



From the President

A very successful trip to the southern Coromandel region was enjoyed by a number of members in January—read about it in this issue. In recent years BotSoc has visited Great Barrier Island and Stewart Island. All three areas are highlighted in the document released for public comment “Maximising our Mineral Potential: Stocktake of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act and beyond” which BotSoc will be submitting on. Bev Abbott, our Submissions Co-ordinator, does a very thorough job, representing the botanical values of places of local and national significance where the knowledge held by Society members can make a difference.

We’ve been fortunate, in BotSoc, to have had many wonderful role models. Sadly, Helen Druce died on 9 April, but she leaves a legacy of passion for native plants and animals, love and support for people, and absolute joy in life. Her laugh was infectious and would light up any space. In fact hospital staff had to ask her to keep noise levels down when she was recovering from heart problems! Determination is another of Helen’s key traits: I remember her exclaiming “I hate hills!” as she planted her hands on her hips and walked doggedly up a steep slope with pack laden for a 4-night trip, not stopping once until she reached the top some 400 m higher. We will miss you, Helen. A full obituary will be published in the Bulletin.

Carol West

Helen Druce

The NZ Plant Conservation Network has published an item by Tony Silbery about Helen Druce on its web site: www.nzpcn.org.nz/news_detail.asp?ID=281.

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

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

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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 – 20 September 2010

Articles may be edited for clarity and length

ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS

Ideas please

We welcome your ideas about:

- places to visit on field trips
- topics and speakers for evening meetings
- information or photographs for BocSoc web site

Please send ideas to our secretary, Barbara Clark, PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6036, ph 233 8202.

Field trips

If you intend to join a trip, PLEASE phone the leader at least TWO DAYS beforehand, so that he/she can tell you of any changes and/or particular requirements. If you cannot ring in advance, you are welcome to join on the day.

Clothing for field trips

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

Day trip gear

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

Overnight trip gear and food

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

1 = wool, polypropylene or polarfleece as applicable.

2 Optional

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

BotSoc equipment

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

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

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

Trip leaders

Please draft a trip report for the newsletter.

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: depart Houghton Bay 6.30 p.m., Zoo 6.40, Courtenay Place 6.50, Pastoral House 6.57, University 7.02.

No. 23 Mairangi: depart Southgate 6.55 p.m., Hospital 7.05, Courtenay Place 7.15, Pastoral House 7.22, University 7.27.

No. 22 Southgate: depart Mairangi 6.55 p.m., University 7.10.

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

No. 17 Railway Station: depart Karori Park 6.35 p.m., University 6.52.

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

FROM MEETINGS

No. 23 Southgate: 9.10 p.m. from University.

No. 23 Southgate: 10.10 p.m. from University.

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

Last service 10.01 p.m.

For further information ring Metlink, Greater Wellington's public transport network, 0800 801-7000.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS: MAY–SEPTEMBER 2010 + SUMMER TRIP

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.

Monday 19 April: Evening meeting

Carol West, Threat Management Manager, DOC, will talk about the restoration of this Open Sanctuary in the Hauraki Gulf, and describe how natural regeneration back to forest is much slower than has been achieved via the planting programme.

The greening of Tiritiri Matangi Island

Saturday 1 May: Field trip

Botanise regenerating forest, then mature native forest, on the east side of the Wainuiomata catchment. Meet 9 a.m. SHARP at Reservoir Rd, off Whitcher Grove, off Moores Valley Rd, Wainuiomata. Booking essential so we can advise the Greater Wellington ranger. Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025, Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

'Solomon Knob' spur, Wainuiomata catchment

Saturday 15 May: Field trip

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, grubber, loppers, pruning saw, jemmy. Meet at Te Marua Bush at 9.30 a.m. (250 m north of Te Marua Store and then left, off SH2 for 50 m, along the road to Te Marua Lakes, Kaitoke Regional Park. Coming by train? *Ring the leader* to arrange to be met at Upper Hutt Station Catch 8.05 a.m. train on Hutt line from Wellington Station. Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

Te Marua Bush workbee

Monday 17 May: Evening meeting

Please share your botanical slides and photographs taken on BotSoc trips, your paintings, drawings and your favourite botanical readings. Slides to be limited to 20 per showing. Plant specimens would add to a memorable evening. **Auction:** Bring your spare botanical or other natural history books to auction.

Members' evening with auction

Saturday 5 June: Field trip

Botanise the interesting assemblage of species and vegetation patterns in this bush remnant. These range from tall kānuka, kohekohe, tawa, NZ sandalwood/*Mida salicifolia*, uncommon in Wellington, to kahikatea, matai, rimu, the less common miro, plus some hinau and maire on the top ridge. From Steyne Ave, Plimmerton take Motuhara Rd to The Track; follow this to the end and , park at the cattle-stop at the entrance to Taua Tapu Track. Leaders: t.b.a. Wellington contact: Sunita Singh 387 9955.

Brew Covenant, Plimmerton

Monday 21 June: Evening meeting

Speaker: Dr Mark Jones MSc DIC MB BCh MD FRCPATH FRCPA, Lead Pathologist in Molecular and Microbiology, Aotea Pathology, Wellington; Clinical Senior Lecturer in Pathology, Wellington School of Medicine; Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, Wellington Hospital. Mark studied Mycology and Plant Pathology at Imperial College, London, before changing to a medical career. His main interests are in medical mycology, the epidemiology of infectious diseases and the management of patients infected with antibiotic-resistant organisms. He lives on a life-style block on the Wellington fringe and enjoys botanising and conserving the wonderful Wellington bush. Contribute a fungi specimen for comments.

Fungi from the forests infecting birds and man

Saturday 3 July: Field trip

Spend a few hours exploring the gullies in Otari and being introduced to some common liverworts and similar-looking bryophytes. Notes will be provided bring a pen. Also, if you have them, please bring a ×10 lens and a torch, preferably a head-lamp. Start and finish at the Information Centre at Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton. Meet at 9.00 a.m. Co-leaders: Rodney Lewington 970 3142; Peter Beveridge 237 8777.

Midwinter bryophytes

Monday 19 July: Evening meeting

Speaker: Prof. Dave Kelly, Ecologist, University of Canterbury, on why seed crops are so variable in NZ.

Mechanisms of mast seeding

Saturday 7 August: Field trip

Botanise Palmer Head to Point Dorset, including Tarakena Bay, Palmer Bay, Reef Bay, Flax Bay, Eve Bay, Breaker Bay, to Steeple Rock, returning via the cliff tops to Breaker Bay car park. See *Linum monogynum* and possibly *Melicytus obovatus* in the wild. Strong boots recommended. Meet 9 a.m. at Breaker Bay car park. Bus no 11 to Seatoun Park. Leader: Frances Forsyth 384 8891.

Coastal cliffs, Breaker Bay to Tarakena Bay

Monday 16 August: Evening meeting

1. Annual General Meeting

2. AP Druce Memorial Lecture: Northland—special plants, special places

Speaker: Lisa Forrester, Biodiversity Officer, Northland Regional Council. Northland, with its subtropical climate, coastal influences and wide variety of landscapes and geological features, has a wide range of habitats matched with a high plant diversity, including many endemics. It is therefore not surprising that over the years Northland has been a draw-card for well-known botanists including Tony and Helen Druce who, later in their careers, made a habit of annual trips to the North. Even today new endemic plants continue to turn up in remote corners of Northland, not only the small elusive species, but sometimes large, woody and very conspicuous plants as well! This talk follows the footsteps of Tony and others to look at some of the special plants that grow in Northland's most remote and unusual places.

Saturday 4 September: Field trip Some restoration sites and issues in Queen Elizabeth Park

The Friends of QEP tackle restoration of wetland, swamp forest, and dunes in the park where there are degraded, recovering, and continually damaged ecosystems. We will look at some of these sites, and large and small issues confronting the Friends will be raised. From SH1, park near the Ranger's office (100 m inside the MacKays Crossing gate, on the left) at 9.30 a.m. Leader: Robin Fordham, Chair, Friends of QE Park. We will botanise the foredunes after visiting the restoration plantings.

Monday 20 September: Evening meeting NZ *Myosotis*—how many species do we have out there?

Speaker: Carlos Lehnebach, Curator, Te Papa, will present an introduction to NZ forget-me-nots, including species' diversity and conservation status, and his current research on this group. His research projects aim to determine boundaries between species morphologically similar, and the formal description of taxonomically undetermined entities. He will also present results of preliminary morphological and genetic analyses that he has done on the species *M. forsteri* and *M. venosa*.

Wednesday 29 December – Friday 7 January 2011: Field trip Northern Fiordland

Accommodation: Indoors and camping at Boyds Creek Lodge, c. 40 km NE along SH94 from Te Anau. Botanising possibilities include Lake Marian, Gertrude and Hollyford valleys, Milford Sound and Track, Key Summit, Eglinton Valley and Knobs Flat. Joint trip with Botanical Society of Otago. Maps: Fiordland Parkmap 273-03; NZTopo50-CA08, CA09, CB08, CB09, CC08, CC09, CD08. Contact Mick Parsons 972 1142, mtparsons@paradise.net.nz. Full details and a booking form will be in next newsletter.

