused approach to biodiversity management, first proposed by NZ's Geoff Kelly in 1980, could be efficiently implemented using contemporary conservation planning tools. He argued that such an approach would be much more likely to achieve NZ's biodiversity goals than current predator-focused management. His talk will explore various aspects of these two papers.

Saturday–Sunday 5–6 April:

Field trips: Western Lake Road. Te Rātā, Pirinoa, Wairarapa

Day 1: Botanise this prospective Forest and Bird reserve towards the coastal end of Western Lake Rd. The property is a small valley descending from a ridge to the road. It is a steep narrow gully at the top, which then fans out into paddocks by the road. The land is Wairarapa plain raised by a nearby fault, so is loose aggregate prone to erosion. It was probably cleared about 100 years ago—then allowed to return to a cover of mainly black beech and kānuka on the slopes. It is now forest with good understorey and a number of interesting and unusual herbaceous plants, e.g., *Pelargonium inodorum* and *Drymoanthus adversus*. There is no formed track—bring stout shoes. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. cnr of SH2 and Moore St which continues, becoming Western Lake Rd. We will travel in convoy from here. **Accommodation:** Two options (1) Ocean Beach: Camping in DOC campsite (check if open; closed in 2024), 3 tent sites behind Sunita's bach, 4 bunks inside bach; (2) Gateway Motel & Holiday Park—motel/cabins/

tent sites, 110 Lake Ferry Rd, Cape Palliser, Lake Ferry. Ph: 06 307 7780, <https://gatewaymotelholidaypark.co.nz>.
Dinner: Pot luck. **Co-leaders:** Eleanor Burton 021 0588 324; Pat McLean 027 4066 767.

Day 2: Te Rātā Bush Covenant, Pirinoa. Botanise Te Rātā Bush QE2 covenant. Visit a kahikatea – pukatea (WF8) critically endangered lowland forest remnant near Pirinoa. Te Rātā Bush is a good example of mature lowland swamp forest with a kahikatea, pukatea, swamp maire and nīkau canopy. It is a small remnant in an area of intensive farming. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. Pirinoa. From there we will ride-share and travel in convoy to Te Rātā Bush. **Leave:** No later than 3pm. **Leader:** Owen Spearpoint ph 027 285 8083 or email: Owen.Spearpoint@gw.govt.nz

Tuesday 22 April: Evening meeting

Resolving the taxonomy of an iconic New Zealand plant genus *Aciphylla* (taramea/speargrass/spaniard)

(NOTE: Easter 18–21 April 2025)

Speakers: Lara Shepherd, Science Researcher, Te Papa and Leon Perrie, Botany Curator, Te Papa. *Aciphylla* is one of the largest indigenous vascular plant genera in Aotearoa New Zealand, with ~ 40 species. The larger species are an often prominent and iconic feature of our tussocklands and the bane of trampers. Despite the ecological and cultural significance of *Aciphylla*, the taxonomy of the genus has not been comprehensively revised since 1956, and there are many outstanding issues. We will provide an introduction to the genus and the taxonomic problems we are hoping to resolve.

Saturday 3 May: Field trip

Lake Papaitonga

Botanise a lowland forest remnant around Lake Papaitonga. This is the only lowland lake in Horowhenua with its forest and other vegetation intact. Forest is coastal dune forest, with swamp species such as kahikatea. There are also scrub and wetland areas though access to these may be limited. The DOC website warns that the track is rough and slippery—bring good footwear. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. Waikanae Station—north end car park from where we will travel in convoy sharing transport. **Map:** NZTopo50-BN33 Levin. **Leader:** Eleanor Burton 021 0588 324.

Monday 19 May: Evening meeting

Members' evening

Share a pre-meeting bring-your-own supper: a flask of hot drink, cup and a small plate of 'nibbles' to be followed by a few speakers – limit 10 minutes/person. For a gold-coin koha, or even 'folding money', buy one or more of the books we put on display, and help to build up the Jubilee Award Fund which supports research on NZ plants.

Room opens at 7 p.m. Bring:

- your botanical slides and photographs taken on BotSoc trips. Slides on a USB stick—limit 20/person;
- favourite botanical readings, your paintings;
- any spare botanical or other natural-history books you have and don't want to keep any more to have auctioned. Take them home if they don't sell;
- plant specimens to sell or to discuss;
- botanical art—paintings, drawings, ceramics—to add to a memorable evening.

PUBLICATIONS

1a. Identification guide to the ferns and lycophytes of Aotearoa New Zealand: Leon Perrie & Patrick Brownsey. Te Papa Press. 2024. 280 p. Hard cover, coloured images.

