



From the President

It has been a great year for Wellington Botanical Society with good attendances at evening meetings and field trips. In-person attendance at evening meetings is well down however, averaging only 23 people, compared with an average of 45 on Zoom. Leon Perrie's talk on mosses, liverworts and lichens—small plants that are everywhere, and Matt McGlone's talk on the NZ Biodiversity Assessment Framework, *Why monitoring is hard and why we must do better* were very popular, attracting 85 and 93 people respectively. I would particularly like to thank those members who attend our evening meetings in person—they maintain the sociable atmosphere and interact with our evening speakers. Special thanks go to Sunita for ensuring a wonderful selection of speakers on wide-ranging topics.

This year we changed our field-trip cancellation policy. Trips are now postponed to the following Saturday if they cannot proceed due to bad weather on the planned Saturday. This meant that there was a record number (16) of field trips in the last year including the summer camp, our usual two workbees at Te Mārua Bush and a week-night, twilight rātā walk which Kate Jordan will repeat in December along a slightly different route. I would like to thank all trip leaders and everyone who has made suggestions of places we could visit. Please keep the recommendations coming! If you haven't led a field trip lately, please consider leading one.

At the monthly evening meetings I have tried to keep you abreast with the things we are discussing at committee meetings. Members are also welcome to attend committee meetings if they wish to listen to our discussions or just find out what happens at these meetings. They are held about every six weeks
cont. p 3.

Articles for web site

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

www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz

Please send your article to:

Richard Herbert

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

Writing for the Bulletin

Do you have a botanical observation, anecdote, or insight that you could share with others in BotSoc? If so, please consider contributing it to the Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin. There is still plenty of space in the next issue. For more details and assistance, contact Eleanor Burton at: esmereldadoris93@gmail.com or 479 0497.

BotSoc on Facebook

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

This is the unofficial page for Wellington Botanical Society.

Wellington Botanical Society

Address:	PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6140
Web site:	www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz
President:	Frances Forsyth 021 072 5210
Vice-Presidents:	Owen Spearpoint 562 8780 Sunita Singh 027 405 2987 (also Programme Organiser)
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Auditor/Reviewer:	To be advised
Submissions coordinator:	Being sought—please contact Secretary
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Annual subscription:	ordinary \$35; country \$30; student \$10; joint / group / family \$40.
Send your subscription to our bank account 020536 0017812 00. Particulars: Name; Code: Membership type; Reference: amount of	

Meetings

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

Field trips

Day trips to locations in the Wellington region are usually held on the first Saturday of each month. Extended excursions are usually held at New Year, and sometimes Easter and the first weekend in December.

DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 20 November 2023

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, and potential leaders of those field trips.

topics and speakers for evening meetings

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

Field trips—single day

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

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

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

What bring—clothing

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

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

What to bring—gear and food

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

Field trips—overnight

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

Overnight trip gear and food

Add to the day-trip gear, food and drink listed above: breakfast, fresh fruit, torch, spare bulb and batteries, candle, mug, plate, knife, fork, spoon, small towel, soap, tooth brush. If accommodation is not provided for, bring tent, fly, poles and pegs, groundsheet, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, sleeping-bag liner and stuff bag. Optional: matches in waterproof container, water purification tablets, pocket knife, large plastic survival bag to line pack, gaiters. Note: dinners may be ‘pot-luck’—ask the leader to suggest what your contribution might be.

Summer camps

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

Postponing field trips

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

Health and safety

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

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

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

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

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

Fitness and experience

Our field trips are mostly on established tracks, and at a leisurely pace, but vary considerably in the level of fitness and tramping experience required. Although our main focus is botanical, our programme sometimes offers trips which, in the pursuit of our botanical aims, are more strenuous than others. Although leaders take care to minimise risks, you participate at your own risk.

Transport

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

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

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

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

Trip leaders

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

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

Other matters

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

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

Meetings

Public transport to meetings

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

TO MEETINGS

No. 18e Miramar: 7.05 p.m. from Karori Park, 7.21 p.m. @ VUW.

No. 18e Karori: 7.00 p.m. from Miramar – Darlington Rd, 7.43 p.m. @ VUW, or 6.00 p.m. from Miramar, 6.43 p.m. @ VUW.