AWARDS

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

EVENTS

- 9 May, 27 June, 1 August. **Whitireia Park/Onehunga Bay restoration planting workbees, run by Onehunga Bay Care Group.**
Co-leaders: Robyn Smith (Greater Wellington - DD 04 803 0367, fax 04 385 6960, Freephone 0800 496 734, www.gw.govt.nz), Lisa Clapcott (DOC Kapiti Area). They seek experienced team leaders to help supervise the planters, and set out the plants—offers welcome! Contact lclapcott@doc.govt.nz. Plantings will be only locally appropriate, eco-sourced species.
- 15 May. **Berhampore Nursery Open Day.** Theme: Biodiversity in the backyard. 10 a.m. – c. 1 p.m., Speakers, demonstrations, plant sales, displays by groups, including our BotSoc display. Emerson St. entrance.
Nicky OliverSmith, Manager, WCC Berhampore Nursery. Ph 389 9729.
- 22 May. **Restoration Day 2010.** Theme: Looking back, going forward—learning from the past to build more effective ecological restoration projects. Silverstream Retreat, Reynolds Bach Drive, Lower Hutt. Speakers at workshops; fieldtrips; eco-sourcing forum; optional networking event.
Information sheet, a booking form, and an invitation—places are limited to four per group working to restore their local environment—everyone must register using the booking form from Shelley Martin. RSVP by Wednesday 12 May is essential. Return completed form to S Martin, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Freepost 3156, WN 6142 or shelley.martin@gw.govt.nz. Contact: Matt Barnett, Community Relations, DOC Poneke Area Office, Box 5086, Wellington 6145. DD: 04 470 8433 mbarnett@doc.govt.nz
- 16 June 2010: 11.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. (Rain day—23 June). **Rātānui environmental song & dance.** Envirohouse, 3 Dowse Drive, Lower Hutt. Parking: Percy Scenic Reserve carpark, off Dowse Drive. No. 150 bus 10.58 or 11.28 from Petone Station, or 15-minute walk.
*Hear the story of Sir James Hector, one of NZ's eminent scientists, described by his great-grandson, Peter Hector. Then stroll through Percy Scenic Reserve to Rātānui, led by Judy Robb, Horticultural Manager, Hutt City Council. Light refreshments served. Sturdy footwear and warm clothing recommended.
RSVP to Judy Robb, ph 570 6710, and leave a message, or e-mail: judy.robbs@huttcity.govt.nz.*

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

- 2–4 July. **Conservation & Economy: Foundations for the future.** ECO annual conference. Living Springs Conference Centre, Christchurch.
Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc, Box 11 057, WN 6142. Ph 04 385 7545. eco@eco.org.nz
- 12–19 September. **Conservation Week.** Theme: to be advised. Matt Barnett, Poneke Area, DOC, Box 5086, WN 6145. Ph 04 472 5821, mbarnett@doc.govt.nz
- 18 September. **Otari Open Day.** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Plant sales, demonstrations, guided walks, displays by groups, including our BotSoc display.
Rewi Elliot, Manager, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN. Ph 475 3245.
- 8–10 October. **NZ Plant Conservation Network annual conference.** Theme: Plants in a human landscape – conservation outside nature reserves. Christchurch.
- 21–25 November. **NZ Ecological Society annual conference.** Biodiversity: 2010 and beyond. University of Otago, Dunedin.
- 29 November – 3 December. **Australian Systematic Botany Society conference.** Lincoln University.
Information and registration at: www.landcareresearch.co.nz/news/conferences/asbs2010/
- 4 – 9 December. **25th John Child Bryophyte & Lichen Workshop.** Riverton, Southland. This informal annual gathering welcomes anyone interested in mosses, liverworts and lichens, from beginners to professionals.
Accommodation: The Globe, a quaint, clean pub/backpackers—beds, bunks, full bedding c. \$20/night for a group booking; tenting on lawn. A backpackers' hostel is a block away @ \$10/night for a bed with duvet.
Day one: brief introductory talks for beginners. Each day: field trips to a diverse range of habitats, finishing mid - late p.m. Identification, with tuition for beginners, and microscopes for everyone, will be in the nearby RSA indoor-bowling hall.
Students are encouraged to apply for the Tom Moss Award of \$330, which has been extended to lichen as well as moss and liverwort topics this year.
*Details of workshop, accommodation, transport, and the Tom Moss Award, from the organisers:
Allison Knight: alli_knight@hotmail.com, 64 3 487 8265
John Steel: john.steel@botany.otago.ac.nz, 64 3 479 4572
Maia Mistral: maia.mistral@botany.otago.ac.nz, or*

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Continuing. GWRC Wetland Incentive Programme provides advice and financial assistance with protecting wetlands on private land throughout the region. GWRC also has a programme that advises and assists landowners with natural areas of value on the coast.

- www.gw.govt.nz/restoring-natural-areas/
 - Tim Park, Biodiversity Policy Advisor, Environmental Policy, Environment Management, GWRC, 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
- 30 July. Wellington City Council Environmental Grants. Criteria, application forms and other information available in February.
- Grants Advisor, WCC, Box 2199, WN 6140, 499 4444, www.wellington.govt.nz/services/grants

Dates to be advised. Biodiversity Fund. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/biofunds. Applicable to projects on private land. Discuss your proposed project and application with Fund staff: Katrina Edwards and Susie James ph 0800 86 2020. Read the Biodiversity Fund Guides and Exclusions for funding. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/conditionapps.html

- Contact biofunds@doc.govt.nz to be put on e-mail address list so you will be told when applications open and close.
- Online applications: Use the form for the Advice Fund or Condition Fund. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/apply The on-line application guide has notes and hints. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/Guide_4_Electronic_Online_Applications.pdf
- Manual applications: Use the revised application forms. www.biodiversity.govt.nz/land/nzbs/pvtland/conditionapps.html
- Funds Team, Marketing and Communications Group, Department of Conservation, Te Papa Atawhai, Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Box 10-420, WN 6143. 0800 86 2020, DDI: 04 471 3183, Fax: 04 381 3057 www.doc.govt.nz | www.biodiversity.govt.nz

1 March 2011. 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

- 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. web www.projectcrimson.org.nz

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. Valuing community group contributions to conservation. N Hardie-Boys 2010. *Science for Conservation* 299. 71 p.
- 1b. Marine protected areas in NZ: 40+ years of progress? S Byers, A McCrone 2010. *DOC Science Poster*.
- 1c. Thirty years of stream protection: long-term nutrient and vegetation changes in a retired pasture stream. C Howard-Williams, S Pickmere 2010. *Science for Conservation* 300. 49 p.
 - Publishing Team, DOC, Box 10 420, WN 6143. [science. publications@doc.govt.nz](http://www.biodiversity.govt.nz/publications@doc.govt.nz)
- 2a. Threatened Plants of NZ. P de Lange, P Heenan, D Norton, J Rolfe, J Sawyer 2010. Hard cover, 471 p. Canterbury University Press. Initiative of NZ Plant Conservation Network. Sponsored by MWH. RRP \$99.95. **Special offer: 10% discount for BotSoccers showing a copy of this newsletter. Discount only available at DOC Wellington Visitor Centre, Manners St, WN.**
- 2b. 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. Project Kākā – Tararua Nature Recovery. A4, 4 p.
 - Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy, DOC, Box 5086, WN 6145.
4. Rakiura Planning Newsletter. 17/3: Draft Rakiura planning documents to be presented to NZ Conservation Authority; etc.
 - Southland Conservancy, DOC, Box 743, Invercargill.
5. Annual Report 2008/09. A4 81 p. Natural history and biodiversity p 23, botany p 71, publications p 72-78.
 - Museum of NZ Te Papa, Box 467, WN 6140. www.tepapa.govt.nz
6. Open Space. 78 3/10: Focus on Coromandel; Canterbury habitats. Linking remnants of natural areas; DNA investigation of domesticated native plants; olearia shrubs; protecting biodiversity; fencing; forest fragments – objectives of restoration and management; controlling wilding pines; etc.
 - QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140. info@openspace.org.nz
- 7a. Pest Plants of the Wellington Region – field guide. 150 mm x 105 mm, ring-bound, waterproof, 23 Regional Surveillance spp. 11 Total Control spp.
- 7b. Pest Plants of the Wellington Region. A4, 8 p, same species as above booklet
- 7c. Join a community care group. A4, 2 p. Description of seven groups in Wellington city.

7d. Community environmental projects. 1 4/10: Environmental awards; new groups in 2009; groups leaving the programme; 10 years of Take Care programme; health and safety; convolvulus family; autumn 'to do' list for care groups; pollution reporting; etc.

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

8a. Annual Report 08/09. 210 p. natural environment pp 31–48.
8b. *Branch Out*. 34 Autumn 2010. Check www.Wellington.govt.nz, and ask to receive environmental e-newsletter.

