

Wellington Botanical Society

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



NEWSLETTER December 2013

Previous issue: September 2013

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From the President

It's a delight to hear at our November meeting, reports on their research from students we have sponsored. The depth of their knowledge, variety of topics, and exhaustive detail of their research, can be overwhelming, but the skill of their summary and presentation holds these students in good stead as our future botanists.

We have had informative speakers this year, including: Trevor Thompson—mistletoes, Patrick Brownsey—ferns, and Kerry Ford—grasses. They presented aspects of their subjects that widened our appreciation of them. We thank Kerry for her donation of *Flora of NZ Vol. V Grasses*—see article in this issue.

Our February 2014 meeting will be most interesting, when our own Carol West will describe DOC's new way of working, and how it will meet its government-set objective of having 60% of all conservation work done by local partners on and off conservation land. Where does BotSoc fit as a local DOC partner, and what involvement should we have in local conservation work?

If you're travelling north this summer, please avoid spreading kauri dieback disease. Be very careful when scrubbing and cleaning vehicles, boots, packs, walking sticks, dogs and anything that touches the ground, before taking them anywhere near a kauri forest, and after your visit.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year, and safe travels.

Richard Herbert

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 Leon Perrie at leonp@tepapa.govt.nz or 381 7261.

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 MYLT101, ground floor, Murphy Building, west side of Kelburn Parade. Enter building about 20 m down Kelburn Pde from pedestrian overbridge. No meetings December and January.

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, at Easter and the first weekend in December.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 20 April 2014

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 6143, 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 MYLT101 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, opposite Supreme Court 6.57, University 7.02.

No. 23 Mairangi: depart Southgate 6.55 p.m., Hospital 7.05, Courtenay Place 7.15, opposite Supreme Court 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 801-700.

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING MEETINGS

FEBRUARY–MAY 2014

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.

Saturday 15 February: Field trip

Muritai Track – Gibbs QEII covenant

Botanise coastal beech / broadleaf forest and shrublands up Muritai Track, then along ridge to covenant. Map BQ32 & East Harbour Regional Park brochure. Meet 9.45 a.m. at Muritai Park entrance, Muritai Rd, Eastbourne, just S of Titoki St. Catch no. 83 Eastbourne bus 8.50 a.m. from Courtenay Place. Alight on Muritai Rd at stop beyond Titoki St. Co-leaders: Chris Horne 475 7025; Barbara Mitcalfe 475 7149.

Monday 18 February: Evening meeting

What the new DOC means for conservation

Carol West, Manager, Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit, based in Wellington, will describe recent changes to the structure of the Department of Conservation, and how conservation will be achieved.

Saturday 1 March: Field trip

Fitzroy Bay / Baring Head

Botanise the coastal platform and nearby slopes of this recent addition to East Harbour Regional Park. Map BQ32 & park brochure. Meet at 9.30 a.m. at the park's Wainuiomata River bridge, c. 25 minutes drive down Coast Road from Wainuiomata. Allow 1 hour to drive from Wellington. If you have a 4WD, we will ask you to take other people in it over the dirt road into Fitzroy Bay. Co-leaders: Chris Hopkins 564 3980; Mick Parsons 972 1148.

Monday 17 March: Evening meeting

Nature Watch NZ

Speaker: Jon Sullivan, Senior Lecturer in Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Lincoln University. Jon will describe and demonstrate NatureWatch NZ, (<http://naturewatch.org.nz>), a free online interactive tool for engaging the public in natural history discovery. This community and biodiversity web site, run by the NZ Bio-Recording Network Trust, can be used to share observations, including photos, of any species in NZ.

Saturday 5 April: Field trip

Wi Tako Scenic Reserve

Botanise patches of mature black beech and hard beech forest, and along ridgelines of regenerating kāmahi and mānuka scrub. Maps BP32 & BQ32. Meet at 9 a.m. cnr Sunbrae Dr / Blue Mountains Rd, Silverstream (parking available on Sunbrae Dr). Leader: Nick Saville 528 4728 / 022 677 8930; deputy-leader: Ant Hill 831 1133; 021 0255 1924.

Monday April 14: Evening meeting

Can I eat that leaf—an insect's approach to taxonomy

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE – *not* 3rd Monday.

Speaker: Dr George Gibbs who has retired from a career of teaching entomology at Victoria University. His interests have always been focused on understanding and promoting NZ's indigenous biota, which includes more than a passing interest in plants. Although concentrating on weta for many years, his main interest is moths and butterflies, and especially the historic biogeography of NZ's biota—how the fauna and flora came to be here.

Friday 18 – Monday 21 April: Field trip

Wairarapa

Day 1: Botanise John & Annabel Porter's QEII covenant. Maps BP36. & BP35. Co-leaders: John & Annabel Porter, Trevor Thompson (TBC). Meet 10 a.m. on Te Ore Ore Rd, Masterton, opposite Henley Lake Recreation Area.

Day 2: possibly continue to botanise this covenant.

Accommodation: Anderson Christian Camp; info@campanderson.co.nz; 2 Pinedale Cres, Riversdale Beach, Wairarapa 5872. Ph 06 372 3516—contact Tanza. Tenting \$50 pp for two nights. Large modern kitchen. A bunk room sleeps 10—\$20 /night/person, IF all bunks are rented. Wellington contact: Sunita Singh 387 9955. Leader and co-leader: TBA.

Saturday 3 May: Field trip

Pūriri and Broad Gully tracks

Botanise beech forest on the Wainuiomata side of East Harbour Regional Park. Map BQ32 & park brochure. Meet 9.30 a.m. on Wainuiomata Rd, just past first roundabout at foot of Wainuiomata Hill. Catch 8.35 a.m. train on Hutt line from WN to Waterloo, then no. 170 Wainuiomata bus on east side of station. Alight at first stop beyond roundabout at foot of Wainuiomata Hill. Leader: Chris Hopkins 564 3980, (TBC); deputy-leader: Bev Abbott 475 8468 (TBC).

Monday 20 May: Evening meeting

Members' evening

Please share your botanical slides and photographs taken on BotSoc trips, your paintings, drawings and your botanical readings. Slides limited to 20 per person. Plant specimens would add to a memorable evening. Please donate any spare botanical or other natural history books, so we can sell them for gold-coin donations to raise funds for our Jubilee Award Fund.

AWARDS

- **14 January 2014. Call for international collaborative projects in plant science.** NZ is participating in ERA-CAPS, a global plant molecular science network with participants from 23 countries. A call for proposals will open on 14 January giving NZ researchers the chance to work on the highest-quality plant molecular science projects alongside the best plant science researchers from Europe, the UK and other countries.

The application process is administered through ERA-CAPS with each country funding its own researchers. Through the International Relationships Fund, the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) has made available up to \$600,000 p. a. for three years to allow NZ researchers to participate in collaborative projects involving other countries in the network.