No. 21 Courtenay Place: 7.01 p.m. from Karori Mall – Beauchamp St, 7.13 p.m. @ VUW.

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

No. 22 Mairangi: 7 p.m. from Wellington Station – Stop C, 7.08 p.m. @ VUW.

No. 22 Wellington Station: 7.02 p.m. from Norwich Street, Wilton, 7.17 p.m. @ VUW.

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

FROM MEETINGS

No. 18e Miramar: 8.05 p.m. is the latest bus from VUW, so catch a no. 21 or No. 22 to CBD—see nos. 21 and 22 below—then a no. 2 to Miramar/Seatoun.

No. 21 Courtenay Place: 9.13 p.m. or 10.13 p.m. from VUW.

No. 22 Wellington Station: 9.38 p.m. or 10.38 p.m. from VUW.

Cable Car: No service after 8 p.m.

For further information ring Metlink, 0800 801-700.

President's message continued from page 1

7–9 p.m. at the Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Visitor Centre. Alternatively, feel free to button-hole a committee member if you have any questions.

Last year the Public Trust wrote to the Botanical Society to inform us that we were one of several beneficiaries of the estate of George Braithwaite. Originally, it was thought that this may involve a committee member sitting on a trust to oversee the management of George Braithwaite's house and associated botany scholarships. However, the house proved to be unsuitable for restoration and Wellington City

Council declined the offer to set up the trust. As a result, the house was to be demolished and the land sold with the proceeds going into the estate. More recently Public Trust staff have told us that probate on the estate of George Braithwaite has been granted and they were ready to begin payments to beneficiaries. We are entitled to 10/100 of any residual monies after the primary beneficiaries have received their shares.

Frances Forsyth

NOTICES

Events

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

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

16 September. Ōtari Open Day. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton. See report by Tim Park, Manager, elsewhere in this newsletter on work at Ōtari.

29 November – 2.30 p.m. “The Challenge of Growing European Alpine Plants”. A talk by Jim Jermyn, world-renowned alpine plant expert. Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt—Room James Coe. \$10 entry, children free. Afternoon tea provided.

Arranged by Hutt Valley Horticultural Society.

Awards and grants

30 September. **Wellington Botanical Society Jubilee Award 2023.** Applications should be made in typescript to: Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society, PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6140, or by e-mail to esmeraldadoris93@gmail.com. See article in this newsletter.

30 September. **Wellington Botanical Society Grants to Graduate Students.** Application should be made initially through your supervisor to Nicola Nelson by 30 September 2023. See article in this newsletter.

The committee

TRIPS & EVENING MEETINGS

The following programme IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. If you wish to go on a field trip, PLEASE help with planning by giving the leader 2 days' notice before a day trip, MORE notice before weekend trips, and SEVERAL WEEKS' notice before the New Year's trip.

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

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

Monday 18 September: Evening meeting

Speaker: Jo Gosden, independent plant ecologist based in Ōtautahi/Christchurch undertaking a PhD on ephemeral wetland plant communities. Over the summer of 2022/2023 I attempted to see all named *Celmisia* (NZ mountain daisies) in the field. (Spoiler: at least one species was *inaccessible*). New Zealand has 60 named species of *Celmisia* and this expands to about 78 entities once all the varieties and subspecies are accounted for. My summer started in November 2022 in the familiar territory (for me) of Castle Hill Basin. From there I explored the Old Man Range, Remarkables, Blue Mountains, Eyre Mountains, Catlins, Fiordland, Garvie Mountains, Cobb Valley & Peel Range, Richmond Range, Lewis Pass, Taranaki Maunga, Whangarei Heads, Ruapehu, Wairarapa, Mt Stokes, Ngakawau Gorge, Denniston Plateau, Charleston and Banks Peninsula (to name a few). This talk will attempt to recount my summer and introduce (or reacquaint) you with *Celmisia*. A field guide to *Celmisia* is in the works with my co-author Jane Connor. I aim to leave you inspired to venture out in search of *Celmisia* this coming summer.