- *Wellington City Council, Box 2199, WN 6140.*

9a. NZ Botanical Society. 98 12/09: Audrey Eagle receives Allan Mere; regional botsocs' news; *Pimelea haastii*; lichens on the move; biographical notes – John D G Enys, Eva C Richards; Bay of Plenty vascular flora published; etc. 99 3/10: calls for nominations for Allan Mere Award and Loder Cup; regional botsocs' news; a Colenso Society proposed; Australian Systematic Botany Society Conference 29/11-3/12, Lincoln; *Uncinia hookeri* range extension; *Hebe* aff. *traversii*; biographical notes: Sir George Grey, Eileen A Willa; book review – Natural History of Banks Peninsula. Hugh Wilson; etc.

9b. NZ Botanical Society Newsletter. Back issues: No. 1 (8/85) onwards \$7 ea.

- *NZBotSoc, c/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Ave, CH 8001. www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz*

10. *Trilepidea*. 73 12/09: Philippa Crisp – president; *Myrsine aquilonia*; pingao = favourite native plant; new Network web site live; Susan Wiser on council; 1080 critical for protecting native forests and fauna; yellow form of red mistletoe; garden trials with threatened species; marae-based plant training course 13–14/3 eco-sourcing; our natives overseas; AoB PLANTS – open access journal for plant biologists; etc. 74 1/10: *Hebe maccaskillii*; *Simplicia laxa*; conservation awards; rātā moehau/*Metrosideros bartlettii*; Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park, Hamilton; on-line plant forum; Threatened plants of NZ; etc. 75 2/10: *Pterostylis irwinii*; *Lepidium kirikii*; rātā moehau/*Metrosideros bartlettii*; QEII covenants protect *Olearia adenocarpa* in Canterbury; Selwyn District Council works with landowners to protect natural areas; new plant list search engine – www.nzpcn.org.nz/factsheet_index.asp; *Pouteria (Planchonella) costata* germinating on Auckland's west coast – link to pest control; etc. 76 3/10: *Raoulia rubra*; pā harakeke uses threatened plants in Waitakere; DNA of domesticated native plants in QEII covenants; NZ Native Orchid Group alpine camp; Network on-line shop open; over 18,000 images of native and exotic plants and fungi on-line; half the naturalised vascular flora now illustrated; foliar browse index manual being revised;

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

11. Auckland Botanical Society. 2-3/10: Whangamarino wetland; etc. 4/10: BioBlitz 2010: etc.

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

12. Canterbury Botanical Society. 1-2/10: Mt Cheeseman; 3/10: Pollinator-prey conflict in carnivorous plants; Lake Ohau area; Mt Hutt; etc.

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

13. Rotorua Botanical Society. 53 12/09: definitive list of Bay of Plenty vascular flora published; Broadlands Block Reserve, Waihi Beach; Wairoa Stream; Matakana Island; Ngatamahiunera plateau, Kaimai-mamaku Forest Pk; Lake Matahina margins; etc.

- *RBS, c/- National Forestry Herbarium, Scion, PBag 3020, Rotorua.*

14. Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust. 3/10: workbees, walks, talk; planting after collecting trips; new staff; Walter B Brockie; *Desmoschoenus spiralis* drawing; etc.

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

15. Forest & Bird. 335 2/10: mining NZ's green heart; protecting Wairarapa's coast; Mackenzie basin; Whirinaki Forest; Auckland's Ark in the Park; restoring swamp maire in Marlborough; etc.

- *Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Box 631, WN 6140. 385 7374. www.forestandbird.org.nz*

16. Friends of Mana Island. 41 2/10: Mana Is. Ecological Restoration Plan being revised; etc.

- *FoMI, Box 54 101, Mana, Porirua.*

17. Friends of the Wellington Botanic Garden. 3/10: bush walk signage being finalised; nursery being rebuilt; kākā affecting trees in garden; etc.

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

18. Pipipi. 32 3/10: possum, deer and weed control; etc.

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

19. Trees for survival – children growing our future. 12 2/10: recreational tree planting; work with tī kōuka/cabbage tree; Tane's Tree Trust conference report; etc. 10 10/09: planting; etc.

- *TfS, Box 11 836, Ellerslie, Auckland 1542. Info@tfsnz.org.nz*

20. Ecolink. 3/10: RMA review mining on conservation land; pest management endangered; UN Year of Biodiversity; etc.

- *Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc, Box 11 057, WN 6142. 385 7545. www.eco.org.nz*

21. Natural History of Banks Peninsula. Hugh Wilson 2009. Canterbury University Press. Paperback, 144 p, 210 x 148 mm. \$30.

22. Checklist of indigenous and naturalised vascular plants in the Bay of Plenty. S Beadel, C Ecroyd, P de Lange, P Cashmore, W Shaw, S Crump. Rotorua Botanical Society Special Issue no. 2. Hard copy book \$27, hard copy book + CD \$37. RBS, c/- National Forestry Herbarium, PBag 3020, Rotorua 3046.

23a. Field guide to ferns. \$10.

23b. Field guide to rushes, sedges and allied plants. \$15.

23c. Field guide to grasses. \$20.

- *Series by Graeme Jane. Orders to: Mick Parsons, ph 972 1148, mtparsons@paradise.net.nz.*

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

Web: www.doc.govt.nz



**Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai**

Newsletter by e-mail?

If you would like to receive your Newsletter by e-mail, and thus help us to reduce our postage costs, please advise our Treasurer:

Rodney Lewington, WBS, PO Box 10 412, WN.

SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR

- **23 April. Greater Wellington Regional Council Proposed Annual Plan 2010/11.** Parks and forests p 32-35; land management p 42-45. Copies from local libraries, GWRC Wellington and Masterton offices. Make submission on-line at www.gw.govt.nz/have-your-say, or on form in proposed plan and the summary document.
- **4 May 2010. Public consultation on the stocktake of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act.**
The Government is reviewing the appropriateness of land with mineral potential being listed on Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act. The discussion document describing the actual Schedule 4 land under consideration and issues relating to mining activity on conservation land, can be found on the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) website at: www.med.govt.nz/schedule4.
Requests for hard copies of the discussion document can be made to schedule4@med.govt.nz
A limited number of printed copies of the discussion document are held at DOC offices.
Summary
Schedule 4 was added to the Crown Minerals Act in 1997 restricting exploration and mining activities in specified public conservation land administered by the Minister of Conservation.
Some land listed within Schedule 4 is thought to contain minerals of value that could contribute significantly to NZ's economy. The Government is now seeking public input about whether some of these areas should be removed from Schedule 4. Some land is also being considered for addition to Schedule 4.
Making a submission
MED is co-ordinating public submissions on the issues raised in the discussion document and details of how to make a submission are also available on the MED website: www.med.govt.nz/schedule4.
- **10 May. Wellington City Council draft Annual Plan 2010/11.** Copies from WCC libraries, service centres, on-line at www.Wellington.govt.nz, or from ph 499 4444.

SUBMISSIONS MADE

Each year BotSoc makes submissions on plans and strategies that have implications for the preservation or protection of NZ's flora. Here's a sample of what we've said in recent months.

- **April 2010. Draft Landscape Development Plan for Otari-Wilton's Bush.**
 1. One of the key actions in Wellington City Council's Management Plan for Otari-Wilton's Bush (2007) was to prepare a Landscape Development Plan (LDP) to implement many of its objectives and policies.
 2. Three years later, the Draft LDP has been released. It's a magnificent 80-page, A3 document with many full colour pages. We felt privileged to be given a copy.
 3. The Draft LDP contains far more ideas than are ever likely to be affordable. Some ideas, such as the new main path through the Cockayne and Forest Collections are well developed. We saw the early results of this last year when curator Rewi Elliott guided us around the collections.
 4. Other concepts will require more development before their feasibility and value for money can be determined.
 5. Perhaps one of the biggest surprises was that none of the maps in the Draft LDP showed the proposed location of

toilets, although access to toilets is clearly of interest to visitors.