More information is available on the [ERA-CAPS website](#). This funding opportunity is not part of MBIE's annual science investment round. It comes from our International Relationships Fund that aims to foster international scientific contacts and research collaboration.

EVENTS

- **7–15 January Practical field botany. University of Canterbury summer course.** BIOL305. Mountain Biological Field Station, Cass, Canterbury.
pieter.pilser@canterbury.ac.nz
- **Summer. Greater Wellington Regional Council summer events.**
www.gw.govt.nz/events
- **First Saturday each month from February, 9 a.m.** Plant care working bee. Meet at Information Centre, Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd.
Wilbur Dovey 499 1044.
- **18 February, 9.30 a.m.** Trelissick Park Group meeting.
Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange, 86 Khandallah Road.
- **14–16 February. Earth Law Aotearoa NZ & German Australian Lawyers' Association conference.** Theme: Sustainability. Victoria University of WN School of Law.
anna.burnett@vuw.ac.nz

NOMINATIONS CALLED FOR

- **31 January. NZ Conservation Authority.** See www.conservationauthority.org.nz for information and nomination form.
Nominations to Minister of Conservation, c/o Box 10 420, WN 6143.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. **Landcare lucid keys links:** <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/resources/identification/plants>
- 1b. **NZ Flora web site link (still being developed):** <http://www.nzflora.info/>
 - Kerry Ford: FordK@landcareresearch.co.nz
- 2a. **Water quality in NZ: Land use and nutrient pollution.** 11/13. A4, 82 pp.
- 2b. **Evaluating the use of 1080: Predators, poisons and silent forests.** Update report on the original investigation 6/13. A4, 15 p.
 - *Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Box 10 241, WN 6143. Ph 04 471 1669, pce@pce.parliament.nz, www.pce.parliament.nz*
3. **Open Space.** 85 10/13: Prof. Bruce Clarkson: The landscape-scale approach to building resilience into remnant indigenous ecosystems; focus on Taranaki; helping plantings to survive droughts; tax reforms encourage conservation plantings; tradescantia leaf beetle; weedy vines; annual report; four new covenants in Masterton District Council area; etc. Subscription: individual - \$ 30; family - \$45; life - \$500.
 - *QEII National Trust, Box 3341, WN 6140. Ph 04 472 6626. info@openspace.org.nz www.openspace.org.nz*
4. **Native birds poster.** \$24.99. Freight-free offer.
 - *Te Papa Press, Box 467, WN. Ph 04 381 7470. tepapapress@tepapa.govt.nz*
5. **Flora Finder smart-phone app.** Identifies 87 native trees and shrubs, with more to be added. App includes a GPS, and is set up so that an image of a leaf that the user cannot identify can be sent to the Botany Department, Univ. of Otago, where a specialist would identify it. Source: Otago Daily Times.
 - *Dr Graham Strong, Commercialisation Manager, Otago Innovation, University of Otago, Box 56, Dunedin.*
- 6a. **Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Report 2012/13.** See <http://www.gw.govt.nz/annual-report-2012-13/>. To receive a hard copy, e-mail info@gw.govt.nz and provide your postal address.
- 6b. **Regional Plan Review.** 6 9/13. A4, 2 pp. regional-plan@gw.govt.nz www.gw.govt.nz/your-environment
- 6c. **A guide to the freshwater pest plants of the Wellington region.** A5 booklet.
<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Our-Environment/Biosecurity/Pest-plants/A-Guide-to-Freshwater-Pest-Plants-of-the-Wellington-Region-Web.pdf> (8.5 mB).
 - *Greater Wellington Regional Council, Box 11 646, WN 6142.*
7. **Trilepidea.** 117 8/13: *Pseudopanax linearis*; Endowment Fund; growing native terrestrial orchids from seed; online flora of Subantarctic islands; online image library; Mangere Island restoration; DOC wants Taieri scroll plain recognised; explaining scientific names—the shape of things; NZPCN awards; etc. 118 9/13: *Hebe benthamii*; AGM; DOC botanist Nick Head awarded Loder Cup; John Braggins, hepaticologist, awarded 2013 Allan Mere; revision of Cook's scurvy grass *Lepidium oleraceum*—11 new species; 10th indigenous NZ vascular plant threat listing assessment; NZ plant life goes mobile; dieback - kauri's future uncertain; 26,000 images on web site; etc. 119 10/13: AGM and awards ceremony; *Pittosporum cornifolium*; kauri diedack programme; vernacular names of plants; lichen notes—*Euopsis granatina*; Tūranga Reserve, AK—riparian plantings; etc. 120 11/13: Annual report; NZPCN awards; *Ranunculus grahamii*; Seed Bank and new coordinator; *Gleichenia inclusisora*; the global collapse of biodiversity—the use of common names; new & changed names of indigenous flora; common names as a tool to persuade—call for ideas; etc.
 - *NZ Plant Conservation Network, Box 16 102, WN 6242. info@nzpcn.org.nz*