My summer with the mountain daisies

Saturday 7 October: Field trip

Botanise sub-alpine plants and patches of kāmahi and silver beech along the ridge track at the top of Remutaka Hill close to the car park. If we have time we will visit an old logging track just below the summit on our way home to see a rocky wall covered with orchids. Sturdy boots recommended. Map: NZTopo50-BP33 Featherston. Meet: 10 a.m. Remutaka Hill summit car park. Contact leaders to arrange shared transport. Train: Wellington depart 8.35 a.m. – Upper Hutt arrive 9.20 a.m. Contact leaders if pick needed at Upper Hutt Station. Co-leaders: Eleanor Burton 021 0588 324 / esmeraldadoris93@gmail.com; Frances Forsyth 021 0725 210 / FrancesmjForsyth@gmail.com.

Remutaka Hill

Monday 16 October: Evening meeting

Speaker: Stacey Pekelaar. Seed germination and root associations in *Discaria toumatou*. I will present my research findings on *Discaria toumatou*, commonly known as matagouri. I will discuss how germination rates of *D. toumatou* seeds are influenced by various scarification and stratification techniques. In addition, I will delve into the intriguing world of root associations in this species, exploring the fungi and bacteria found in its roots and how these interactions might be impacted by seasonality.

Student presentations

Speaker: Paul Bell-Butler. The Hidden Power of Mosses: How microclimatic interactions shape seed germination in NZ's mountains. My research aims to understand how the functional traits of bryophytes can inform their role in microclimate mediation and vascular plant community change in NZ tussock grasslands. I will explore the effects moss cover has on soil moisture and temperature, and how this is related to particular morphological and functional traits exhibited by different species. I will also present the results of a germination experiment, testing the direct influence different mosses had on the recruitment success of an invasive vascular plant, *Pilosella officinarum* (hawkweed).

Speaker: Riccardo Ciarle: Evolutionary size changes in island flowers. The island rule predicts that, on islands, small animals evolve to become larger and large animals evolve to become smaller. While various plant traits such as stature and leaf size have been found to follow this rule, patterns in flower size remain largely unexplored. Focusing on the oceanic islands surrounding New Zealand, we tested whether zoophilous and anemophilous flowers follow the island rule.

Saturday 4 November: Field trip

Botanise the hills behind Days Bay and learn a bit more about our native orchids and the research happening at Te Papa and Ōtari-Wilton's Bush to support their conservation. See perching and terrestrial orchids in full bloom and, if the weather is nice, many of our sun orchids will put on a good show. There is a good diversity of birdlife in the park too. Bring lunch, water, sun protection, sturdy shoes and a walking stick as there are some steep slopes. Bring your togs if you fancy a swim at the beach after (or before!) the walk. Distance: 3.5 km. Time: 1hr 45mins (does not apply if you are botanising!). Difficulty: medium (but option to do short easy loop). Map: More information and map at <https://www.gw.govt.nz/parks/east-harbour-regional-park/> Bus: No. 83 Eastbourne 8.45 a.m. from Courtenay Place. Meet: 9:45a.m. at Days Bay Pavilion, Williams Park, 611b Marine Drive, Days Bay, Lower Hutt. Homeward: Harbour ferry 3.15 p.m. Days Bay or no. 83 bus to Wellington. Co-leaders: Carlos Lehnebach 021 731 897/ CarlosL@tepapa.govt.nz. Joe Dillon 022 317 8753 / joe.francis.dillon@gmail.com

Days Bay loop, East Harbour Regional Park

Saturday 18 November: Workbee

Te Mārua Bush, Upper Hutt

In partnership with Greater Wellington, BotSoc has been committed since 1989 to do weed control and revegetation in this important matai / tōtara / black 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 and your favourite weeding tools, e.g., trowel, hand fork, grubber, loppers, pruning saw. There may also be some planting. Meet: 9.30 a.m. at Te Mārua Bush. (250 m north of Te Mārua Store and then left off SH2 for 50 m on Twin Lakes Rd, Kaitoke Reg. Pk. Train: 8.05 a.m. Hutt line train WN to Upper Hutt—ring the leader to arrange to be met at Upper Hutt Station. Maps: NZTopo50-BP32 Paraparaumu; street map. Co-leaders: Glennis Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

Monday 20 November: Evening meeting Tongariro National Park: Unique plants and their survival

Speaker: Lois Allison-Cooper, DOC Biodiversity Ranger – Pest and weed control, threatened plant monitoring and conservation, Tongariro National Park, Tongariro District. The centre of the North Island has a wide variety of ecosystems ranging from podocarp-broadleaf rain-forest through to tussock grassland, subalpine meadows and volcanic dunes. All habitats reflect the volcanic activity of the past. The park and the wider area (Erua Conservation Area and Tongariro Conservation Area) is home to many threatened species including mistletoe, *Dactylanthus*, orchids, divaricating shrubs and a new *Cardamine* species described in 2018. Heather was threatening to take over the tussock grasslands, however a successful biocontrol agent was introduced in 1996. I will be discussing the different ecosystems, interesting plants at each site and a run-down on all the fun plant work I do with DOC.