- *Book shops, Te Papa shop.*

1b. Wild Wellington Ngā Taonga Taiao: A guide to the wildlife and wild places of Te Upoko-o-te Ika.

- *Te Papa Press. Book shops. RRP \$45.*

2a. Protecting native species: 2024/25. A5, 20 p, coloured images.

2b. 1080 as a tool for predator control. Frequently asked questions. 2024: A5, 23 p, coloured images.

- *Department of Conservation.*

3. Open Space. 107 11/24: QEII covenant protects ancient moss; inland saline site protected; funding for projects in covenants; research supporting forest recovery; freshwater ecology; directors – election 2025; etc.

- info@qei.org.nz, ph 04 472 6626, level 4, 138 The Terrace, WN.

4. NZ Plant Conservation Network: *Trilepidea* 246 11/24. File size: 6.24 MB.

- https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/site/assets/files/0/77/463/trilepidea_november_2024_final.pdf info@NZPCN.org.nz

5. NZ Botanical Society Newsletter No. 157 9/24: *Mentha cunninghamii* by Eleanor Burton; News from regional botanical societies; Allan Mere Award to Jessica Beever – co-nomination by Wellington BotSoc & Auckland BotSoc; news from regional BotSocs; Common ice cream bean in NZ – *Inga feuillei* DC., Fabaceae; Patrick John (Pat) Brownsey FRPSNZ: Consummate philatelist, botanist and historian to boot. An illustrated tribute by Geoff Rickards. Review of *Identification guide to the ferns and lycophytes of Aotearoa New Zealand*. Leon Perrie & Patrick Brownsey. **No. 156 6/24:** *Imperata cheesemanii* by Eleanor Burton; News from regional botanical societies; weedy fern – *Osmunnda regalis* at Farewell Spit; William Smith Hamilton (1824-1903) – Biographical sketch by Val Smith; *Gunnera hamiltonii*, etc.

- NZBS, c/o Canterbury Museum, PBag 4744. CH 8154. www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz

6. **Wellington Botanical Society; Bulletin No. 59, 9/24:** When to plant if restoring native forests – Rob Allen. Survey of the tōtara-matai forest at Kiripiti Scientific Reserve, Ōtaki Plain – Pascale Michel, Owen Speapoint, Paul Bell-Butler. Resurrecting the rātā walk – Kate Jordan. Moa in California? – Anne Tuffin. NZ native timber specimen board update – Roy Slack. Plant identification by scent, taste or touch – J Chris Horne.
7. **Ōtari-Wilton's Bush – News and Views. 9/24:** Messages from Chair and Manager; Ōtari Open Day 14.9.24; ferns book – see item no. 1 above; Trust nursery; collections weeding & maintenance team; forest weeders; pest blitz; revegetation group; tours; rarangi weavers; Dave & Vera Burton – decades of work for Ōtari; new signage; mulch pile; Lions Ōtari Plant Conservation Lab; Sarah Goldberg – MSc student & research associate; searching for fungi at Ōtari – Geoff Ridley; Tom Belworthy, gardener; *Myoporum laetum* ngaio by Eleanor Burton. etc.
- www.owbt.nz
8. **Nikau Foundation – A fund for the future of native plant conservation at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush:** Colour brochure 6 pages folded to A5.
- www.nikaufoundation.nz info@nikaufoundation.nz phone 04 381 2224
- 9a. **Force of Nature – Te Aumangea o Te Ao Tūroa:** A conservation history of Forest & Bird 1923-2023. David Young & Naomi Arnold. Hard cover, 227 × 295mm, 363 p, colour.
- 9b. **Forest & Bird – No. 394 summer 2024:** Editorial: Force of Nature; launch of book in 8a above; Conservation Minister, Hon. Tama Potaka, proposes far-reaching changes to the management of public land; rivers & lakes under threat; cleaning up waterways; investing in nature; Forest & Bird's Wainuiomata Nursery; restoring Raukūmara by intensive culling of pest animals; highlights & wins in 2024; F&B has published a dozen books about nature over past 100 years; life forms under water in Wellington Harbour – Te Whanganui a Tara; etc. **No. 393 Spring 2024:** Book listed in 8a above; March for Nature in Tāmaki Makaurau; planting for pekapeka/bats; looking after lakes; native alpine plants celebrated; Dr Jane Goodall's visit to NZ; progress towards securing 30% of NZ's terrestrial & aquatic habitats in protected areas by 2030; F&B – nature's storyteller 1924–2024; planting at Bushy Park; Kate Graeme, F&B President; Taranaki ecosystems; potential impacts of mining on native ecosystems; Ann Graeme's lifetime of environmental activism; Percy Scenic Reserve, Petone; etc.
- *Forest & Bird National Office, Ground Floor, 205 Victoria St, WN 6011, PO Box 631, WN 6140; ph 0800 200 064 or 04 385 7374 office@forestandbird.org.nz; forestandbird.org.nz*
10. **The chronic funding threat to our greatest asset:** Dr Kayla Kingdon-Bebb. Chief Executive, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Wellington.
- *The Post, 28.11.24.*
11. **Backcountry 238 11/24:** Te Kuha mine?; stewardship land reclassification & law reform; "War on Nature Part 2"; **236, 6/24:** Fast-track Approvals Bill; DOC funding cuts; climate change impacts; Stewardship Land & fast-tracking; etc.
- eo@fmc.org.nz
12. **Pipipi No. 60 11/24:** gorse on slips – a nursery for native bush to flourish then overtop it; etc.
- *Hinewai Reserve, 632 Long Bay Rd, R.D.3 Akaroa 7583. Direct credit donations welcome to Maurice White Native Forest Trust BNZ 02 0832 0044225 00*
13. **Kiwi are back home in your backyard:** Brochure. A4, in colour.
- jeff@capitalkiwi.co.nz
14. **Conservation Volunteers NZ. 9/24 & 10/24:** A4 coloured leaflets back-to-back.
- wellington@cvnz.org.nz.
15. **Karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*):** native taonga (treasure) or environmental weed? The karaka tree challenges the classification of plants as 'good' or 'bad', as it's both a treasured native species and an environmental concern. DOC Science Advisor Kate McAlpine is lead author of a new paper that looks at the different issues and perspectives, and suggests ways to manage it that respect its cultural importance and its ecological impact.
- *New Zealand Journal of Botany, 1–26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2024.2388751>*