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

- 8a. **Auckland Botanical Society.** Journal Vol 68 (2) 12/13: John Braggins receives Allan Mere Award 2013; Rangitoto Island wilding pines; field trips; etc.
- 8b. **ABS.** 10/13: New conservation assessment of the indigenous NZ vascular plant flora; etc. 12.13-1.14: Mike Wilcox receives NZPCN Lifetime Achievement Award; etc.
- *ABS, Box 26 391, AK 1344. <https://sites.google.com/site/aucklandbotanicalsociety/>*
9. **Canterbury Botanical Society.** 11/13: Practical Field Botany course (BIOL305) 7 – 15 January; *Gastrodia* research; Charleston camp 13-16 February; DOC botanist Nick Head awarded Loder Cup; etc. 12/13: biological control of weeds; etc.
- *CBS, Box 8212, Riccarton, CH 8840. info@canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz*
10. **Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust.** News and Views. 12/13: gales toppled trees; Trust receives Community Group Award at NZ Plant Conservation Network AGM; 13th Australasian Conference of Volunteer Guides in Botanic Gardens, Christchurch, October 2013 - report; Botanic Gardens of Australia & NZ / Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Dunedin, October 2013 -conference report; *Ranunculus paucifolia* Castle Hill buttercup; *Clematis quadribracteolata*; etc.
- *OWB Trust, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN 6012. Sub. \$10 individual.*
11. **Ecolink.** 11/13: Conference; freshwater national objectives; IPCC climate science report; digital tools to manage environmental projects: <http://elearning.eco.org.nz>; stewardship land needs protecting; new Earth Law Alliance; Nga Motu Marine Reserve Society, Taranaki; etc.
- *Environment & Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc, Box 11 057, WN 6142. eco@eco.org.nz*
12. **Forest & Bird.** 350 11/13: critique of DOC restructuring; F&B backs more 1080 use; Ruataniwha Dam proposal; protecting the RMA; protecting Hawke's Bay's Ngaruroro & Clive rivers; kauri dieback; Denniston Plateau; Mackenzie Basin drylands park campaign; stewardship land in limbo; wilding pines; dramatic changes in F&B in the 70s and 80s; making ecosystems' invisible values count; climate change & water resources; mangrove forests; etc.
- *F&B, Box 631, WN. Ph 04 385 7374, office@forestandbird.org.nz www.forestandbird.org.nz*
13. **FMC Bulletin.** 11.13: DOC restructure; need for 1080 on 10% of conservation lands p.a.; DOC Director-General, Lou Sanson; DOC's senior staff & roles; DOC's Partnership Region and Partnership District boundaries; stewardship land – time for change; etc.
- *FMC, Box 1604, WN 6140. www.fmc.org.nz*
14. **Friends of Wellington Botanic Garden.** 11/13: 5th World Botanic Garden Congress, Dunedin; William Travers, botanist; etc.
- *FoWBG, Box 28 065, Kelburn, WN 6150.*
15. **Rimutaka Forest Park Trust.** A4 brochure.
- *sponsorship@rimutakatrust.org.nz www.rimutakatrust.org.nz Ph 04 569 4764.*
16. **Restoration plan for Perkins' Farm, Paekakariki.**
- *fraserjk@paradise.net.nz,*
16. **Restoration planting in Taranaki: a guide to the Egmont Ecological District.**
- *Taranaki Tree Trust.*
17. **Pipipi.** 38 10/13: Impacts of storms; *Blechnum novae-zelandiae*; Misty Peaks Reserve; boundary revision? invertebrates; feral deer; etc. Donations welcome – Maurice White Native Forest Trust, c/o Hinewai:
- *Hinewai Reserve, RD3, Akaroa 7583.*
18. **Public Access NZ.** 17 11/13: Unformed legal roads – our access heritage; clearing vegetation on public roads; Walking Access Commission; attack on core values of the RMA; etc.
- *Public Access NZ, Box 17, Dunedin.*
19. **Molesworth – stories from NZ's largest high country station.** Harry Broad. Photos by Rob Suisted. 2013. Hardback. RRP \$69.99. Bookshops.
20. **Birds of NZ – A photographic guide.** Paul Schofield & Brent Stephenson. 2013. Flexibind. RRP \$59.99. Bookshops.
21. **NZ's Wild Places.** Craig Potton. RRP \$39.99 – standard; \$19.99 – pocket. Bookshops.
22. **Trampers' on-line journal.** Stories and information about NZ wilderness.
- *www.upcountry.co.nz*
23. **Eco Artists NZ – artists for the environment.** A4 brochure.
- *www.ecoartists.co.nz*
24. **Wiseresponse.** This organisation seeks formal support for the NZ Risk Assessment.
- *Alan Mark, KNZM, FRSNZ, Emeritus Professor of Botany, 205 Wakari Rd., Helensburgh, Dunedin. Ph 03-476 3229, alan.mark@otago.ac.nz*

SUBMISSIONS CALLED FOR

- **20 December. Convention on Biological Diversity: 5th National Report.** To provide data for inclusion in the 5NR. e-mail Kathryn Howard at kahoward@doc.govt.nz. See article in this newsletter.
- **4 February. Proposed amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011.** Ministry for the Environment. See www.mfe.govt.nz
- **14 February. Parangarahu Lakes draft Key Native Ecosystem Plan (KNEP).** This link provides access to the draft. Comments to: alanna.puketapu@gw.govt.nz.
- **14 February. East Harbour Northern Forest draft Key Native Ecosystem Plan (KNEP).** This link provides access to the draft. Comments to: alanna.puketapu@gw.govt.nz.
- **28 February. Proposed Conservation Park: Aotea / Great Barrier Island.** Submissions to: Manager Planning & Permissions, DOC, PBag 3072, Hamilton 3240. Attn. Hannah Divehall. E-mail gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz. Ph 07 858 1021.
- **11 March. Wellington City Council draft 2014/15 Annual Plan.** To be published 11 February. WCC, Box 2199, WN 6140. Ph 499 4444. www.wcc.govt.nz

Bev Abbott

SUBMISSIONS MADE

Conservation Management Strategy for Wellington?

Early next year, it will be 20 years since DOC sought submissions on the Draft Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Wellington. It took another two years, to 13 March 1996, before the NZ Conservation Authority approved the final version on the recommendation of the Wellington Conservation Board. The CMS title includes the date 1996-2005.

Under the Conservation Act, the Director-General is required to review a CMS not later than 10 years after it was approved. The Conservation Board and conservancy staff initiated the review process several years ago. This was

disrupted by various initiatives, including the development of national CMS templates and boundary changes. When the Wellington CMS was first approved, its northern boundary was linked to the Manawatu River. The 2009 restructuring shifted the boundaries of the combined Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy west and north to include Palmerston North, Taihape and Mahia Peninsula.

The 2013 restructuring changed DOC's administrative structure again, this time, creating six regions from the eleven conservancies. Wellington is now in a Conservation Partnership region which extends north from Wellington to the coast somewhere west of East Cape.

The implications for CMSs of the latest restructuring are not yet clear, but may be resolved as part of a review of conservation boards initiated by the Minister of Conservation in late 2013.

Bev Abbott, Submissions Coordinator

Letters to the editor

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

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

The committee

New members

We welcome the following:

Hugh, Nicki and Nicholas Cooke, Dale Every, Julia Fraser, Rod Hitchmough, Megumi and Fumihiko Tominaga, Julia Wilson-Davey.

Lea Robertson, Treasurer

**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

New Zealand Government



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Subscription invoices

For those members who have not already paid their subscriptions for the year ended 30 June 2014, yellow invoices are included with the hard-copy newsletter. Invoices will be e-mailed to members who get their newsletter by e-mail.

A reminder that the annual subscription rate remains as follows: ordinary \$35; country \$30; student \$10; joint/group/family \$40. Perhaps someone you know would appreciate joining us?

Enjoy your Christmas, and our beautiful flora, over the next few months.

Lea Robertson, Treasurer

Convention on Biological Diversity: 5th National Report

New Zealand, as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is required to regularly submit national reports on its progress in implementing the Convention. The next National Report (5NR) is due on *31 March 2014*. It will cover the reporting period April 2009 - August 2013.

DOC is compiling this report. We seek your input. We want to present a rich picture of our progress in conserving NZ's biological diversity, and include science, Māori and citizen-science perspectives.

We seek recent data and case studies highlighting biodiversity successes or challenges, particularly in areas where NZ has international expertise (e.g. island ecosystem restoration). We seek robust and credible data sources on:

- the major changes in biodiversity status and trends in NZ since 2009
- the socio-economic and cultural impacts of biodiversity change; and
- NZ's progress against the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see the CBD website at www.cbd.int/sp/targets/).

If you would like to provide any data for inclusion in the 5NR, please e-mail Kathryn Howard at kahoward@doc.govt.nz by 20 December 2013.

Kathryn Howard

International Advisor, Strategic Partnerships Team, DOC.

Ph 471 3106

Percy Scenic Reserve 2013 report

It has been a restless year at Percy, with many changes and natural environment challenges!