6. As an example, travelling visitors arriving at, or leaving the Wilton Rd carpark, won't have easy access to the visitor centre's toilets, because the connecting path will be closed, and all visitors will be channelled into the fernery, and eventually reach the visitor centre via a new canopy walkway.
 7. Policies in the Management Plan had led me to expect a more comprehensive set of options for ways that the current visitor centre and the Curator's House could be modified, or extended, to achieve the objectives and policies in the Management Plan.
 8. Those of you who participated in the discussion after Rewi's tour will remember the passion of many members for better educational opportunities at OWB, particularly for children. Some good educational initiatives are now underway, but an indoor space would give such groups more scope.
 9. We've recommended giving further thought to this, including finding ways of adapting, or extending, the northern rooms of the Curator's House to provide better facilities for educational groups. Others see this part of the house/grounds as the ideal location for a café. This sunny location has views over the collections, and the Cockayne Lookout, to the Te Wharangi slopes. The current proposal is to use these rooms as a dry laboratory and a reference library, and these options also have merits. The Draft LDP also proposes the building of a deck and wide steps outside the house where educational groups would gather. It would be nice to see some more floor plans showing a range of possible uses for the house and the visitor centre.
 10. The intention is to retain the southern rooms as private accommodation for interns, and that is a good idea given the value they add to OWB.
 11. We were pleased to find a section on interpretation given the importance of an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to the development of interpretation, landscape planning, the collections policy, visitor flows and visitor experiences. It scoped lots of possibilities but didn't make a lot of progress towards identifying priorities.
 12. It was good to see that the draft LDP raised, with lots of caveats, the possibility of incorporating the Bowling Club facilities into OWB at some time in the future. Acquisition of these facilities would certainly help resolve some of the issues that will not be resolved by the current draft LDP, for example, increased car parking, parking for tour buses, visitor orientation on arrival, and toilets close to the main access point.
- **December 2009. NZ Walking Access Commission's Outdoor Access Code and National Strategy for Walking Access.**
The Draft Access Code (29 p) provided a clear set of proposals which was impressive given the complexity and number of legislative requirements impacting on public access. It identified "taking care of the environment" as one of three key behaviours. Disappointingly, there were only six lines under the heading "Caring for the Environment - and they didn't appear until page 18. Three of these lines were taken up with a reference to the Environmental Care Code's web site. Fire is treated separately and more thoroughly, with almost two pages of text.
We recommended that the Commission take a more proactive, three-pronged approach to caring for NZ's indigenous ecosystems and plants:
 - ensuring that new or re-negotiated access arrangements do not place threatened species and habitats such as wetlands and coastal vegetation at any greater risk

- ensuring that those constructing new access routes are aware of indigenous plants that should be avoided or protected
- including more specific information about caring for indigenous biodiversity in the Outdoor Access Code and in the brochure.

- **November 2009. Hearings on Greater Wellington's Draft Regional Policy Statement (RPS).**

Late in 2009 we received Officers' comments on the latest round of submissions in a long process. Officers supported some of our proposals and rejected others. At the hearings we tried again to get more criteria added to the policy for identifying indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values. We argued that it should be possible to protect some regenerating areas because they have the potential over time to become "significant". We also wanted monitoring to focus on progress towards objective 16, i.e. significant biodiversity values are maintained or restored to a healthy functioning state. Officers say this is too hard and too expensive. We thought they might.

The final document is expected in May.

- **2009. Greater Wellington's management plans for parks and forests.**

We supported GW's proposal to prepare one consolidated management plan incorporating the Parks Network Strategy, the current *Regional Parks Network* and *Regional Forest Lands Management Plan*, all of the management plans for individual parks and forests, and Wainuiomata Recreation Area.

This would be a much more efficient approach to planning and consultation than reviewing one management plan at a time. The "one plan" will have some sections that apply to all parks and forests as well as providing more guidance where a park or forest has features or issues that require more specific objectives or policies. We also listed some of the policies and themes we expect to see in the draft. This will be released for consultation within the next couple of months.

- **2009. Draft Conservation Management Strategy for Rakiura Stewart Island and Draft Rakiura National Park Management Plan**

The two draft documents are now with the NZ Conservation Authority for the final parts of the approval process. The key point we are interested in is whether the final document provides more clarity about DOC's intentions for deer in the national park, and will they eradicate, control or manage them?

Bev Abbott

Wellington Botanical Society's new web site

Some changes are in the wind for the Wellington Botanical Society web site, because the committee decided it was time to refresh it. We are grateful to Victoria University computer student, Danny Kendrick, who has redesigned the web page layout. In addition, we have registered our own web address and moved the web site to a new hosting company. We hope you find the new web address less cumbersome than the old one—the new one is: www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz

As a trial, the three most commonly used pages (Home page, Meetings page and Trips page) have already been updated to a draft of the new style. These are at the new web site address. More changes to these pages have been suggested. Progressively these pages will be updated, as will additional pages from the old web site. Links to pages that have not yet been updated will take viewers back to the old web pages until all pages have been updated to the new style.

The committee hopes that you will find the new style more refreshing, modern and easier to read. For those of you who desire larger font sizes to aid reading—in Outlook browsers select View -> Text -> Larger; in Firefox browsers, select View -> Zoom -> Zoom in (with Zoom text only checked).

As always, additional content material, articles of botanical interest, longer versions of trip and meeting reports, and additional photographs to illustrate trip and meeting reports and articles, are very welcome.

www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz

Richard Herbert, webmaster, Wellington Botanical Society

Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award 2010 – 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

Environment Court protects open space on south coast

The Environment Court has issued a 28-page decision approving OPEN SPACE zoning for public land at 178–180 Owhiro Bay Parade, Wellington, at the entrance to Te Kopahou Reserve—the former Owhiro Bay Quarry. This was requested by the Southern Environmental Association, Action for Environment Inc, Owhiro Bay Residents' Association, and Island Bay Residents' Association, at the hearing 1-3 March 2010.

The Court has rejected Wellington City Council's request for Outer Residential zoning of the site to provide for housing development.

This means that the land will be protected as open space for future generations—a tremendous result.

Source: Southern Environmental Association

Is the Tide Turning? Islands' Invasives: Eradication and Management

8-12 February 2010. Host: Centre of Biodiversity and Biosecurity (CBB), University of Auckland's Tamaki Campus, Glen Innes. It follows the conference of 2001, continuing the theme of 'Turning the Tide'. How timely it is with the United Nations declaring 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. Al Morrison, Director-General, DOC, gave the opening address.

Over 240 people from 25 countries attended, bringing reports of pre-eradication planning and post-eradication outcomes, on islands as far flung as Anguilla (Caribbean), Christmas, Dirk Hartog, Macquarie and Lord Howe (Australia), Fiji, Galapagos (Ecuador), Gough and Tristan da Cunha (UK), Guam, Mexico, Santa Cruz and Vancouver (USA), Lehua and O'ahu (Hawaii), Socotra (Yemen), South Atlantic UK Overseas Territories, Tetiaroa (French Polynesia), Trindade (Brazil). Presentations on NZ islands' eradications included Campbell, Fiordland's off-shore islands, Motuopoa, Raoul and Taukihepa (Muttonbird Islands). There were also eradication projects taking place on continents.

Piero Genovesi, Chair, International Invasive Species Specialist Group, gave the keynote speech, stating that despite the huge advances in technical control, plants and animals continue to invade, owing mainly to economic practices. Since 2001, globally there have been 1129 eradications, 86% of them successful. 97% of eradications on islands have been successful. Even the failures have led to technical advances.

Bigger, more remote areas, more difficult species, and multi-species eradications, are now being tackled. Undesirable impacts are being reduced, but more long-term monitoring is needed. Cuts in funding, world-

wide, mean projects must be prioritised. The public is reluctant to accept the killing of animals, and opposition by animal rights groups is a serious obstacle to eradication programmes. Public education will lead to better support, especially in eradication schemes on inhabited islands. Eradication is not yet recognised as a good tool by the wider public.

There is a need to develop global early-warning systems and rapid-response mechanisms. This was dwelt on by many presenters who talked about the tragedy of breaking up an expert team of pest-eradication specialists, environmental experts, administrators, and helicopter pilots, at the end of a long project. As these people need regular income and tend to be multi-skilled, they go on to other jobs, so are lost to similar work in the future. Alan Saunders, in his presentation on 'Increasing the pace, scale and effectiveness of island restoration', went so far as to propose a permanent vessel equipped to come over the horizon when the planning was done, and the local population was prepared for the moment of actual eradication.

Our President, Carol West, gave two papers. The first was on 'Plant: animal interactions—considerations prior to rat eradication on Raoul Island', and another on 'Plant responses following eradication of goats and rats on Raoul Island'. In the audience she recognised many people who had been involved on Raoul Island one way or another.

Future management challenges:

- Bigger islands are more complicated. Failure is more likely. Successful eradication is negated by reinvasion. Prevention is better than cure.
- Biosecurity should be arranged before eradication occurs. There should be interaction with the population, and in particular subsequent targeting of inter-island trade and any development projects.
- Local populations e.g. Lord Howe, Ascension Island, must be involved and support eradication. At best they will have requested it.
- Weather. In tropical areas forecasts may be poor and rain unpredictable.
- Rain-forest islands with tree-dwelling rats, ants and crabs are difficult.
- Some species are especially difficult e.g., mongoose, ants.
- Killing of non-target species remains a problem.
- Ethical issues of animal rights and welfare.
- A wonderful team is assembled, only to disperse afterwards.

Invasive species continue to spread. In February, Samoa reported the capture of a mongoose in a trap sent from NZ. Mongooses were first seen in Samoa late last year. With data from DNA testing of other populations it may be possible to determine where this mongoose came from, and then surmise how it may have reached Samoa. This analysis is very useful in NZ, where Kaikoura Is, less than 1 km from Great Barrier I., and with open access to the public, has had instances of rats caught in the traps set on the shoreline. It can now be determined whether this is a local rat re-invading, or a rat from 'outside'. Security can then be enhanced.