Wilding conifers

Scion and Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research are doing a survey to understand how perceptions of wilding conifers differ across regions of Aotearoa New Zealand, and between professions and stakeholders. We are also interested in understanding how these perceptions compare with how other biosecurity threats are perceived. 'Wilding conifers' is a term used to describe exotic coniferous trees that self-establish beyond their initial plantings.

This survey is open to anyone although you will only be able to complete the survey once. Please complete the survey using [this link](#)!

Your participation is entirely voluntary and the survey will be anonymous.

This survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. Please forward the survey link to anyone who you think might be interested in completing it. The survey will remain open until 20 December 2024. Please email wildingpine@gmail.com if you have any questions.

As an appreciation for your participation in the survey, you will have the option to enter a draw to win one of five \$100 Prezzy vouchers. If you're interested please complete the survey and share the link around.

Survey Link

Student Grants 2024

- Paul Bell-Butler—studying taxonomy, phylogeny, evolution and biogeography of the liverwort family Lophocoleaceae.
- Lisa Wolf—studying the symbiotic relationship between sea anemones and macroalgae.
- Sarah Goldberg—studying podocarp restoration, seed germination behaviour and dormancy.
- Charlie Tustin—studying wetland restoration in the Wairio wetlands.

Jubilee Award 2024

- Debra Wotton—for her work with *Ranunculus pauciflorus* at Castle Hill. She is willing to come and talk to us about it, probably late in 2025.

*Eleanor Burton
for Wellington Botanical Society committee*

QEII National Trust update

QEII National Trust is an independent charitable trust that partners with private landowners to protect natural and cultural heritage sites on their land. Landowners retain ownership of their property and special areas are protected with legally binding agreements called covenants, which remain on the land title forever.

As of December 2024, QEII has a total of 5,307 registered covenants protecting 187667.8 hectares throughout New Zealand. In the Wellington region there are 388 Open Space Covenants registered, protecting 6,574.1 hectares. The largest registered covenant in the Wellington region is 824 hectares and the average size is 17 hectares.

Families think outside the box to offset household carbon footprint

At the foothills of the Tararua Forest Park, 16 km northwest of Masterton, two families are working to transform the last of the retired pasture into forest cover at the Coenen Greeuw Restoration Agreement site. The two households wanted to offset their carbon footprints and decided to partner with friends Hella Coenen and Jozef de Greeuw who had already started regenerating areas of their land, having a registered covenant on their property already.

Hella and Jozef have been regenerating 97 hectares of former grazing land back into native bush on the edge of Tararua Forest Park since 2009. To date, revegetation has been largely passive, with targeted planting of trees for birds. The new 7.6-hectare Restoration Agreement site has some existing lowland secondary forest and treeland that is naturally regenerating, and the two families plan to regenerate the remaining exotic pasture in the area. This Restoration Agreement is part of a larger puzzle piece linking with the DOC estate and Hella and Jozef's existing covenant areas on their retired farmland.