The forty-five-day drought in February and March caused headaches with the gardens, and our potted glasshouse collections. Our plants are considered to be of national significance, so we were granted an exemption from the watering ban, but this didn't reduce the intensity of the heat! We had to attend to the hydration needs in the glasshouses unspeakably early each morning, to ensure that the water was assisting the plants before the heat of the day, and that the Rockery, and plants stored outside, could be watered before the public arrived. It's hard to impose a water ban, then have private collections being watered, so best to do it behind the fence! The pots struggled to drink enough and keep their soil damp and cool at the same time, the heat was so intense. The Fern House recorded temperatures up to 47°C, so we were forever chasing hoses to keep the buildings cool!

This summer we are trialling a more sustainable method of dealing with droughts. Instead of white-washing the three shade-houses, we have installed shade-cloth in each. This can be made heavier or lighter with the seasons. Shade-cloth reduces the sun's intensity and heat, making it more pleasant for the curator to work under! White-wash does not provide consistent cover, and requires washing off each year, to prevent mould growing on it.

On 21 June we had the first of the storms which hit Percy very hard. Being in a gully, the wind whipped through the grounds and uprooted several large trees, while wind-burning and defoliating the flanks of the eastern hill. We lost a large beech on the western hill over the Jasmine Track, and several trees along that ridge and onto the Southern Lawn. This included a huge macrocarpa on the motorway boundary, which uprooted and blocked the Percy entrance to Korokoro, and took a massive pōhutukawa with it! Storm debris is still being removed in the Lower Hutt area, including our macrocarpa, so if you are in the reserve, go to the southern entrance to see the size of the beauty. It has had a few hugs already!

The maintenance contract for Hutt City Council horticulture rolled around in September, with Downer claiming the whole contract back as the incumbent. This contract is for five years, and covers all parks, gardens and street gardens in Lower Hutt.

Downer is bringing in new apprentices when hiring staff, with four now starting their training. A rotation of three months has seen two of them come through Percy in the latter half of 2013, and it has been very encouraging to use the reserve and collections to assist in their learning. Percy Scenic Reserve is a perfect place for teaching new people about different aspects of amenity horticulture, including planting, bush tracks, turf and lawn maintenance and the general care of parks and gardens.

Other than the general amenity duties that they must cover for their Amenity Level 4 Advanced qualification, they are being introduced to the potted collections and simple propagation techniques. This is exciting as the collections are under a big programme with the new contract which focuses on duplication, so that there is a good potted insurance collection for the alpines and threatened species. This includes the Dench and Druce potted collections, and the overhaul of the Rockery garden, which is intended for semi-permanent public display soon.

One of the highlights of propagation for conservation this year was the flowering of the Whanganui *Brachyglottis turneri*. We received the plant material on a rotting log in a chilly-bin from DOC about Easter 2012. We dissected about fifty baby plantlets from it to be bagged on, and eventually planted out. Upon return to the wild, Percy kept four of these original babies, and with repotting and a special trial recipe of peaty potting mix and blood and bone this winter, they have produced a magnificent display. Rob Lucas brought his magic camera to capture them during the early stages, and has kindly given permission to feature the image in this report. They were in the peak of flowering in November, and should continue until Christmas. If you are in the reserve, give us a call through the gate if it is open and we would love to share them with you.



Brachyglottis turneri. Photo: Rob Lucas.

In August the big earthquakes were certainly felt in the Lower Hutt area, and Percy was no exception. We had no damage to buildings, and surprisingly no broken glass panels on the glass-houses! Being in them when the quake hit was unnerving—it is amazing how much they can sway! Being anywhere near them is not an inviting idea during a quake, so the safe meeting-point has been relocated to the front lawn.

Another reason for not using white-wash on the glass-houses, especially those with glass-panel roofs, is the amount of handling we must do around the glass when applying and removing the paint. The earthquakes gave the buildings a decent jiggle, and we find loose and broken panels more often now, than pre-earthquake.

The wedding season began in September, and we will be hosting them most weekends until April 2014. With school holidays coming, visitor numbers are rising quickly and the lawns are being heavily used!

Until next year, we are continually weeding, mowing, and of course watering our way through the seasons! Have a lovely warm Christmas and do a few rain dances for us coming into 2014!

Liza Whalley
Curator/Collections Specialist
Percy Scenic Reserve, Lower Hutt

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.

Otari-Wilton's Bush report

Kia ora BotSocers

Gales have taken their toll on us several times since June. We've lost several large trees around the Information Centre. A large rewarewa fell across the canopy walkway, breaking the fence, and most disappointingly we lost a grand old tawa in the fernery which has altered the character of this garden. On the up-side there has been strong growth in the gardens since September, and many species are having a fantastic flowering season. Rewarewa are absolutely laden with flowers, and some ti kōuka seem to be almost falling over with the weight of their inflorescences.

I had the privilege of attending the Botanic Gardens Conservation International Congress in Dunedin in October. Forty-five countries were represented by about 300 delegates. Plant conservation was noticeably high on the agenda, with most gardens using the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) to guide their work in this area (see www.cbd.int/gspc/). Target 8 of the GSPC is one that is particularly relevant to botanic gardens: *"At least 75% of threatened plant species in ex-situ collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20% available for recovery and restoration programmes"*.

A quick check of major public gardens in NZ revealed that about 40% of our threatened vascular flora is held in ex-situ collections, on par with ex-situ collections in North America and Europe. We have a long way to go before having 20% available (and being used) for recovery and restoration programmes; something botanic gardens cannot achieve on their own.

Partnering with others is the only way to effectively achieve recovery of some species in some areas. At the Congress, Felicity Lawrence, DOC's Deputy Director-General Science and Capability, gave an excellent presentation outlining the importance of botanic gardens to plant conservation, and suggesting that in future DOC and botanic gardens will partner more often to achieve our mutual conservation goals.

Seed-banking was also on the Congress agenda. The MWH seed bank in Palmerston North is a long-term seed-storage facility located within AgResearch. A seed-bank co-ordinator has been appointed, and there are plans to have several NZ botanic gardens contribute seed, and hold duplicate seed collections where possible. Otari will be one of these gardens. Myrtaceae is one group of plants prioritised for collection, because of concern about the arrival of myrtle rust into NZ.

Today we have about fifty school biology teachers visiting Otari to see how we can support secondary-school education. We're already a wonderful resource for education, but with the input of BotSoc members, particularly Bev Abbott and Rodney Lewington, we now have an education package to offer secondary-school teachers interpreting the evolution of NZ plants. Thank you and well done to BotSoc members involved in this.

*Rewi Elliot
Manager, Otari-Wilton's Bush*

Greater Wellington's Environmental Science Department (ESD)

Manager: Graham Sevicke-Jones

The ESD's mission is to provide timely, robust, collaborative and relevant scientific information on our environment, to assist the council and community to manage natural resources, and meet the aspirations for our region.