Whatever our local problems, spare a thought for the Sri Lankans trying to conduct pest control in land-mined

Have your say

We welcome your ideas on BotSoc 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.
- Please contact the Secretary.

areas. Or, in Socotra (Yemen), house crows were finally shot out by a brave man, among a population which was armed and trigger-happy. Or the difficulties of restoration of Trindade Island, off Brazil, where the image of the barren island, now an offshore army base, showed the exposed and bleached remains of one tree's root system. This is all that remains of the vegetation, the topsoil is completely gone. Luckily a botanist collected a pathetic herbarium specimen from a dying tree in the 1960s. Only from this it is known what trees were once native there.

When animals are eradicated their seed goes with them, but with plants, seed remains in the soil so that monitoring and control must continue, perhaps for decades, before the eradication can be declared successful. The tide has not yet turned.

Mike Clout, the Director of the CBB, said that conference proceedings will be published in a year or so.

*Julia Stace Brooke-White
jbwphotography.co.nz
Shelley Heiss-Dunlop*

Wetland restoration handbook

A new publication, *Wetland restoration: a handbook for New Zealand freshwater systems*, is designed for specialists and non-specialists on wetland restoration. Although a technical manual, the emphasis has been on creating a user-friendly resource showcasing the diversity of wetlands in NZ, and projects to restore them. The 280-page handbook is available in two forms: online, and hardcover with internal spiral bind.

The following web sites have information on Handbook content, and where to purchase it.

Online Version

www.landcareresearch.co.nz/services/biocons/wetlands/

Order form

www.mwpress.co.nz/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=908

General book information

www.landcare.org.nz/news-features/wetland-restoration-handbook-launch/

*Monica Peters
mailto:monica.peters@landcare.org.nz
www.landcare.org.nz/
New Zealand Landcare Trust [NZLCT]*

Botanical Society of Otago newsletters

The URL link for latest BotSoc newsletter is: www.botany.otago.ac.nz/bso/newsletters/latest/bso58.pdf

Previous newsletters can be downloaded from the Botanical Society of Otago web site <http://www.botany.otago.ac.nz/bso/>

Robyn Bridges for Botanical Society of Otago

New members

We welcome the following:

Andrew Gregg, Stephen Hartley, Mrs Priscilla Isaacs, Stephanie Rowe.

Rodney Lewington, Treasurer

Matiu matters

The forest continues to grow on Matiu/Somes Island. Lower Hutt Branch, Forest & Bird's work is now reduced to helping DOC when there are plants to pot up, and understorey areas to plant. Twenty-nine years have passed since the programme began. The branch is producing a book describing this significant project. We hope to launch it in July, to celebrate 29 years of achievement.

Forest & Bird House, in which F&B members and all conservation groups had the exclusive right to stay, has become part of DOC's island accommodation, open to the public at large. This ends F&B's taking all bookings, and sharing the net profit with DOC. The house accommodates up to eight people, and costs \$160 for exclusive use, even if fewer people book it. Bookings may be made by:

- e-mail: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz; the web: www.doc.govt.nz; post: DOC Wellington Visitor Centre, Box 10 420, WN 6143
- visiting DOC Wellington Visitor Centre, Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St. Ph 04 384 7770.

An overnight stay on Matiu/Somes is one to remember. Do go!

Stan Butcher

Whitireia Park fire

Address to Wellington Conservation Board during public forum, 25 February 2010

A fire, apparently deliberately lit, destroyed valuable areas of naturally regenerating bush at Whitireia Park, Titahi Bay, Porirua City, and much of a small bush remnant above the carpark at Onehunga Bay which was being restored by the Onehunga Bay Restoration Group.

One of the Society's members, Robyn Smith, who lives in Titahi Bay, has been involved with this group for many years, as a volunteer, and when working for Greater Wellington's Take Care programme. Robyn was appointed to the Whitireia Park Board by the Minister of Conservation about 2003.

Robyn is deeply upset about the setback to the regeneration of native vegetation in the park. The Botanical Society committee understands that, if one or more people are found guilty of arson, Robyn wants to provide a victim statement to the Court as part of the sentencing process.

Robyn's view, as a person with considerable experience in local ecological restoration, is that that the local native vegetation has been regenerating slowly but well, especially in gullies in the "inland valley". She was hopeful that in another 10–15 years, the native species would have out-competed the gorse in some areas.

The Botanical Society Committee discussed the future of the burnt areas on 24 February. Points made included:

- Immediate threats include the invasion of weed species and run-off into the sea
- A new covering of thick gorse will quickly emerge
- The range of native species that will regenerate naturally is likely to be less diverse as a result of damage to, or changes in, the seed-bank in the soil
- Fire will continue to be a risk.

The Committee urges the Board to encourage DOC, Greater Wellington and Ngati Toa, as the three relevant governance bodies, to act promptly to develop a plan for the recovery

of the area while the fire is still fresh in people's minds. This may include identifying areas for sowing pasture, fencing off some areas for natural regeneration and enrichment plantings, and preparing and maintaining more effective firebreaks. We recognise the current funding pressures, but consider that the fire may have raised community awareness of what has been lost to such an extent that some influential community organisations and companies may be prepared to start a restoration fund specifically for the park. Community members, including schools and corporate groups that have taken part in planting days, are likely to be willing to contribute.

We see prompt collaborative planning as the essential first step, and hope the Board will advocate for this.

*Bev Abbott
for Wellington Botanical Society*

2010: International Year of Biodiversity

www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity. The goal is to increase public awareness of the topic of biodiversity with its many facets. The opening ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity was held in Berlin on 11 January 2010.

QEII Trust Open Space Covenants

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

- Porirua C.C./ Porirua C.C. 0.1 ha wetland
- Wellington C.C./Watson & Cardno. 0.8 ha forest
- Wellington C.C./Wellington Natural Heritage Trust Inc. 7.1 ha forest
- Tararua D.C./Dandy. 10.3 ha forest
- Tararua D.C./Zenith Land Co. Ltd. 47.6 ha forest
- Tararua D.C./Ahradson. 16.4 ha forest & shrubland
- Tararua D.C./Poulton & Greer. 0.9 ha forest
- Masterton D.C./Byrne & Brewerton. 4.5 ha forest & wetland
- Masterton D.C./Daniell & Garstang. 1.2 ha forest
- Masterton D.C./Hayes. 0.5 ha forest & flaxland
- Masterton D.C./Solway College Board of Proprietors Inc. 1.0 ha forest
- Carterton D.C./X-Site Ltd. 1.6 ha treeland
- South Wairarapa D.C./Marsh & Campbell. 1.9 ha forest
- South Wairarapa D.C./Prickett. 16.6 ha duneland, wetland

As at 31/1/10, the 813,000 ha in Wellington Regional Council's area had 263 registered covenants, and 40 approved covenants, with a total area, registered and approved, of 5,949 ha. The largest registered covenant is 824 ha, and the average covenant size is 19.6 ha.

Source: Open Space 77 11/09 and 78 3/10.

For information on covenanting indigenous plant communities, or other natural features, on your property, contact: QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140. Ph 04 472 6626. Wellington Regional Representative: Peter Ettema, 04 970 0324, mob. 021 1748 651, pettema@openspace.org.nz.

New conservation covenants

The following areas have been protected recently between the named owner and the Minister of Conservation:

1. **Te Wai-Komaru Conservation Covenant** 6.11.2009
Owner: NZ Forestry Group Ltd (director: Wes Garratt)
Area: 57.83 ha, situated on Wellington south coast
Values: coastal dune, scarp with 'grey scrub' vegetation, speargrass weevil (*Lyperobius huttonii*) present in the coastal area of scrub. This flightless weevil is dependent on speargrass (*Aciphylla squarrosa*) for its entire life-cycle. *Stephanorhynchus insolitus* (a weevil) is also likely to be present. Resulted from former Wildlife Service request to protect speargrass weevil and its habitat.
2. **Te Humenga Conservation Covenant** 20.7.2009
Owner: Simon Crawford **Area:** 21.6 ha
Values: coastal duneland containing native coastal plants including sand tussock (*Austrofestuca littoralis*), katipo spiders, lizards, and the threatened *Notoreas* moth. The covenant is being boundary-fenced with a fenced access track from Cape Palliser Rd to a car park next to the high water mark. Public access is available to the beach, though access on the covenant itself for botanical or fauna survey is by prior request to owner.

*David Bishop
Conservation Support Officer (Statutory Land Management)
Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy, DOC*

Subscription reminders

If your annual subscription is overdue, and you receive your newsletter by post, there will be a yellow reminder form in the envelope with it.

If your annual subscription is overdue, and you receive your newsletter by e-mail, you will receive the reminder when the bulletin is posted out in the next few weeks.

*Rodney Lewington
Treasurer*

New Zealand Notable Trees Trust news

The main focus of the Trust's efforts is updating and verifying records held in the database. In addition to this, many new records have been added. To view all updated records and any new trees added to the register simply go to the search page and select **Verified Trees Only**, <http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/search>

Among the more notable trees added to the register is the largest dawn redwood recorded in NZ. Location – New Plymouth. See our September 2009 newsletter, page 7. Go to: <http://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/711>.