The two families running this project have plans to plant sufficient native trees and shrubs to achieve carbon sequestration of 25 tonnes per year over a 25-year period (total of 625 tonnes). The families are following the Timata Method, which is a cost-effective method to achieve rapid native revegetation. At a spacing of 1.8 m, 3,086 trees will be required per hectare, making a total of 8,036 trees to be planted over three years. The plantings will be predominantly kākara and mānuka and some other species for specific areas such as blackberry patches.

Hella and Jozef opened New Forest school in 2019 with the vision of sharing their special regenerating land with school groups, kindergartens and childcare centres. Although the New Forest school is currently closed, the couple hope that the new Restoration Agreement area will one day be a great addition for students who come along for the day programme. Hella and Jozef are currently looking for a school leader to take on their New Forest school project.



Rewarewa future emergents. Photo: Trevor Thompson.



Emergent rātā. Photo: Trevor Thompson.



View over the planting area. Photo: Trevor Thompson

Restoration Agreement in action

A Restoration Agreement (RA) is a new form of legal protection that QEII is trialing as a part of its Jobs for Nature funding for projects that do not yet have the biodiversity values to meet the criteria for open space covenant protection. In this case, a Restoration Agreement has enabled the landowners to work with their friends on a regeneration project on their land, and in the years to come, the site will

be assessed for a possible transition to an open space covenant.

Restoration Agreements have been funded by Jobs for Nature, but this funding will only support new RAs until June 2025. When the funding support comes to a close next year, QEII may no longer be able to offer Restoration Agreements.

Become a member of QEII

Learn more about QEII's work by joining a passionate group of over 5,000 members. An individual membership is just \$30. You get two copies of QEII's Open Space magazine a year, plus other perks. Join online and help to encourage conservation on private land: qei.org.nz/membership

Natalie Morrison – Communications Advisor
Anna-Kate Goodall – Land Protection Advisor
Becky Harris – Team Leader Land Protection

Ōtari update

We are seeing some spectacular flowering in the gardens and forest this year, and as many would have noticed some early flowering of pōhutukawa / *Metrosideros excelsa* and northern rātā / *Metrosideros robusta* plantings across the region. We have been getting regular reports from other places around the country that there is earlier flowering in our native plants, particularly in recent years. Tī kōuka / cabbage tree / *Cordyline australis* is also flowering early and heavily this year, a well-known traditional forewarning of a long hot summer ahead.

The forest weeding group is doing a great job, particularly in problem spots along the Kaiwharawhara Stream. The Thursday morning garden weeding group is doing well helping us keep up with the seasonal growth in the gardens. The Trust propagation group is doing very well with the small space they have, with lots of plants being sold this year. I understand Wilbur and the revegetation group are running out of room in the last main area below the clubrooms, but they managed to squeeze in some more podocarps again this year. The RAMBO trappers are diligently keeping pest numbers low throughout the forest. The weekend hosts are lot busier now the weather is warmer and the guides are back in the swing of things with lots more visitors around the city. We really appreciate the huge efforts undertaken by all our volunteers. We couldn't do nearly as much without them.

We have been fortunate to host some groups of volunteers including from EECA, Manaaki Whenua and boys from Wellington College recently. We have been focusing their energy in areas along Wilton Road, toward Ian Galloway Park where Ōtari was extended recently. Their collective efforts are getting on top of generations of rubbish and weeds that have built up along the forest edges. We have also had two work experience volunteers with us for a few days a week to help us get on top of the weeding in the gardens.

We have had a big increase in school and university groups this last term, starting with several local schools for two days doing workshops with EnviroSchools, Zealandia and our Educators.

We are hoping that the bridge near our northern carpark will be rebuilt this summer. The sewer pipe that runs beneath it has complicated the replacement process somewhat, but work has started. Meanwhile, please take care when walking on Wilton Bush Road - keep left!

Our mulch pile is now closed, as it was depleted significantly this year and has taken longer to replenish than usual. We have had a few trees down in the winds that come with a Wellington spring, but thankfully nothing major. The planting on the Wilton Park slip survived its first summer and the slip seems to have stabilised.

We know of two kākā nests in the forest, one of them with well-developed chicks which we estimate will fledge early in January. Please keep your pooch on a short lead when visiting the forest ... this is more important than ever as there are vulnerable chicks around.