The ESD was reformed in 2012, following internal and external consultation which identified a need for improved strategic direction and engagement at all levels, especially our ability to partner with Māori. To address this, the Science Strategy and Information team was added. The objective is to bridge the gap between what we do, and how it can be put to best use.

ESD's goals include:

- being a leader in environmental science
- providing trusted scientific knowledge to understand and manage our natural resources
- engaging and empowering our stakeholders and communities through the way ESD communicates science
- integrating science and mātauranga Māori to improve our understanding of our region's environment

The ESD provides scientific, monitoring and investigative services for Greater Wellington Regional Council and information to Iwi and the community. ESD comprises five teams spanning a wide area of expertise:

- Terrestrial Ecosystems and Quality, (including the inter-relationships of groundwater and surface water, and by extension the effect of land management on water quality)
- Hydrology
- Aquatic Ecosystems and Quality, (freshwater and marine)
- Air and Climate, and
- Science Strategy and Information.

ESD's main work is:

- monitoring the performance of plans, and revision of plans, including limit-setting
- assessing resource consent applications and activities
- undertaking integrated monitoring of the effects of activities on ecosystems and natural resources
- determining the effectiveness of environmental restoration and rehabilitation programmes
- determining the state of the environment from a natural resource perspective
- assisting in developing fit-for-purpose monitoring programmes, utilising in-house and external scientific and technical providers, and providing the monitoring expertise to collect and store that information
- providing scientific analysis and interpretation, and expert witness capability
- providing a hydrological network for flood management and water-supply purposes.

Our highly qualified staff work mostly out of our Wellington and Masterton offices. We adopt an integrated approach to monitoring and investigations, and can assist in working with internal staff, Iwi and the community, in developing science programmes that are fit-for-purpose. We have taken a strategic approach in how we will provide these science services, and have a strong connection to research

providers to ensure the latest and most robust science is delivered. A primary focus for our work is to ensure that the science is able to be communicated and used by the council, and for communities to make good management decisions. Our role is to inform decisions, using science in an interactive and collaborative way.

If you have queries for the environmental science team, please contact Elaine Asquith, Senior Science Coordinator, 04 830 4276.

Source: article by Elaine Asquith, 4.12.2013

Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award 2011

“Remuremu” Project report by recipient Marcia Dale



In December 2011 I was pleased to receive confirmation of my successful application to the Wellington Botanical Society’s Jubilee Award Fund. This was the first time the award had been granted for artistic endeavour. I was granted \$800 to produce two artworks depicting native plants.

I spent the first few months of 2012 searching for an inspiring photograph on which to base my artwork. In the end I chose a photograph of *Selliera radicans*, taken by John Barkla at Curio Bay in the Catlins.

Selliera radicans, also known as remuremu or ‘bonking grass’, is a common endemic herb found in coastal areas, on lake margins, salt pans and cliff tops. It is sold as a groundcover, and apparently makes a good no-mow lawn (NZPCN web site). It has interesting, five-petaled, flowers and juicy green leaves.

I spent the second half of 2012 both working on the painting, and coping with the ill-effects of pregnancy, a situation which led me to suggest that the funding be halved to \$400, and I would produce just one artwork. This was agreed to by the Wellington Botanical Society committee.

The painting was completed in December 2012, and was much larger than life at over 1 m wide. It was painted in oil on a stretched canvas. It was packed up and shipped to Wellington, where it was displayed in the foyer of the Department of Conservation head office in Manners Street. It was then sold for \$650.

I hope that during the time my painting was on display to the public it served its purpose of celebrating the beauty of NZ’s native plants. It has certainly inspired me to endeavour to undertake many more paintings of our fascinating flora.

Marcia Dale, December 2013.

The funds raised from the sale of the painting have been added to the Jubilee Award Fund.

Val Smith receives Jubilee Award

I thank the Wellington Botanical Society for the \$1300 grant from the Jubilee Award Fund to help towards the completion of my biographies’ project. It is not only of financial assistance towards the cost of publication, but also an indication of the society’s interest and support in what I have found an engrossing subject.

I have edited my earlier biography articles, and am working on a few more, following the recent John Child Bryophyte and Lichen Workshop at Ohakune. I shall look again at publication possibilities in the New Year.

Thank you.

*Val Smith
New Plymouth*

Arnold and Ruth Dench NZ Botanical Award

This award will not be made this year.

*Eleanor Burton
Vice-president*

Introducing Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

The Queen Elizabeth Trust traces its origins back to the 1970s, when a group of farmers met to investigate ways they could protect special natural and cultural sites on their land. They were worried about what might happen to these places after they were gone, and wanted something that would secure enduring protection, but without surrendering ownership of the land.

These visionaries were the driving force behind the establishment of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, which was set up in 1977 by an Act of Parliament to deliver on their aspirations. The Trust has the power to establish “open space covenants” which will legally protect special sites in perpetuity. An open space covenant is a binding contract registered on the title to the land. It describes the area and the values the landowner wants to protect. The covenant can never be removed from the title, so its care is passed on to the new owners every time a property changes hands.

Working in partnership

The National Trust works in partnership with private landowners to help them establish open space covenants over the areas they want to protect. The Trust arranges the initial legal work, monitors the covenant’s condition once it is registered, usually every two years, and is on hand to offer support and advice about its management. The Trust can also help with funding applications to third parties to help with restoration projects in covenants. The landowner’s role in the partnership is to ensure the continuing care of the covenant.

Cause for celebration!

New Zealand landowners have established over 4,000 covenants around the country, protecting over 125,000 hectares. That’s an area equivalent in size to the combined areas of Abel Tasman, Aoraki/Mt Cook and Taranaki national parks!

The generosity of landowners in setting aside land for perpetual protection with covenants is cause for celebration. They are making a considerable personal investment to protect our heritage, mainly in lowland areas, where the land has been heavily modified for production, and where, as a result, our natural landscapes and native biodiversity are under pressure and most at risk. Without their efforts our biodiversity would certainly be in a much worse position.

Interested in covenanting?

If you own an area of natural significance such as a wetland, bush remnant or the habitat of a threatened species, you might want to consider covenanting it so future owners cannot harm it.

The first step is to contact your local QEII representative to discuss your proposal and have the covenanting process explained to you. The representative will evaluate your area against criteria which might include existing ecological and biodiversity values, naturalness, sustainability, wildlife presence, geological features, landscape values or cultural significance. Other practical considerations might include threats to the site, funding sources and your motivation.

More information

You can find more information about covenanting on the National Trust's website www.openspace.org.nz where you will also find contact details for your local representative. Alternatively you can e-mail the Trust on info@openspace.org.nz to request an information package, or call the Trust directly on 04 472 6626.