Tree of the Month

The trust has received notification of a truly outstanding pūriri tree, submitted by a visitor from Sweden. While some measurements of the tree were not taken, close scrutiny of the image shows how large this tree is! Further information is being sought on the tree to complete the file. To view the tree, type **710** into the 'Jump to a specific record' search and click **Jump**.

If you would like to help to **update tree records**, or **register as a tree recorder**, go to our web site and follow the instructions: www.notabletrees.org.nz/

NZ Notable Trees Trust, nzntt@paradise.net.nz

Mary Margaret Robertson (née Hutchison) 12.4.1929 – 1.12.2009

Mary's love of the outdoors was stimulated by her studies for her MSc in Botany at the University of Canterbury. Mary is recorded in Tony Druce's trip log as having been on her first trip on the Easter 1985 trip in Pureora. She was a member of BotSoc from November 1990 until 2007. Mary came on numerous trips, some in the central North Island,

and others further afield. We will remember her love of botanising, and for the ranges, in the company of kindred spirits. She was always full of good sense around camp and full of enthusiasm. We thank her son, Hugh Robertson, for providing some of this information.

Darea Sherratt and Chris Horne

TRIP REPORTS

17 January 2010: Druce QEII Covenant workbee,

As with the last Druce Covenant workbee, the tasks which the late Helen had thoughtfully listed in advance, assisted us to prioritise our work on this steep, Pinehaven hillside planted and maintained by Helen and Tony over c. 6 decades. Allison Druce deputised for Helen on the day. Members enjoyed seeing the many shrub species, and beautiful grasses such as red tussock, *Chionochloa rubra*, in flower. Seedlings of kōwhai, rimu and tānekaha were noted, as Helen wished. Overgrown shrubs were carefully trimmed, including a whippy karamū overhanging the patio. The creek was cleared of debris and rubbish, and masses of *Ehrharta erecta*/veld grass, were removed from near the house and also in the summit orchard, from around the edges of the 100m² of weed cloth laid in 2009 to suppress it. Helen always used to ask for a report on the health of the spindly, c. 30-year-old *Metrosideros bartlettii* high up on the hill track. This year it seems to have responded at last to the regular dose of fertiliser received over several workbees, by increasing its foliage density. However, heavily shaded by surrounding beeches, it obviously needs as much light as possible, as all rātā species do, and we plan to advise Peter Ettema, the Queen Elizabeth II Trust representative, about this and also the fact that gorse, broom and pines invading from the north need eradicating.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Barbara Clark, Alison Druce (leader), Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe (deputy leader), Gail Mossy, Grant Roberts, Darea Sherratt, Carol West.

25 January – 3 February 2010: Coromandel Peninsula

Kauaeranga Valley, east of Thames, is a 9-hour drive from Wellington, so six of us did it in two stages, camping en route at Pureora Forest. We saw kōkako in a forest remnant nearby, and from a lookout tower, saw where, in 1978, Stephen King made his stand amid the tree-tops to stop clear-felling work. Aside from the few forest remnants, it is sobering to see the desolate landscape, converted from imposing native forest to sheep farming, and now to dairying.

With fine weather for the first three days, Graeme Jane skilfully introduced us to the region, with trips to Mt Te Aroha, Opoutere Beach and Coromandel, culminating with a visit to Waiiau Kauri Grove.

By then we had learnt what kauri associations and coastal forest look like, so a visit to Waiomu Kauri Grove on day 4 reinforced most of what we had learnt.



Kauri. Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

John Smith-Dodsworth's presence, with his detailed knowledge of the region, was a boon. When looking at Kauaeranga Valley in detail, John could spot specimens that we would never have had the joy of seeing.

The weather deteriorated so that most of us did not reach The Pinnacles with Graeme and John. The following

day, those of us camping had to wade a ford to obtain breakfast. We then spent a profitable day botanising on short walks in the valley, after all the Aucklanders had been rained out of their anniversary weekend outing.

Sheelagh Leary had urged us to visit Miranda where she had recently studied. It was a treat! Our timing was perfect to look at the fattened godwits, and a substantial proportion of NZ's remaining wrybills, feeding and preening themselves on the inner lagoon. The drive was also a chance to see the impoverished, below-sea-level, dairy farming of the Hauraki Plains; an interesting contrast with the isolated but functioning Kōpuatai swamp vegetation we studied later that day. The final day at Pauanui, besides being a chance to see the devastation of estuarine in-filling for housing, was a wonderful chance to view the recovering vegetation of the peak above the town. There were many highlights and there, not 20m from the edge of a heavily used part of the reserve, we found the nationally endangered native ox tongue, *Picris burbridgeae*. It was good that Graeme Jane could add this to his ever-growing plant lists, without which the trip would not have been nearly as enjoyable for many of us.



Picris burbridgeae. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

For once I didn't have to rush home after the trip. Graeme kindly printed a plant list to enable me to explore Waharau Regional Park. Here I managed to practise the discipline of ticking off every plant I saw, as soon as I saw it. Until this trip, I had tended to look for only those plants I didn't know—a bad practice! Not only does it not embed the names vaguely known, but it doesn't help when trying to see if there is a plant that should be added to the list.

Mick Parsons

Day 1, 26/1/10: Coromandel Peninsula

Rather than go to the summit, which we had botanised before, we decided to take the well-graded "High-level Pack Track" and return by the "Buck Rock Track". Apart from several patches of parataniwha/*Elatostema rugosum*, our observations especially at the start were mostly weeds en masse, which was disturbing. However before long we began to note seedlings of northern tree species which we don't see in the Wellington region, e.g., *Ixerba brexioides* / tāwari.



Tāwari / *Ixerba brexioides*.
Photo: Barbara Mitcalfe.

Among fern additions were *Anarthropteris lanceolata*, *Adiantum hispidulum* and *Sticherus cunninghamii*. The shrub, *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, was not uncommon, and in flower, trackside.

John Christeller

Day 1, 26/1/10: Mount Te Aroha via Waiorongomai incline

It was our first foray and our first sighting of a range of plants some of us had not seen before. We split into two groups; one covering the lower Waiorongomai valley, the other

taking the direct route to the upper area of Mt Te Aroha, 953m, via the spur from the valley. To access the upper track meant skirting the bush for a way. There we had to distinguish *Deparia petersenii*, a weedy fern here, from the more familiar *Paesia scaberula*, growing next to one another on the edges of this disturbed forest. Further up the old rail incline we saw *Adiantum fulvum* and *A. viridescens*, together, which enabled us to identify them. Then past an avenue of *Gahnia lacera*, and under a canopy that included mangeao/*Litsea calicaris* and tāwari/*Ixerba brexioides*, both of which are fairly common in the Kaimai Range. Then came our first sighting of *Brachyglottis kirkii* that later we often saw in kauri forests. Other understorey highlights included *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, the pygmy cabbage tree/*Cordyline pumilio*, and beds of *Asplenium lamprophyllum*, along with *Blechnum fraseri*. The striking club moss/*Lycopodium deuterodensum*, aptly named puakarimu, was also common. At least seven *Hymenophyllum* species were dotted along the moist banks of the cuttings; in particular some impressive *H. flabellatum*. The fern allies *Tmesipteris lanceolata* and *T. elongata* hung from the trunks of tree ferns. We crossed many pristine side-streams, passed through an old rail tunnel, and then entered moister, higher, beech forests dominated by mixtures of the familiar *Nothofagus truncata* and *N. menziesii*. Mount Te Aroha has the northernmost stand of red beech, *Nothofagus fusca*.

The time we took to acquaint ourselves with the northern flora during our climb of about 800m meant that most of us did not reach the summit, so we returned to the base of the mountain, seeing stunning views of the western Kaimai Ranges along the way; a brilliant introduction to the flora north of our normal reach.

Mick Parsons

Day 1, 26/1/10: Waiorongomai Valley

Rather than go to the summit, we took the well-graded "High-level Pack Track" and returned by the "Buck Rock Track". Apart from several patches of parataniwha, *Elatostema rugosum*, our observations especially at the start, were mostly of weeds en masse, which was disturbing.

However before long we began to note seedlings of tree species which are not naturally-occurring in the Wellington region, for example *Ixerba brexioides*, tāwari. Among fern additions were *Anarthropteris lanceolata*, *Adiantum hispidulum* and *Sticherus cunninghamii*. The shrub *Rhabdothamnus solandri* was not uncommon in flower, trackside.

The bush and track edges included montbretia, hawthorn, ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, pines, gorse, blackberry, grey willow, creeping buttercup, selaginella and tree privet. Much of the montbretia had been sprayed, but so much more pest plant control is essential! When will DOC get adequate funding for this crucial task?

The bush is recovering from gold and silver mining in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Work to restore the gold-miners' Butler's Incline and Ruby Track is well advanced, which added interest to our trip.