Thursday 7 & Saturday 9 December

Rātā walk, Lower Hutt

A casual 4.5 km stroll through Lower Hutt viewing flowering rātā, including at least four different species of *Metrosideros* and other native trees in the streets and gardens. The walk will begin and end at Woburn Station, so public transport use is encouraged. The walk will also be held as an after-work event on Thursday 7 December. Meet: Car park on eastern side of Woburn Station. Thursday: 6 p.m. Train: Hutt Valley line – 5.35 p.m. from Wellington to Woburn. Do not catch the express. Saturday: 9.30 a.m. Train: 9.05 a.m. Hutt Valley line Wellington to Woburn. Leader: Kate Jordan, ph 027 899 0018, e-mail katejordan@gmail.com

20–27 January 2024: Summer Camp

Ruapehu area

The Ruapehu area has an excellent variety of alpine flora and interesting beech and podocarp forest. Highlights include Taranaki Falls, Tama Lakes and the recently described *Cardamine panatohea*. Possible field trips: Erua area, Eastern Tongariro Forest and the Rangataua, Hihitahi, Taheke Conservation Areas.

- **Base camp:** Taylor Lodge, Ruapehu <https://www.taylorlodge.co.nz/> Breakfasts & lunches will be prepared by BotSocers on a roster system. Dinners and deserts will be catered. Vegetarians, dairy-free and vegan catered for—if you have other special dietary needs, please make your own arrangements.
- **Accommodation:** bunk-rooms: \$25.35/person/night; camping: \$25.35/person/night (no fires).
- **Transport:** Participants to arrange their own transport to and from camp. Transport may be available from bus stop / train station / airport nearest Taylor Lodge—please indicate if you need this on the registration form.
- **Booking:** Booking ESSENTIAL. Book early! Preference will be given to members of Wellington BotSoc. Please print the registration form at the end of this newsletter. Please email your completed form to botsoc-summercamp@gmail.com by 25 November.
- **Deposit:** \$470.00 per person to be paid at time of registration by internet banking. At the end of the trip, depending on the final cost, you will be sent an invoice (or a refund) for the full cost less your original payment.
- **Contact:** Email: botsocsummercamp@gmail.com

Student scholarship

This year BotSoc is supporting three students to attend the Summer Camp.

Full details are:

- WBS to cover the deposit for the camp of \$470 of up to three students to attend the 2024 summer camp. If there is an additional payment needed at the end of the camp (generally no more than \$40), the student will need to cover it.
- The first students to apply will be offered the places.
- The recipients must cover their own costs (such as travel to, from and during the camp, and snacks), and make their own arrangement of getting to and from Camp.
- The recipients must be (or have been) enrolled at VUW, Massey University, Weltec, or be apprentices in 2023 or 2024.
- The recipients must be members of the Society.
- The recipients must be at least 18 years old to attend.