Anne McLean
Editor, Open Space, QEII National Trust

Karori Tunnel eastern portal planting

Opened in 1900, Karori Tunnel, Wellington's oldest road tunnel, is a significant example of the city's industrial heritage. In 2011, parts of it were deemed an earthquake risk, necessitating removal and strengthening of the portals, a project which took a year. As you walked or drove through the tunnel, you may have noticed the indigenous planting immediately above the eastern portal, planned and planted in 2002 in consultation with WCC. During the year-long tunnel repair work, many of these plants supplied by WCC, and planted with difficulty by volunteers in the last twelve years on this steep slope, were damaged, and it was impossible to do any weeding there, because the public were barred from the site. Those of you who help care for road-reserve sites in other areas will understand

the helpless frustration we felt at viewing from a distance, the resultant, rapid takeover by rampant weed species, including *Hoheria populnea* (via seed carried on the wind). Not naturally occurring in this part of the North Island, *H. populnea* has become weedy in the region, and some which had self-seeded above the tunnel had grown to c. 3 m. They have now been removed, but a year's growth of tradescantia, tree lucerne, fennel, arum lily, English ivy, montbretia, black nightshade, lunaria, convulvulus, common and Montpellier broom, karo, pōhutukawa, flowering cherry, sycamore, rank grasses, etc, have taken over the site unchecked. Fortunately the remaining planted trees and flaxes are still a refuge and a food source for birds. Many tūi were seen in Spring on the kōwhais.

Barbara Mitcalfe

2013 Jubilee Award

This year the Jubilee Award was awarded to two applicants:

Hugh Wilson, towards publishing his book, *Plant Life on Banks Peninsula*, which is a comprehensive study of this topic ranging over history and geology, and with clear illustrations of the native species and weeds found on the peninsula.

Val Smith, towards publishing as a book her series of articles on people commemorated in New Zealand plant names. I look forward to seeing this.

Eleanor Burton
Vice-president

Seed Bank seeks help

If you are familiar with the identification of native plants, or if you have collected seeds in the past, and would like to be involved with banking seed, please contact Jessica Schnell, Seed Bank Coordinator, Institute of Agriculture and the Environment, Massey University. j.l.schnell@massey.ac.nz

The genus *Nothofagus* re-named

According to the latest revision by Heenan and Smissen, we no longer have *Nothofagus* in NZ. Phil Garnock-Jones has written an easy-to-read summary of the beech name-changes at: <http://theobrominated.blogspot.co.nz/2013/11/a-new-classification-for-southern.html?m=1>

The original paper is:

Heenan PB, Smissen RD. 2013. Revised circumscription of *Nothofagus* and recognition of the segregate genera *Fuscospora*, *Lophozonia*, and *Trisyngyne* (Nothofagaceae). *Phytotaxa* 146 (1): 1–31. <http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.146.1.1>

Frances Forsyth and Rodney Lewington

Hanging clubmoss renamed

Phlegmariurus varius is the new name for what used to be *Huperzia varia*, and before that, *Lycopodium varium*.

Source: *Auckland Botanical Society News-sheet* 10/13
Additional name changes are summarised and explained in the November issue of the NZPCN newsletter, *Trilepidea*: www.nzpcn.org.nz/news_detail.aspx?ID=459

Taputeranga Marine Reserve
For any Conservation-related illegal activity,
call the 24-hour conservation emergency helpline
DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
For Search & Rescue—call 111
All other enquiries to your local DOC office or visit our
website www.govt.nz
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
New Zealand Government

Flora V gift from Kerry Ford

We thank Kerry Ford for donating to BotSoc a copy of *Flora of NZ Volume V. Grasses*. E Edgar and H E Connor. 2nd edition. 2010. The book is held in the staff library at Otari-Wilton's Bush, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton, WN 6012. BotSocers wishing to consult the book, or to borrow it, should first contact me at trogs@paradise.net.nz, or at home 479 0497, to find out when Otari's staff library will be open.

Kerry Ford, Botanist at the Allan Herbarium, Landcare Research, Lincoln, addressed our 21 October evening meeting. Her topic was *Grasses of NZ*.

Eleanor Burton
Vice-president

DOC lower North Island contacts

- Sandra Burles, Senior Ranger Biodiversity, Whakaoriori / Masterton Office
PO Box 191, Masterton 5840
sburles@doc.govt.nz
- Clint Purches, Senior Ranger Biodiversity, Ruahine Base
Private Bag 11010, Palmerston North 4442
cpurchases@doc.govt.nz
- Brent Tandy, Senior Ranger Biodiversity, Wellington Office
PO Box 5086, Lambton Quay, Wellington
btandy@doc.govt.nz

Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust award

We congratulate the trust which received the NZ Plant Conservation Network's *Community Plant Conservation Project Award* at NZPCN's AGM on 6 November. The trust, Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council, worked for about ten years, weeding and revegetating c. 20 ha of the valley of Kaiwharawhara Stream, upstream from Otari, Wellington's native botanic garden and forest reserve. About 20,000 seedlings have been planted. Since the down-sizing of the partnership in 2007, trust members, Wilbur and Liz Dovey, have coordinated volunteers who participate each month in 'plant-care workbees', a.k.a. weeding sessions, as well as planting seedlings in gaps among earlier plantings.

Richard Herbert, President

Wasp research

This summer I am doing research, based at Victoria University, on the common wasp and German wasp. These pests upset the ecological balance of our unique ecosystems.

For our research we need many live wasps of both species, and even a whole nest, including a queen. If you see any wasps in Wellington, please e-mail me the location, and if possible, the species of wasp you see. Your help would be much appreciated. There is no need to contact me after 31 January.

Rosi Merz
e-mail: rosi.merz@hotmail.com

DOC protects two sites

Nga Manu Forest Scientific Reserve

The Chair and Trustees of Nga Manu Trust have entered into a Protected Private Land (PPL) agreement [pursuant to section 76 of the Reserves Act 1977] with the Minister of Conservation, to protect over 9 ha of lowland swamp forest at its property at Nga Manu Nature Reserve, Waikanae. The Deed of Agreement, and a Gazette Notice published in July 2013, declaring the private land to be a PPL, will be managed for scientific reserve purposes pursuant to section 21 of the Act. This completes a long-standing intention of Peter McKenzie and David Mudge to give legal protection in perpetuity to the forest. Public access to the forest is generally for recreational and educational purposes, and also for scientific study or research. The PPL Gazette notice is registered against the title on WN37A/512 held by Nga Manu Trust.

Kumenga-Onoke Exchange

The Kumenga Land Company and the Minister of Conservation agreed to exchange 43 ha of alder-infested DOC land on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa, for 38 ha of Kumenga-owned wetland and grassland abutting Lake Onoke, with another 4 ha of Kumenga land abutting the Ruamahanga cutoff. This project began in 2008, and sees a significant part of RAP 17 (*Wairarapa Plains Ecological District PNAP* report) which part-comprises a saltmarsh ribbonwood association, with sea rush, a type not well represented in protected areas. The wetland and an associated grassy paddock near Onoke are now held for conservation purposes. The alder-infested land was formerly held under a grazing permit to Karl Waiker, this permit being in existence since before DOC commenced in 1987.