Barbara Mitcalfe and Chris Horne

Day 2, 27/1/10: Opoutere Beach Recreation Reserve and Wharekawa Harbour Sandspit Wildlife Refuge

Highlights of this fine, sunny day included:

- a coastal remnant forest featuring the rare tawapou, *Pouteria (Planchonella) costata*, with pōhutukawa, pūriri, kohekohe and coastal flax
- dunes with healthy spinifex and pingao, dotterels, Caspian terns and variable oystercatchers
- a very scenic area with Mercury Islands, golden sand and blue sea
- the mangroves, *Avicennia marina* subsp. *australasica*, named after Avicenna, Persian physician and scholar, 980-1037AD. He wrote "The Canon of Medicine", used as a medical textbook for 500 years in Europe and the Middle East. It contained details of 650 plants used in the preparation of medicines.
- the mosses *Plagiochila* and *Bazzania* growing in an unusually dry habitat. We collected a specimen of the foliose lichen, *Parmotrema reticulatum*, from a pine tree, and the fruticose lichen, *Usnea rubicunda*, from among the mangroves.

Margaret Herbert

Day 3, 28/1/10: Long Bay Scenic Reserve; 309 Kauri Reserve.

Another fine, warm day! We drove from Thames to Long Bay Motor Camp near Coromandel town. We botanised along the track at a botanist's pace, discussing each new plant, such as the difference between *Coprosma spathulata* and juvenile *C. arborea*, and the adult and juvenile forms of *Nestegis lanceolata*. The reserve is a small, but good example, in parts, of northern coastal bush, dominated by smaller trees such as kohekohe/*Dysoxylum spectabile*, taraire/*Beilschmiedia tarairi*, mamangi/*Coprosma arborea* and two areas of young kauri rickers, c. 80-100 years old, and one large, mature tree. This combination of trees proved interesting to many Wellingtonians. Other understorey plants of interest were *Corokia buddleioides*, *Coprosma macrocarpa* subsp. *minor*, *C. spathulata*, *C. rhamnoides*, *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *angustior*, *Mida salicifolia*, *Alseuosmia macrophylla*, and *Olearia furfuracea*. Of the smaller plants, *Ichthyostomum pygmaeum* and small, non-bifid plants of *Schizaea bifida*, under kauri, caused considerable interest, as well as *Trichomanes elongatum* along the upper valley and creek-side in dark bush. Unfortunately, at this time of the year, orchids are not in evidence, but in October and November there are many in flower under kauri, including *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, *Diplodinium brumalum* and much *D. trullifolium*. What is usually a 20-minute walk, took 2 hours to complete, such was the interest.



Diplodinium brumalum. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

We then drove to the kauri grove on the 309 road to Whitianga. This is a good remnant of the original kauri bush that somehow escaped the destruction of 100 years ago, and also, unlike the trees in Manaia Kauri Reserve, the trees here have not been chopped into at the base to extract kauri gum, so the trees have not rotted. About 10-15 large trees are easily accessible, and others are up the hillsides beyond, together with some large rimu and tōtara. The main understorey trees are nikau/*Rhopalostylis sapida*, kahikatea/*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, māhoe/*Melicytus ramiflorus*, Hall's tōtara/*Podocarpus cunninghamii*, tree ferns and occasional tāwheowheo/*Quintinia serrata*. Under the kauri is a different plant community, the ground being thickly covered with kauri grass/*Astelia trinervia*, and some *Pittosporum cornifolium*, which is also a common epiphyte high in the kauri branches. In season, *Pterostylis agathicola* grows under the kauri, but this time, the plant of most interest was not kauri, but its opposite in size, fan fern/*Schizaea dichotoma*, in the bark litter at the base of the trees. Also of interest was *Tmesipteris sigmatifolia*, never common, usually found on *Cyathea dealbata*, but we found one plant on *Dicksonia squarrosa*. Again, a usually 30-minute walk took about 2 hours, such was the interest.

John Smith-Dodsworth

Day 4, 29/1/10: Waiomu Kauri Grove Track – *in others' words*

- Chris Horne: Uh huh—the first bit of shade, and BotSoc stops!
- Graeme Jane: Typical Coromandel bush—gone over by mining, logging, farming—basically recovering from 150 years of rape and pillage.
- Julia Brook-White: (waving *Hymenophyllum rarum*): You always find something interesting when you go off the track for a pee.
- Sheelagh Leary: A disaster!! I've lost a filling, and swallowed it!!
- Julia Brook-White: What a bummer!!
- Syd Moore: (on *Lygodium articulatum*/bushman's mattress) They were bloody hopeful, those bushmen, you couldn't even make a pillow!

- Anon: What!! The bryophyte people ahead of us?!
- Rodney Lewington: If it's got teeth on the flap on the flap it'll be *Marchantia pilata*. But it didn't. So it wasn't.

We had lunch at the top of the track, in a beautiful grove of large kauri, and followed this by river swimming, beach swimming, and dinner at the best Chinese restaurant in Thames—a perfect BotSoc day.

Jill Goodwin

Day 5, 30/1/10: Upper Kauaeranga Valley

While eating our dinners on the Education Centre's deck, we had great views of the steep country at the head of the valley, often bathed by the setting sun, so were looking forward to botanising up there. It was overcast as we set off for the smoothly rounded rock bluffs and high plateau shrubland. As we botanised up Webb Creek Track, numerous people passed us going to DOC's 80-bunk Pinnacles Hut.



Brachyglottis myrianthos.
Illustration: Bryan Halliday.

Most of the Coromandel was exploited for gold and kauri by the pioneers; here it was kauri. The logs were breached from a dam above steep Waterfall Creek, and cascaded several hundred metres to the valley floor, some shattering on impact. Near the dam was a sombre reminder, a 3-m diameter kauri stump. Disappointingly, the summit of The Pinnacles, 759m, was engulfed in mist, then it began to drizzle. We descended via Billy Goat Track, seeing good views of Waterfall Creek. We saw *Celmisia adamsii* var. *adamsii*, which grows at much lower altitudes than other celmisias normally do, *Lindsaea viridis* among rocks by running water, *Hymenophyllum*

minimum, *Brachyglottis myrianthos*, *Gaultheria paniculata*, *Pittosporum huttonianum*, *Metrosideros albiflora*, and the sundews *Drosera binata*, and *D. spathulata*.

Chris Hopkins

Day 6, 31/1/10: DOC Visitor Centre; Outlook '67 Track; Catleys Track

This day began wet, so some people spent time at the impressive visitor centre, looking at the informative displays of all aspects of the valley's natural and human history, and the remarkable, mind-numbing film of the kauri logging era.

As the weather improved, some people botanised short walks in the valley. Up Outlook 67 Track we saw tawa and northern rātā, but on the descent to Whangaiteranga Camp we were dismayed to see Himalayan honeysuckle and purple pampas! Where is the funding for DOC to kill pest plants, including these two and tree privet, so common in the valley?

Catleys Track, which begins with a ford to the true left side of the Kuaeranga River, is along river terraces. It features numerous kahikatea, miro, tōtara and mataī to 50cm diameter. We saw no signs of logging, and believe that the forest upstream to the suspension bridge would be well-worth botanising.

Chris Horne

Day 7, 1/2/10: Miranda; Kopuatai Peat Dome

The weather at our foothills camp had deteriorated so we drove the Hauraki Plains, to visit the Miranda coast and Shorebird Centre.

The tide was high. The godwits, stilts, red knots and wrybills had moved onto the shell banks and ponds to wait for it to recede, and their mud-flat feeding area to be free of water again. Krystal, from the Shorebird Centre, was on hand with a viewing scope to show visitors the birds enlarged 60 times and explain what we were looking at. Although we didn't see all 5800 godwits fly, groups of the smaller birds moved from place to place making impressive whirling patterns in the air. The godwits were plump, working their way to the obesity (fuel load) they need for the coming migration to their breeding grounds in Alaska. Some were already



Bar-tailed godwit. Photo: Richard Veitch
© Department of Conservation.

showing their rosy/brick red mating colour on their tummies.

We ate lunch at the Shorebird Centre which impressed us with its well equipped book store, visual displays, lecture facilities, library and accommodation. Keith Woodley, centre manager, and author of the recently published *Godwits: long-haul champions*, talked to us for an hour. He explained the centre and its functions, then told us the story of E7. In brief E7, a satellite-tagged female godwit, left Miranda on 17 March 2007, flew 10,000km non-stop to the Yellow Sea coast, refuelled for a few weeks, then flew 6,500 km to the Alaska breeding grounds. She was back in the Firth of Thames by 7 September. The round trip added up to 29,500km. Keith was closely involved with monitoring E7's flight and has been to the godwit breeding grounds himself. There's nothing like a first-hand account of a great story to bring it to life!