Publications

- Vascular Plants of Tongariro Ecological District. *Auckland BotSoc Bulletin* 34 (2018). M D Wilcox & N J D Singers. \$30 + \$6 p&p. aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com
- NZMS Topo50 maps: BJ34 Mt Ruapehu, BJ33 Raetihi.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1a. **Flora of New Zealand – Ferns and Lycophytes:** Keys to families and genera. P. J. Brownsey & L. R. Perrie. Fascicle 11 – November 2022.
- 1b. **Flora of New Zealand – Ferns and Lycophytes – Cyatheaceae:** P. J. Brownsey & L. R. Perrie. Fascicle 13 – November 2015.
- 1c. **Fern Guide: Fern guide (medium resolution; 140 MB).** When you use the draft, Leon Perrie would be grateful if you were to tell him what works and what doesn't.
 - leon.perrie@tepapa.govt.nz
2. **Native Plants of Aotearoa:** Te Papa Te Taiiao Nature Series. Carlos Lehnebach & Heidi Meudt. A5, hard cover, 132 p. Illustrations based on field sketches by Sydney Parkinson (1745-1771).
 - *Te Papa bookstore*
- 3a. **Open Space 104, 5/23:** Cyclone Gabrielle & other extreme weather events; carbon credits & covenants; our people and protected land; donate towards cyclone relief; membership survey results; Nelson-Marlborough QEII Trust rep; 25 years as Far North rep; supporting stewardship with the Stephenson Fund; summary of covenant registrations 1.10.22 – 31.3.23; list of regional representatives; etc.
- 3b. **QEII 2022 Annual Report.**
 - qei.org.nz info@qei.org.nz phone 04 472 6626
4. **Trilepidea, 8/23:** upper Whanganui River tawa dying? plant surveys – Yeo & Tone valleys, Marlborough; Uncle Bertie's Botanarium debut on RNZ; wallaby social research survey invitation; Wilding Pines Conference2023; etc.
 - www.nzpcn.co.nz
5. **NZ Botanical Society Newsletter 152 6/23:** *Juncus planifolius*; news from regional botanical societies; Flora of New Zealand – Ferns and Lycophytes – Cyatheaceae—see Te Papa publication no. 1 above; biographical sketch—Paul Michael Kirk (1952–), etc.
 - www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz
6. **Forest and Bird. 388 winter 2023:** Lessons from the past by President Mark Hanger; centennial celebrations and conference; new climate campaign; bottom trawling campaign; mining threatens kauri; Te Kuha saved from mining; feeding native birds safely; keeping wild birds wild; NZ Garden Bird Survey; nature-based solutions to heal storm-damaged steep slopes; nature-based solutions to limit storm damage; saving yellow-eyed penguin; using genetic editing could reduce predator fertility; RNZ's Critter of the Week show: rewilding a native bird species; heroines in history; control of hedgehogs; protecting flying freshwater insects; stamp issue celebrating F&B's century; more than 75% of indigenous species are at risk of extinction; Arowhenua Bush, South Canterbury; saving endemic dolphins; protecting kauri in Waikato; Part 2 of F&B's history—1946–1979; Hauraki Gulf marine life; conservation art; Ken Catt – marine life champion; etc.
 - www.forestandbird.org.nz
 - office@forestandbird.org.nz
 - 0800 200 064
 - donate at www.forestandbird.org;
7. **Wellington Glean Report:** Biweekly information on science & knowledge events in Wellington e-mailed direct to your inbox for free. Donations welcome.
 - www.gleanreport.com
- 8a. **Pīpīpi 56 11/22:** Impacts of slips over time – recovery from the damage; track repair; rebuilding bridges; repairing waterways, roads, fences & Ōtānerito buildings & infrastructure; overseas birders visit; deer & pig infestations in area; 15–20 cm snowfall 15.10.22.
- 8b. **Pīpīpi 57 5/23:** tail end of Cyclone Gabrielle; recovery from 12/21 deluge; 20 km of tracks restored; bird monitoring; *Caladenia lyallii* found again on Hinewai; South African climber *Helichrysum petiolare* occurring on Banks Peninsula; feral stock continue to invade Hinewai; Pest Free Banks Peninsula at work; international visitors; etc.
 - *Hinewai Reserve, 632 Long Bay Rd, R.D. 3 Akaroa 7583. Donations welcome to BNZ 02 0832 0044225 00. There is no subscription & no obligation to donate but donations are hugely helpful. Receipts sent to your postal address.*

New members

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

Membership Secretary

Letters to the editor

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

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

Thank you.