David Bishop
SLM Advisor
Wellington Service Centre-National Office, DOC

Gastrodia research

This summer, Carlos Lehnebach from Te Papa, Jasmine Gibbins from Victoria University, and Jeremy Rolfe from DOC are investigating *Gastrodia* taxonomy. Our particular focus is the entity known as *G.* "long column black" which we suspect may be threatened. *Gastrodia* "long column black" is possibly widely but sparsely distributed but it is very poorly known.

In studying *G.* "long column black" we hope also to increase our understanding of the taxonomic status and phylogenetic relationships of other entities in New Zealand *Gastrodia*, so we are interested to study material of all taxa in the genus in New Zealand.

We seek your help in collecting specimens for this research. We want to sample the genus throughout the country, so we are asking for reports of *Gastrodia* and, if possible, specimens for DNA and morphological analysis.

Because peak *Gastrodia* flowering might coincide with the holidays, please contact Jeremy Rolfe to discuss before collecting any specimens.

Jeremy Rolfe, Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai
Mobile 021 266 4158;
e-mail jrrolve@actrix.co.nz

The Wellies 2013 – Wellingtonian of the Year – Environment Section

BotSoc congratulates artist and conservationist, Philip Waddington, winner of the 2013 Environmental Section of the Wellingtonian of the Year awards. Philip designed a humane stoat trap which he gifted to DOC. It is used nationwide to facilitate the recovery of the kiwi and other native birds.

Richard Herbert, President

WCC's new Urban Ecology Team

WCC's Parks, Sports and Recreation unit now includes the following:

- Myfanwy Emeny, Team Leader
- Illona Keenan, Biosecurity Technical Advisor (pest plants & animals)
- Anita Benbrook, Restoration Technical Advisor.

This team is part of the Open Spaces & Specialist Parks team, managed by Amber Bill. They cover the botanic gardens, including Otari-Wilton's Bush, Berhampore Nursery, cemeteries and park ranger team.

Source: Branch Out, Summer 2013-14.

Suburban Reserves Management Plan

Wellington City Council is required to prepare a management plan for the parks and reserves it administers under the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act). We have started developing the Suburban Reserves Management Plan covering 161 parks and reserves between Khandallah and Miramar Peninsula. The plan will provide clear guidance for the adequate provision and management of these suburban reserves for the next ten years.

The plan will be in four sections:

- Section one: general policies
- Section two: policies for seven management sectors
- Rules for use and development
- Implementation plan

Mike Oates, Manager Open Space & Recreation Planning, Wellington City Council. Michael.oates@wcc.govt.nz ph 803 8289

TRIP REPORTS

5 October 2013: Ngauranga – Horokiwi coastal escarpment

We visited the slopes above SH2 between Ngauranga and Petone, using as a guide, an extensive plant list prepared by Colin Ogle in 1976-77. It was a surprise and a delight to find a regenerating coastal forest of tawa-kohekohe-rewarewa, with occasional matai. We were less than delighted when we left the 4x4 access track to scramble down a steep slope of cobbles and boulders to botanise the area more thoroughly. The enthusiasm of the more intrepid members of the group was rewarded with the discovery of a fern, *Asplenium lamprophyllum*, well south of its southern limit. Leon Perrie describes it as looking a bit like a hen & chickens fern (*Asplenium bulbiferum*). It has distinctly glossy fronds, does not produce 'chickens'

(bulbils) on the upper surface of the frond), and has a pronounced creeping rhizome. Other features in the gully included a tōtara with five trunks, and several big ngaio.

We ate lunch under a māhoe canopy stripped bare of leaves by winter storms, while scouts searched successfully for a route through gorse to the ridge track. From here, the view of the harbour and Rimutaka Range was impressive. We were tempted to venture inland but stuck to the trip plan, and kept to the coastal strip, returning via a rocky gully to the start point, the top of Malvern Road.

The area was grazed by cattle until c. 30 years ago. Nowadays goats are present, and Greater Wellington controls possums. The weed flora is extensive, and includes karaka—large

trees and abundant seedlings.

A follow up blog post:

<http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2013/10/07/a-native-species-newly-recorded-for-wellington/>

Additional photos of *Asplenium lamprophyllum*:

<http://naturewatch.org.nz/observations/371772>

Also see:

<http://naturewatch.org.nz/calendar/leonperrie/2013/10/5>

We thank the owners of the property for permission to visit the site.

Participants: Bev Abbott, Barbara Clark, Tom Dav, Gavin Dench, Stephen Drakeford, Pat Enright, Frances Forsyth, Peter Gilberd, Bryan Halliday, Chris Hopkins, Chris Horne, Sheena Hudson, Amy Leask, Rodney Lewington, Kathleen McMurtry, Barbara Mitcalfe, Chris Moore, Mick Parsons, Leon Perrie, Kaira Ranganui-Love, Jessica Robertson, Lea Robertson, Nick Saville, Sunita Singh, Julia Stace, Julia Williams.



Asplenium lamprophyllum.
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

2 November 2013: “Muri Bush”, Pukerua Bay

We assembled on the deck in front of Ted Coats' and Cath Pearson's home, where they welcomed us to their property, with its magnificent outlook towards Kāpiti Island. They described how in 2008 they had purchased the 4-ha site, with mature coastal forest, regenerating forest, shrubland, *Carex geminata* sedgeland and flaxland, and were working to control pest animals, pest plants and other weeds, helped by Greater Wellington Regional Council. Ted said that they would welcome our comments on the management of the property, and that we would be given a list of questions to stimulate discussion.

After he had described the track network, we set off in groups, armed with a list of native and adventive plants prepared by Pat Enright. Among the sights were *Streblus banksii* / large-leaved milk tree, an extensive area of big, multi-trunked kānuka, with wind-shorn canopy, kiekie, massive, multi-trunked ngaio, an 18-m tall lancewood, and several orchids in flower. Ted has poisoned several large karaka, and they spend time pulling out seedlings of this invasive species, which is believed to be naturally occurring only in northern parts of the North Island.

In answering questions put to us, we said that we were impressed with Handford and Associates' report on the restoration plan for the property, in particular the focus on the most destructive pest plants and animals. We supported the removal of karaka



Carex geminata. Illustration: Eleanor burton.

and karo, and recommended that pseudopanax hybrids, pōhutukawa and *Hoheria populnea* be removed. Given that this is the best-preserved area of coastal forest in the vicinity, we could not say what species may be missing, and could reasonably be expected to be present. We applauded the intensity of pest-animal and pest-plant control efforts, these being essential to protect all native plant species present, not just any rare plants there. We believe that the way this ecosystem is being managed is a classic example of the way to manage native ecosystems. We recommended that pūriri not be planted here, because of its known weediness in forests south of its natural range,

and said that continued intensive pest-animal and plant control is the ecologically sound approach to making the forest attractive to birds, lizards, invertebrates, and to plant species not at the moment here. We believe that Victoria University's School of Biological Sciences, also Landcare Research, could be interested in baseline monitoring, and other research, on the property.