Early next year we will farewell David Sole after his dedicated service to WCC of more than 28 years. David managed Wellington Gardens for much of that time so leaves large shoes to fill. Bec Ramsay will start as the new Wellington Gardens Manager in mid-January. Bec comes to us from Boffa Miskell, and has worked at WCC previously as Manager, Open Space & Recreation Planning.

Mā te wā,

Tim Park, Kaiwhakahaere Ōtari – Manager Ōtari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve

New genetic research puts endemic forget-me-nots in the spotlight

Aotearoa New Zealand is a hot spot for forget-me-nots (genus *Myosotis*), with about 50 species found here and nowhere else. Te Papa Botany Curator Heidi Meudt teamed up with botanist Jessie Prebble from Manaaki Whenua, and Massey University scientists Jennifer Tate, Sofie Pearson, and Weixuan Ning to generate and analyse quite a bit of new genetic data to study the taxonomy and relationships of endemic forget-me-nots. Their new paper paints a complex yet compelling picture of how these species have evolved and radiated throughout the mountains of Aotearoa New Zealand, and makes an important contribution to their taxonomic revision.



Myosotis lyallii subsp. *lyallii* Hook.f., collected 15 January 2019, Westland Tai Poutini National Park, between Tower Saddle and point 1902 m on topo map., New Zealand. Field Collection 2018-2019. CC BY 4.0. Te Papa (SP107456/A).

Read the blog at <https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz>.

Download the open access research paper at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/>

Te Papa website: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/>

Heidi Meudt, Jessie Prebble, Jennifer Tate, Sofie Pearson, Weixuan Ning

Canterbury student receives Tom Moss award for work on the bryophyte and lichen flora of kettle hole tarns

At the recent John Child bryophytes workshop, I presented my work on the bryophyte and lichen flora of kettle hole tarns—the results of a summer scholarship with PhD student Jane Gosden. Before we did this work, kettle hole tarns (and ephemeral wetlands in general) in Aotearoa had been poorly studied for bryophytes and lichens. Why? Bryologists like the forest, and non-forest habitats are usually perceived to be poor bryophyte habitat. From 269 surveyed kettles, I identified 827 specimens of bryophytes and lichens, belonging to 81 species. This was a much higher diversity than anticipated.

pockets of moisture in otherwise dry habitats, providing favourable conditions for these bryophytes. Intrigued, I searched the literature, and learned that the phenomenon of bryophytes in rabbit burrows had been observed and reported quite frequently overseas, but not in Aotearoa. I wondered about the effect of rabbits on bryophyte communities in Aotearoa, where rabbits are invasive. This question inspired my Masters project, which I begun in July this year. The scope of the project has expanded to a more general investigation of microhabitat preferences of bryophytes and lichens in grasslands. To summarise the key



A dry kettle hole from Ōtūroto/Lake Heron in Ōtūwharekai/Ashburton Lakes. Photo: Jane Gosden.

As well as high diversity, there were also several other interesting observations, including several substantial elevational range expansions, unusual morphological variants, and two putatively new species of liverwort. While working in these tarns, I had noticed that many of the bryophytes were found in the disused rabbit burrows which were often found in the tarns. It seemed that the burrows created little

points of the talk I gave at the workshop, bryophytes don't just belong in the forest. In fact, kettle hole tarns contain a highly diverse bryophyte and lichen flora. Through my Masters project, I aim to further our understanding of bryophyte communities in non-forest ecosystems.

Liadan Dickie



Riccia sorocarpa growing in a kettle hole. Photo: Jane Gosden.

TRIP REPORTS

Saturday 7 September 2024: Russell and Wi Parata Reserves, Waikanae

The original intention was to botanise a wetland near Waikanae, but after a week of rain it was over knee-deep, so instead we botanised two small forest remnants in Waikanae. We started at Russell Reserve, which has a kohekohe-titoki canopy, with occasional emergent matai. Other podocarps (rimu and tōtara) have been planted in the reserve. There was a lot of *Arthropteris tenella* and *Oplismenus imbecillus* which while fairly common up the coast is not often seen in Wellington reserves. We also found *Streblus banksii* / large-leaved milk tree. This reserve is quite weedy around the edges where it borders people's gardens, and it felt like while there is a lot of recruitment of the tree species, other layers (subcanopy) are missing.

Next we went to Wi Parata Reserve, where we started with a large *Nestegis*, debating whether it was white or black maire. It was flowering, so there were plenty of characters to work with, but the debate was inconclusive. I tended to the white maire end.