The committee

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

2023/2024 committee

At the 84th Annual General Meeting, held in person and by Zoom on Monday 14 August 2023, the following were elected:

President

Frances Forsyth 021 0725 210

Vice-presidents

Owen Spearpoint 562 8780

Sunita Singh 027 4052 987
(also Programme Organiser)

Secretary

Laura Girvan West wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jane Humble 971 6970
wellingtonbotsoc treasurer@gmail.com

Membership secretary

Vacant – volunteer sought
wellingtonbotsocmembership@gmail.com

Accounts reviewer

Vacant – volunteer sought

Committee

Paul Bell-Butler paul.bellbutler@vuw.ac.nz

Eleanor Burton 479 0497

Richard Herbert 232 6828

Chris Horne 475 7025 (newsletter editor)

Volunteer sought to be our fifth committee member

Submissions Coordinator

Vacant – Volunteer sought

Seeking an additional committee member and a submissions coordinator

If you have enjoyed attending evening meetings, field trips and summer trips please think about joining the team that makes them happen. People can be co-opted onto the committee at any time which makes this a good way to find out if you would like to take on a more permanent position. Meetings are held about once every six weeks on a Wednesday evening at 7p.m. in the Ōtari Information Centre / Tāne Whakapiripiri, 160 Wilton Rd.

Subscription reminder for the year ending 30 June 2024

Some members of BotSoc have yet to pay their 2022–2023 subs as we approach the half year mark.

Pay now, be in before Christmas and start the New Year with a clean slate!

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

Please pay direct to BotSoc's Bank Account—02 0536 0017812 00—including your name and Sub20 as Reference.

Jane Humble, Treasurer

Jubilee Award 2023 – Applications sought

The Wellington Botanical Society invites applications for an Award of up to \$2,600 to encourage and assist applicants to increase knowledge of New Zealand's indigenous flora, and to commemorate the Society's 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 6140, or by e-mail to esmeraldadoris93@gmail.com, by 30 September 2023.

There is no prescribed application form, but the following must be provided:

1. the applicant's name,
2. postal address, telephone number and e-mail address.
3. any relevant position held
4. a summary statement of the applicant's accomplishments in the field of botany – no more than one page
5. an outline and timetable for the proposed project for which the Award is sought
6. 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 15 October 2023.

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.

Wellington Botanical Society – Grants to Graduate Students.

Each year the Wellington Botanical Society provides small grants to assist post-graduate student in the Te Herenga Waka/VUW School of Biological Sciences.

These grants can be used for travel, materials and other costs related to research projects undertaken as part of the course of study. Grants to any one student will normally be not more than \$1200.

Application should be made initially through your supervisor to Nicola Nelson by 30 September 2023.

Applications should be brief and to the point. (Say two A4 pages).

They should state:

- Your name and email address

- Your current education qualifications.
- The course of study being undertaken.
- The nature and aim of the research project.
- The name of your supervisor for this project
- The budget for this project.
- The expenses that the grant is proposed to cover.
- You will be advised of the results of your application by 15 October 2023.

Grants will be made through the Research Trust of Victoria University of Wellington.

Names of successful applicants will be published in the Society's newsletter.

It is condition of the grant that you make a short presentation to the Society on your project and/ or provide a one page summary on the nature and results from the project to be included in the Society's newsletter or bulletin.

The small print

1. Grants will usually be to post graduate students. Consideration may be given to applications by undergraduates where the supervisor considers that there is a special case to be made because the nature of the project is similar to that undertaken by graduate students.
2. Priority will be given to projects involving native New Zealand vascular plants and cryptogams. Consideration may be given to those projects involving other vegetation. With the anticipated competition and limited funds it is unlikely that applications for projects involving algae, fungi and coral would be successful.
3. The primary purpose of the grant is to cover field expenses – transport and accommodation but not rations. Financial assistance towards the cost of chemicals and chemical and DNA analysis will be entertained. The Society is reluctant to fund capital items but will consider applications for these.
4. Applications for grants made after the closing date may be entertained if the Society has not already allocated the funds available for the Student Grant. Priority will be given to applications received before the close off date.
5. The funds available are limited and priority will be given to applications and expenditures that agree with the main criteria set out above and are most in line with the aims of the Wellington Botanical Society.

Ōtari update

We have a great line-up of speakers at Open Day on Saturday 16 September who have been asked to bring a local restoration focus to understand what is happening at Ōtari and how you can contribute by volunteering or even at your home. There will be speakers on weeds, volunteering, trapping and the resurgence of the local native bird populations. If you want to understand more about the native plants in the botanic gardens and the work we do here, book into a guided garden tour and/or a behind-the-scenes tour. More information online at www.wellingtongardens.nz/events

It is fantastic that another volunteer group has established to support the work we do to look after the native forest. Ōtari Weedbusters will be tackling some priority weeds throughout the forest so get in touch with Maggie via www.OWBT.nz if you are keen to get involved.