After lunch on the deck, we again set off in groups, to botanise areas we had not visited in the morning. Among the additions to the list during the day were tarata, scarlet rātā, the ferns *Hypolepis dicksonioides* and *Pteris macilentata*, the sedge *Gahnia pauciflora*, and the weedy *Hoheria populnea*, and *Pseudopanax crassifolius* × *P. lessonii* hybrids. We added several adventive weed species, including *Syzygium paniculatum* / scrub cherry, the maidenhair *Adiantum raddianum*, *Nephrolepis cordifolia*, and fathen *Chenopodium album*.

Participants: David Allen, Ros Batcheler, Rhonda Billington, Ted Coats (co-scribe), Rae Collins, Gavin Dench, Ian & Jill Goodwin, Martin Heine (co-leader), Chris Horne (co-leader / co-scribe); Sheena Hudson, Priscilla Isaacs; Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe, Syd Moore, Cath Pearson (co-scribe), Leon Perrie, Hugh & Lea Robertson, Jeremy Rolfe, Nick Saville, Darea Sherratt, Sunita Singh, Margaret Thompson, Geoff & Helen Willberg.

16 November 2013: Te Marua Bush workbee

Our group of ten BotSoc and Forest & Bird members spent a worthwhile session releasing plants from weeds, and having a good look through the area.

After a mild winter, the plantings have grown considerably. This was especially noticeable at the south end of the planting, where plants have now grown together to form a dense windbreak. This cold, windy corner was planted in 2007, and it has been hard to get plants established to give protection for the rest of the planting here.

The adjacent, older planting (1999–2007) has now reached the stage of needing some heavy pruning

of the hebes and other faster-growing species, in order to make sure the longer-living, but slower-growing, trees have enough light and space to grow up through. There are plenty of young seedlings here which will be able to fill in any future gaps.

About sixteen *Hoheria populnea* trees were removed as these were not the correct species for the area. Despite being fast-growing, their overall survival rate was poor as ninety-five had been planted throughout the area.

The 2008–2012 plantings along the edge of the Pony Club paddock to the north have grown well and form an attractive windbreak. *Convolvulus*

is a problem in two areas. The bush edge along SH2 was cut into to realign the road a few years ago, and although it was re-fenced, it is still a collecting area for dumped and wind-blown rubbish of all sorts, as well as undesirable assorted exotic grasses and other weeds.

Participants: Roz Brown, Trudi Bruhlmann, Barbara Clark, Chris Horne, Sue Millar (co-leader / scribe), Barbara Mitcalfe, Allan, Glennis, (co-leader), and Graeme Sheppard, Sunita Singh.

30 November – 1 December 2013: Wairarapa

Day 1: Pukaha Mount Bruce

National Wildlife Centre staff members Claire and Susie kindly gave us the use of the class-room for our briefing, and later for reconvening as we returned after botanising the circular Bush Walk.

We started with lists of native plants and birds that BotSoccers Pat Enright and Tony Silbery had prepared in 2008. As we progressed slowly past the aviaries, then up through impressive rimu-tōtara forest, the nor'west gale gained intensity, and brought bursts of rain. In our water-proof gear, we were undeterred, and continued looking and listing, partly protected from the tempest by Tane's tall trees. We added over twenty species of native plants, including pōkaka seedlings with their leaves a multitude of shapes, *Raukaua edgerlyi* with its scented, lobed leaflets, *Urtica ferox* / onganga / tree nettle, and its tiny relative, *Urtica incisa* / scrub nettle, *Solanum aviculare*, *Parsonsia capsularis*, and the ferns *Pteris macilenta* and *P. tremula*.



Raukaua edgerlyi. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

We began a list of weed species, and thanks mainly to Graeme, listed nearly sixty species, some of the pest plants, and one, with its own label, the lacebark *Hoheria populnea*, which is native to Waikato and further north, but south of there is weed. Pukaha has been subject to intensive pest control for about ten years, to encourage the return of native plants and birds.

Despite notable successes, with bird species flourishing, and palatable native plant species becoming more numerous, we noted browse on blueberry, *Libertia* sp., and *Uncinia uncinata*. There can be no let-up with pest control.

After lunch, we drove south to "Riversong", on the banks of the Ruamahanga River, where we enjoyed tea, pikelets, and a discussion on Wairarapa botany and pest control, with our hosts, Trevor Thompson and Jill Herrick, before botanising in their fascinating backyard. Here we saw several species of mistletoes, planted and flourishing, on a variety of host species. The mistletoe / host combinations included: *Ileostlyus micranthus* on *Coprosma propinqua*, *Tupeia antarctica* planted on *Ileostlyus micranthus*, itself planted on tree lucerne, *Tupeia antarctica* on tarata, *Peraxilla tetrapetala* on black beech, *P. colensoi* on silver beech, and *Alepis flavida* on black beech. It was a real eye-opener to see what Trevor has achieved over many years of experimenting with growing these threatened, native, parasitic plants, on trees and shrubs.

Day 2: Fensham Bush Reserve

A complete change from the preceding day's storm allowed us a leisured exploration of Forest & Bird's 48-ha Fensham Reserve, using a compilation of lists begun by Druce 1969, followed by Enright, John, Brownsey, Chamlet, Gawith, Knox, Lynch and Stapleton, accompanied by un-named Forest & Bird members. With this existing, substantial data set in our hands, it was no wonder we didn't find any indigenous additions on the day. After an informative briefing by Chris Surman and Geoff Doring, both of Wairarapa Branch, Forest & Bird, we then split into groups, each to return by 3.30 p.m. A feature of this reserve is its varied topography from lowland wetland to well-drained spur crests. A feature in the wetland is an extensive grove of saplings of the NZ endemic, parasitic, member of the Nanodeaceae family, *Mida salicifolia*, willow-leaved maire, growing in semi-shade. Unfortunately there were no flowers or fruit within reach on the largest tree, but we were able to observe closely the way Mida



Mida salicifolia. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

leaves are alternate to sub-opposite, narrow like young white maire, but a much darker green. We have found mida several times in recent years in the Wairarapa, but it is much less common in Wellington ecosystems. Higher up the slopes under kānuka and beech we were able to practise our new names for the NZ beeches, *Fuscopora fusca* / red beech, *Fuscopora solandri* / black beech, and *Fuscopora truncata* / hard beech. Geoff proudly showed us one of their rarities, the only *Nestegis montana* / narrow-leaved maire known in the reserve, just as there is only one known to us in Otari.

Barbara Mitcalfe

Participants: Jill Broome, Gavin Dench, Geoff Doring, Bryan & Robin Halliday, Chris Horne (leader / co-scribe) Graeme Jane, Sheelagh Leary, Rodney Lewington, Barbara Mitcalfe (co-scribe) Syd Moore, Lea Robertson, Darea Sherratt, Sunita Singh, Julia Stace, Chris Surman.



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