This reserve was fairly similar to Russell Reserve in composition and structure. Lots of *Arthropteris* and *Oplismenus* again, and this time the *Streblus* was *S. heterophyllus* / small-leaved milk tree.

Participants: Andy McKay (leader), Eleanor Burton (scribe), Prakriti Bhatt, Daniel Davis, Gavin Dench, Jenny Fraser, Julia Fraser, Ken Fraser, Sarah Goldberg, Chris Horne, Thidaporn Jumpakate, Pascale Michel, Simon Reeve, Sunita Singh, Owen Spearpoint, Jon Terry. (16).



White maire / *Nestegis lanceolata*.
Illustration: Eleanor burton.

Saturday 5 October 2024: Huntleigh Park Reserve and part of Korimako Track in Outer Green Belt

For the main part of the trip, we turned left from behind the Ngaio Playcentre and took the south-western track of Huntleigh Park Reserve. This is briefly beside a branch of Korimako Stream, a tributary of Kaiwharawhara Stream, then climbs north-west up the ridge to join the main track just below the stile and fence-line on the boundary between the reserve and private land. The forest in this part of the park is mature podocarp/broadleaf. The main track further to the north was botanised a little lower down by WBS in June 2024.

We discussed how to identify some of the five *Asplenium* species and their hybrids. Together with the *Blechnum* spp., *Hymenophyllum demissum*, *Lastreopsis hispida*, *Leptopteris hymenophylloides*, ponga and mamaku, the hillside was well covered with these very common ferns and other ferns. What also attracted our attention was the abundance of tree seedlings, displaying what features they do at little more than the dicotyledon stage, often accompanied by a good dusting of hangehange flower petals, and the ever-present fallen leaves of hinau, rewarewa and kohekohe. Particularly striking though, was the number of large, small and seedling matai, easily distinguished

from the fewer miro by both the back side of bark flakes and foliage. We saw many *Pterostylis* spp. orchids popping up, just on the brink of flowering. We saw the one known mature rimu tree in the area and stopped for lunch at the flat area by the large kahikatea. A few steps to the east everyone admired the large tōtara and ageing lancewood with atypical trunk.



The foliage of juvenile matai (top) is relatively sparse compared to that of miro (above). Photos: Jeremy Rolfe.

The party divided at the track junction above the stile, some heading north on the section of track between the Crow's Nest Track and the top of Awarua St. Regeneration of bush on this track from farmland is fairly recent. There's a low diversity of early colonising bush species and weeds. Gorse, blackberry, Darwin's barberry, balm of Giliad, Japanese honeysuckle and *Selaginella* mix with tauhinu, ongaonga and the taller, established māhoe, kōhūhū, rangiora, *Coprosma robusta*, ponga, mamaku and the common ground ferns *Hypolepis ambigua*, *Asplenium oblongifolium*, *Paesia scaberula*, *Histiopteris incisa* and *Polysticum neozelandicum*.

The rest of the party took the southern extension of Korimako Track, which passes through a longer-established mix with greater diversity of species. On a slightly drier area is a section including plentiful mānuka with *Raukaua anomalous* reaching 3 m tall as it becomes increasingly protected and out of its usual exposed habitat. In a damper, gully area larger tawa/kohekohe/rewarewa trees are dominant, forming a canopy.

This group of the party exited the bush at the Crofton Downs subdi-

vision. No species were added to the latest, comprehensive Huntleigh Park list, which also covered the species on the Korimako Track. Birds heard/seen during the day were: fantail/pīwakawaka, grey warbler/

riroriro, kākā, kererū, kingfisher/kōtare, tūi.

Participants: Michele Dickson (scribe and leader), Paul Bell-Butler, Blue Cronin, Gavin Dench, Jenny Fraser, Julia Fraser, Ken Fraser,

Richard Grasse, Chris Horne, Kate Jordan, Syd Moore, Lynne Pomare, Simon Reeve, Dave Reynolds, Nick Rinehart, Sunita Singh, Julia Wilson-Davy, Matthew Woodbury. (18).

2 November 2024: Khandallah Park

Although the peak of Tarikākā is familiar to Wellingtonians (under the name Mt Kaukau), most are unaware that its slopes contain one of the city's most important forest remnants. An area of original forest, which had been logged of podocarps but not burned, was protected in 1897, becoming the Khandallah Domain. Later, the protected area was expanded, and it became Khandallah Park. In the early days, enthusiastic locals planted both exotic and native trees, which accounted for a few of the botanical surprises seen on the trip, such as the magnificent silver beech trees (*Lophozonia menziesii*) near the park entrance and the huge *Clethra arborea* / lily-of-the-valley-tree which is self-seeding in some troubling locations, including under a closed canopy and on the trunks of tree ferns.