We have been working on a review of our collections

and are developing plans to change some of the thirty areas that are managed collections which make up Ōtari Native Botanic Garden as a whole. One of these is our magnificent collection of kōwhai, which when we reviewed our records we discovered that remarkably we did not have any *Sophora chathamica*. Taxonomic work suggests that the kōwhai on Rēkohu (Chatham Islands) and also around Te Whanganui a Tara and Porirua are likely pre-European and the pre-human natural range of this species is northern North Island. Fortunately, on a recent trip to Auckland I was given some eco-sourced *S. chathamica* from North Auckland to add to our collection.

Many of the plants that we have collected on recent trips to Chatham Island have been planted this winter in the Rēkohu Garden, just below the Wetland Plants boardwalk. We have made a sand-bed for the coastal plants which are thriving. A significant feature of this garden is the well-established hoho (*Pseudopanax chathamicus*) and the solid Rēkohu nīkau which are grown from seeds donated by the late Audrey Eagle in the early 1980s.

Work is underway to improve the upper Blue Track (uphill of Moko) and we are investigating a number of options to reopen the Yellow Track which is currently closed.

The Wilton Park Slip was planted by an enthusiastic group of volunteers in mid-August alongside the Ōtari team, Zealandia staff and the Trust's revegetation group. Following the removal of the large dead trees that the slip brought down, the stream is working to find its natural path again. Until the plants establish roots and the slip material settles on the banks, we unfortunately expect to see continuing erosion of the steep stream edges. While we had arborists working onsite we also took the opportunity to take down a large pine just downstream of the slip area. Work is also continuing to retain our service drive and we are looking forward to this reopening so we can get back to normal operations.

We are also very excited that kiwi are making forays beyond the Capital Kiwi Projects's core management area on Terawhiti Station in Makara. One radio tracked bird was recently found near the Skyline and reports are coming in from locals who have heard kiwi calling in Johnston Hill Reserve, right next to Ōtari! Please don't risk your dog grabbing a kiwi or getting a \$300 fine by keeping it on a lead at all times in Ōtari as well as all council reserves, unless it is a designated off-leash area. Kiwi could be nesting anywhere now, and we are getting close to the summer nesting and breeding season when our wonderful native birds are particularly vulnerable.

Ma te wa.

Tim Park

Kaiwhakahaere Ōtari - Manager Ōtari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton's Bush Reserve

Ngā Māra o Poneke - Wellington Gardens

Papa Tākaro Hākinakina - Parks, Sport and Recreation

Mi Heke Ki Poneke - Wellington City Council

0212479739 Tim.Park@wcc.govt.nz Wellington.govt.nz

Percy Scenic Reserve news

It has been another mild and wet winter which has required much more weed control in the Reserve than would normally be the case at this time of year. Many of the exotics have retained their leaves for most of the winter.

The glasshouse alpine collection has been doing well, with several species having flowered through the winter, notably *Ranunculus crithmifolius* × *R. insignis*—collected by Tony Druce back in 1993. It has flowered virtually non-stop. Some of those plants collected in March from Mt. Hutt have flowered, including *Leptinella atrata* subsp. *atrata* and *Ranunculus multiscapus*.

We have been doing some winter planting in the reserve recently, e.g., *Veronica strictissima*, *Pennantia baylissiana* and *Ceodes brunoniana*. We have also planted spare alpiners from our propagation programme into the rockery. These include *Veronica raoulii*, *V. maccaskillii* and *Celmisia mangaweka*. We grow many of our alpiners from cuttings from plants in the collection to replace plants as they go past their best, as they tend to struggle at lower elevation, mostly due to the high humidity.

Cliff Keilty

Percy Scenic Reserve, Petone, Lower Hutt

Graham Baird Petterson 1923–2023

We are sad to report Graham's recent death. He was almost 100 years of age. A long-term member of BotSoc, he was an avid grower of native plants for revegetation on the banks of the Waikanae River. Among his other activities he attended protests against logging in the impressive native forest at Whirinaki in Te Urewera.