Sheelagh Leary

We then drove across the plains to Kopuatai Peat Dome. The Hauraki plains are an example of where the precautionary approach was never applied in attempts to make the most of farming the vast floodplains of the Waihou and Piako rivers. Large pumps now sustain farms which are now below the level of the former swamp forest; the stumps of which have long ago been ground off to make way for pasture. Stunted maize crops also occupy some of the area now struggling to deal with high water tables and salinity, and the roadsides are depositories of a suite of weeds not equalled anywhere! The Kopuatai wetland occupies the last 10,000 ha of the Hauraki Plains not devoted to agriculture. Our access was via Awaiti Canal Road and a

walk along the canal to a weir system designed to regulate the water levels within the system. This entrance accesses the restiad peat bog at the eastern extremity of the wetland but still requires a walk past herds of dairy drystock and a weedy entrance. A new weed to us was American fireweed, *Erechtites hieracifolia*, and then there were the groves of the invasive *Salix cinerea*, along with the usual suspects. We entered a track overgrown with *Hypolepis distans*, and were greeted by an avenue of *Dianella haemastica* resplendent with masses of blue berries. We saw under *Epacris pauciflora* and *Coprosma tenuicaulis*, large *Drosera binata* and the rare *Lycopodiella serpentina*. Our short foray ended amid a bed of *Empodisma minus* fringed with *Sporodanthus ferruginea* towering above us.



Epacris pauciflora. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

On the return walk we attempted to find, without success, the elusive and tiny *Wolffia australiana*, in a slow-moving side-drain where it had been sighted previously. Instead we had an unrewarded slog through rampant browntop/*Agrostis stolonifera* overlain with *Calystegia silvatica*; the drain is now largely overgrown with gypsywort/*Lycopus europeus*. This, however, did not detract from the privilege we all felt at seeing the few remaining treasures earlier.

Mick Parsons



Lycopodiella serpentina. Photo: Leon Perrie.

Day 8, 2/2/10: Pauanui Trig Track

From the beach at the south end of Pauanui, the track led through a remnant of coastal forest with pūriri and kohekohe growing from a jumble of boulders carpeted by hound's tongue fern—now unromantically renamed *Microsorium pustulatum*. Then we climbed steeply through scattered pine trees and scrubby vegetation—rather monotonous,

but it gave me a chance to practise learning the differences between *Coprosma macrocarpa*, *C. robusta* and *C. grandifolia*.

Sweating, we reached the summit, 387 m, with a fine view and entered another small remnant of original forest, moist enough for filmy ferns to grow and dominated by northern rātā. The track then led down the eastern face towards the sea through secondary vegetation. *Olearia townsonii* was flowering, and orchids

and lycopods grew amongst the rocks. Then it was back into scattered pines and scrub until the track reached the rocky shore.

Rengarenga, *Arthropodium cirratum*, hung from banks above the beach, to the delight of Wellingtonians unfamiliar with it. Exposed on the beach were platforms of hexagonally jointed basalt, reminders of the violent volcanic origin of this coastline. It all made for botanical and scenic variety and a good day out.

Ann Graeme

Participants: Margaret Aitken, Peter Beveridge, John & Donna Christeller, Rae Collins, Gavin Dench, Gael Donaghy, Glenys Evans, Ken Fraser, Ian & Jill Goodwin, Ann Graeme, Bryan & Robin Halliday, Margaret & Richard Herbert, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Priscilla Isaacs, Graeme Jane, Brenda Johnston, Allison Knight, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Moore, Syd Moore, Mick Parsons (leader), Sunita Singh, Val Smith, John & Nerrisa Smith-Dodsworth, Julia Stace Brook-White, Yvonne Weeber, Beryl Young.

20–21 February 2010: Tapu Te Ranga Marae Harvest Festival

Several BotSoccers were welcomed among about a hundred other manuhiri, at Saturday's pōwhiri which was held on the marae in glorious sunshine. The festival was partly in honour of the Sisters of Compassion, who had "forgiven" the loan they originally gave the Trust to purchase adjacent land for the whare, and partly in honour of Sir Michael Fowler who was instrumental in getting the marae established in the 1980s. From his wheelchair, kaumatua Bruce Stewart paid a tribute to the Sisters and to Sir Michael.

Bruce's passion for indigenous NZ plants was very much in evidence on the marae. Beside us were native plants of threatened status such as *Charmichaelia stvensonii*, and on the bank was a Chatham Island nikau / *Rhopalostylis* aff. *sapida* with a fan of flower buds uncurling near ground level, and several *Hebe elliptica*. After setting up the BotSoc display board, several of us went around the back of the whare to look at the Far North planting, where *Pouzolzia* (*Boehmeria*) *australis*,

Tecomanthe speciosa, *Pisonia brunoniana*, *Pennantia baylisiana*, *Elingamita johnsonii*, *Streblus smithii* and *Pouteria costata* were flourishing. Also flourishing was the pūriri / *Vitex lucens*, planted by Tony Druce in July 1992 when about 20 of us BotSoccers were on a noho marae/workbee there. The pūriri is now c. 6 m. tall, and the tecomanthe in the background completely smothers the fence. Later a group of us walked up the hill, through the now fully grown Wellington tree species we had planted as seedlings in the 1990s as part of the marae's Manawa Karioi restoration programme. (See front panel of newsletter). Finally we checked the four surviving, northern rātā we planted a few years ago beside the southern entrance drive, flourishing despite their massively weedy site.

Participants: Because there were hundreds of manuhiri there at different times of the day, I regret it was not possible to record the BotSoccers who did attend.

Barbara Mitcalfe, deputy leader.



Tony Druce after planting a pūriri at Tapu Te Ranga Marae, 1991. Photo: Barbara Mitcalfe.

6 March 2010: Karehana Bay Scenic Reserve, Plimmerton

Six people on their first outing with BotSoc joined thirteen members on The Track, near the entrance to the reserve

Access is by a high quality walkway with 340 steps, built by Porirua City Council (PCC). We botanised down to the Reserve Rd entrance through vigorously regenerating forest on the upper slopes, and mature coastal broadleaf in the gullies. The understorey is recovering because of Greater Wellington Regional Council's possum control work—GWRC has declared the reserve a Key Native Ecosystem and the costs are shared 50/50 with PCC. We used a plant list prepared by Pat Enright, Peter Beveridge, Olaf John, Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe. The numerous titoki seedlings indicate that possum control is working. Weeds seen included: eleagnus, climbing asparagus, Darwin's barberry and, especially on the lower slopes, tradescantia—wandering willie.

From Reserve Rd we walked to the Cluny Rd entrance to the reserve, and followed a rough route up a stream-bed, scoured in places up to 1.5m deep, to the top boundary.

As we scrambled up banks, through mud, and supplejack vines, we saw numerous kohekohe seedlings, more evidence of possum control, and adult trees to 80cm diameter, some with last year's fruit, and some with flower buds. Spider webs shimmered in the sun, and we saw several kererū and fantails. Thread fern provided dense groundcover in some areas, and wharangi trees up to 30cm diameter were noted. Near the lunch spot, in the sun, was an *Olearia solandri*/coastal tree daisy with almond-like scented flowers.



Olearia solandri. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

We crossed a 'paper road' and climbed the boundary fence of the proposed QEII Open Space Covenant and thank the Brew family for permission to botanise this significant 11-ha coastal forest. The understorey was almost non-existent, but small

seedlings of shrub and tree species show good potential for recovery. It is kohekohe forest with wharangi, tree ferns, and occasional kahikatea, rimu, matai, miro and nikau in the canopy. *Metrosideros perforata*/white rātā and *Metrosideros fulgens* were in flower, and we saw 20cm seedpods on kaihua/NZ jasmine. We added to the list a black maire sapling, and the saprophytic black orchid—*Gastrodia cunninghamii*. There wasn't time to botanise more than the upper level and round to Taua Tapu Track, from where we returned to the cars. We hope to visit this covenant and one nearby in future.

Reference

Karehana Bay Scenic Reserve Management Plan (Draft), PCC, February 2001.

Participants: Janet Berry, Tonoko and Charles Burden, Barbara Clark (co-leader), Rosemary Collier, Rae Collins (co-leader), Gavin Dench, Joy Griffiths, Bryan Halliday, Chris Horne, Brenda Johnston, Rodney Lewington, Pat McLean, Barbara Mitcalfe, Darea Sherratt, Sunita Singh, Sandy Werner, Carol West and Sandra Worthington.

Rae Collins and Barbara Clark

2–4 April: Northern Wairarapa

This trip was cancelled.

17 April 2010: Workbee—Arnold Dench's NZ threatened plants' garden

An enthusiastic band of people carefully removed persistent, ground-cover weeds such as veld grass/*Ehrharta erecta*, and the weedy native, *Oxalis exilis*, from among the plant collections, while others pruned a *Chamaecyparis obtusa* var. *crispis* 'Aurea' to let more light onto the shrubs.

Participants: Jill Broome, Eleanor Burton, Barbara Clark, Arnold Dench (leader/scribe), Gavin Dench, Bryan Halliday, Chris Horne, Brenda Johnston, Barbara Mitcalfe, Julia Stace Brook-White; Carol West.

Threatened Plants of New Zealand

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



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