Wellington Botanical Society has visited Khandallah Park several times, but not for some years. The last species list I've been able to find is from 2006, so the trip offered a great opportunity to check on the status of species previously recorded.

Twenty-five people set out from the Woodmancote Road entrance. The forest canopy was mostly kohekohe (*Didymocheton spectabilis*), and there was an excellent range of common species for those who were relatively new to plant identification, but my attention was captured by the ferns—a group I wanted to learn more about. Within a few metres of the forest entrance we saw three *Cyathea* species, *C. dealbata*, *C. medullaris* and the less common *C. cunninghamii*. There was one very tall plant and dozens of immature plants—Leon Perrie showed us how to distinguish it from the more common species. Among the expected ferns we saw were some stunning *Asplenium bulbiferum*, *Diplazium australe*, *Lastreopsis hispida*, *Lecanopteris pustulata*, *Leptopteris hymenophylloides*, *Parapolystichum glabellum* and *Pakau pennigera*. We also saw the first of the filmy ferns, *Hymenophyllum demissum*.

We added several other ferns to the species list during the day: *Asplenium flabellifolium*, *Blechnum colensoii*, *B. deltoides*, *Notogrammitis billardieri* and *Polystichum sylvaticum*.

The first part of the track, which rises gently beside the clear waters of Waitohi Stream, was also a great place to spot bryophytes. Existing species lists recorded very few, so there were many first records for the park—more than 30 mosses and 15 liverworts.

Once the track left the course of the Waitohi Stream, we were faced with numerous stairs. However, there were plenty of places to stop and other interesting plants, including *Mida salicifolia*, which was just coming into flower. After passing some *Dicksonia squarrosa* with *Trichomanes venosum* on their trunks, we reached a track junction, where we stopped for lunch. This location was shared with two of New Zealand's most aromatic plants. The first was *Raukaua edgerleyi*, which has beautifully perfumed leaves. The second was *Coprosma foetidissima*, and the name tells you everything you need to know about that (the literal translation of *Coprosma* is “poo-smelling” and *foetidissima* is “the stinkiest”). There was also some luxuriant *Phlegmarius* draping a fallen log.



Raukaua edgerleyi. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

After lunch, we headed up into an area of low forest with old pine trees. Despite the pines, this is one of the most botanically interesting areas. There were numerous filmy ferns,

including *Hymenophyllum flabellatum* epiphytic on a pine stump and *H. minimum*, a new record for the park. We also saw kāmahi (*Pterophylla racemosa*), *Tmesipteris elongata*, hutu (*Ascarina lucida*, which may have been planted originally in the park) and a small *Alseuosmia pusilla* which Ben Wright had found previously.

Although many people headed off early, those who remained to the end had a chance to see *Pseudowintera axillaris* in flower and several more *Mida salicifolia* under a canopy of large tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) and kohekohe.



Pseudowintera axillaris flowers. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

Birds seen or heard included tūi, korimako / bellbird, paradise duck / pūtangitangi, shining cuckoo / pīpīwharau, riroriro, fantail / pīwakawaka and falcon / kārearea. But of all the birds, the one which delighted me the most was the kākā. The mountain is named Tarikākā, which means “to snare kākā”. It is fitting that these wonderful birds have returned home.

About ten of the party enjoyed afternoon tea at Café du Parc.

Participants: Leader / scribe: Melanie Newfield; co-leader: Richard Grasse. Margaret Allison, John Barnett, Katie Benson, Eleanor Burton, Daniel Davis, Jenny Fraser, Ian Goodwin, Jill Goodwin, Chris Horne, Kate Jordan, Pip Kirkham, Avinda Lalansuriya, Jenny Leith, Kim Livingstone, Roberta Loreto, Angus Napier, Mick Parsons, Leon Perrie, Simon Reeve, Dave Reynolds, Lara Shepherd, Sophie Williams, Benjamin Wright. (25).

6 November 2024: BotSoc / Upper Hutt F&B Te Mārua Bush working bee

Our small group gathered at Twin Lakes Rd, Kaitoke Regional Park. We walked weeding and collecting litter from the south end of this podocarp/black maire remnant to the large tōtara by SH2 then across the stiles by the pony paddock.

We removed and bagged up the usual weeds—tradescantia, sycamore, convolvulus, montbretia, flowering cherry, blackberry, etc., and rubbish for GWRC staff to remove later. Staff had repaired the two stiles since our last working bee.

We heard a kārerea / NZ falcon and a pīpiwharau / shining cuckoo.

We saw that more of the original plantings in the south end—site of the SH2 to Kaitoke road reconstruction works—are dying off so infill plantings will be needed next winter.

We were visited by GWRC ranger, Steve Edwards, who told us that all the grazing stock in Kaitoke Regional Park will be removed soon and the retired land reverted / planted in natives over time. There may be an opportunity for greater involvement of the BotSoc/Upper Hutt F & B group in the planning and/or work of this reversion programme.

The pony club is also seeking more

land so it is unlikely that we could get more land to the north of Te Mārua Bush.

The amount of work suitable for large groups in Te Mārua Bush is diminishing and the acquisition of additional areas for either planting, maintenance or both would be advantageous.

Participants: Leaders / scribes: Allan & Glennis Sheppard. Richard Grasse, Chris Horne, Kim Livingstone, Graeme Sheppard, Benjamin Wright.



Te Mārua Bush beside pony paddock, Twin Lakes Road. Photo: Allan Sheppard.

5 and 7 December 2024: Rātā-viewing walks, Woburn, Lower Hutt

Flowering of northern rātā was past its peak, especially the large tree on the corner of Leighton Avenue and Whites Line East (WLE). Young flowering northern rātā planted by Hutt City Council at the intersection of Hawkins St and WLE compensated and were low enough to inspect closely. The route was shorter at 3 km this year, giving more time for discussion of the growth forms and identification features of *Metrosideros robusta*, *M. excelsa*, *M. umbellata*, *M. perforata*, *M. diffusa* and *M. fulgens*. Mnemonics shared were N for Northern and Notch. S for Southern and sharp-tip; and PDF for *M. perforata*, *M. diffusa* and *M. fulgens*. Leaves of each of these six species were handed out for comparison. Kate had written in the September 2024 *Bulletin* that it would be valuable if a handout

pamphlet were developed. John developed a first draft with links and emailed it to this year's participants.

A hitherto mystery *Metrosideros* that flowers throughout the year was identified by Jeremy Rolfe as *Metrosideros collina* from the Pacific Islands.

Hutt City Councillor Andy Mitchell spoke about the imminent increase in the number of Notable Trees from 141 to 219. These may be on public or private land and are cared for and protected by Hutt City Council (HCC). The public may nominate trees and HCC will contact the property owner for permission. Trees that meet HCC assessment criteria as scored by an arborist will be added to the register only with the owner's agreement. New assessment criteria favour the inclusion of native species.

Participants

5.12.2024: John Barnett (trip leader), Fiona Angus, Jonas Baumann, Ian Goodwin, Jill Goodwin, Finn Harvey, Graeme Lyon, Cr Andy Mitchell, Robyn Proctor, Jeremy Rolfe, Fiona Strachan, Sarah Wilcox, Kaz Yung. (13).

7.12.2024: John Barnett (trip leader), Jonas Baumann, Vicki Cuthbert, Ken Fraser, Kate Jordan, Kim Livingstone, Andrea Peterson, Jim Peterson, Jeremy Rolfe, Lynne Silcock, Scott Silcock, Jim Whittaker. (12).

Members in the two groups were either BotSoc members or local people who had seen the walks advertised in BotSoc communications, *Wild Plants of Wellington Facebook*, the *Glean Report* or *Neighbourly*.



New Membership application

I wish to join the Wellington Botanical Society

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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

Ordinary membership	\$35.00	
Country (out of Wellington area)	\$30.00	
Group/family	\$40.00	
Student	\$10.00	\$ _____
Donation to the Jubilee Award Fund		\$ _____ (Optional)
(Donations to Wellington Botanical Society Inc. qualify for a New Zealand tax rebate)	Total paid	\$ _____

Please make payment to: **Wellington Botanical Society Inc.**

Bank Account: **02 0536 0017812 00**
Particulars: *Name*
Code: *Membership type*
Reference: *amount of any included donation*

Authority to hold your name, address and phone number with the Society.

The Society holds the name, address, email and contact phone numbers of all current and life members to use for communication, and mailing of bulletins etc. Under the Privacy Act the circulation of names on such lists requires the approval of the individual members.

The list will not be used for marketing, soliciting or political purposes.

I agree to my name and contact details being held on the membership list whilst I am a current paid up member. I understand that if my details are requested for use within the Wellington Botanical Society I will be notified. I understand that this list is to be used only by members of the committee.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please **e-mail** this completed form to the Memberships Secretary at wellingtonbotsocmembership@gmail.com or post to Wellington Botanical Society Inc:

Memberships Secretary c/o Wellington Botanical Society Inc., PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6140

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