The committee

NIWA Science Fair held at Victoria University

Not many exhibits involved plants—even fewer featured native plants! I decided to award:

- \$150 of BotSoc's prize to Matthew Dunn, Sian Poiner and Miles Vincent for *The Battle Below: Investigating the impacts of sediment on seaweed from four points around the Wellington region*
- \$100 of BotSoc's prize to Herriet Mein for *Fabulous Fungi: An investigation into fungi and microclimates*.

Paul Bell-Butler, member, Wellington Botanical Society committee.

Supporting covenants impacted by weather events



The major weather events of this year have had a devastating effect on many throughout the country, including those with QEII covenants.

QEII is planning to support covenantors impacted by the major weather events of 2023 by extending The Stephenson Fund to support cyclone repair works, and we are fundraising to do this.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are just over halfway to our goal of \$50,000.

[Read more about the cyclone relief fund.](#)

If you would like to help covenantors to reinstate covenant fences, tracks, traplines and other infrastructure damaged by the cyclones, please make a donation online at <https://qeiiinternationaltrust.org.nz/donate-to-cyclone-relief/> or contact our Fundraising Manager, Bryna O'Brien, bobrien@qeii.org.nz or 027 295 5369.

TRIP REPORTS

1 April 2023: Ecclesfield Reserve & Wi Tako Ngātata Reserve, Silverstream, Upper Hutt

Despite the gloomy forecast we were pleased to have eighteen keen BotSoccers arrive at the entrance on Blue Mountains Rd, including some on their first field trip. After introductions the group proceeded towards Wi Tako Ngātata through the Ecclesfield Reserve entrance. Here the group soon split as those keen to complete the loop through Wi Tako Ngātata broke away, while most chose to stay in Ecclesfield Reserve due to the poor condition of Wi Tako Ngātata's tracks.

The ca. 6-km loop through Wi Tako Ngātata held plenty of interest for the two who walked it. It traverses several different vegetation types; the primary forest being hard beech – black beech, with areas of regenerating kānuka – kamahi scrub, as well as pockets of wetland vegetation in the gullies. It was very wet under-foot at times, and the track had almost closed in places. Highlights were the diversity of native ferns—patches of *Lindsaea linearis* were pleasing to see track-side under the scrub, and several rushes and sedges which Eleanor later keyed out.

Of the majority who stayed in Ecclesfield Reserve, nine expressed interest in learning basic plant identification and joined Owen as mentor. They progressed slowly as he explained the differences between species and the botanical features that show the difference. All were very willing learners and spent time trying their identification skills. So much so that after the first hour we had progressed barely 100 metres. There were a lot of invasive alien tree and shrub species along that first 100m of



Hymenophyllum multifidum. Photo: Lynne Pomare.

track, all known garden escapees.

We covered the next 100m more quickly as we started to encounter more species that we had already identified. Also the forest became more open and less diverse, typical of beech forest, and there were fewer species to discuss. We climbed to Ecclesfield Reserve lookout for lunch 1, where there was not much of a view but a nice seat and clearing. After

lunch we continued up the ridge and out of the mature forest, again practising plant identification along the way. At the boundary fence with Wi Tako Reserve the track started to deteriorate and we met the bulk of the group making their way down. About this time it also started to drizzle so after lunch 2 we joined the rest of the trip and returned to the cars. The flora encountered was typical of mature black beech/hard beech forest. Of note was the abundant fruit on the *Leptocophylla juniperina*. There was also the orange mistletoe *Peraxilla tetrapetala* present but we did not see it.

After the official field trip had ended a group of four travelled further up Blue Mountains Road to another entrance to the reserve for an ad hoc survey for the regionally critical *Gahnia rigida*. During the brief search of this known site they were unable to locate any plants, and found the *Gleichenia microphylla* growing there difficult to search through as it has flourished and now reaches chest height. A drone would be a great help searching for the *Gahnia rigida* population here.

Participants: Owen Spearpoint & Laura Girvan West: co-leaders & scribes. Megan Banks, John Barnett, Ella Buckley, Eleanor Burton, Gavin Dench, Michele Dickson, Jenny Fraser, Julia Fraser, Ken Fraser, Chris Horne, Kate Jordan, Aly Ortega, Lynne Pomare, Robyn Procter, Dave Reynolds, Sunita Singh, Anne Tuffin.

6 May 2023: Trelissick Park, Ngaio Gorge, Wellington

Despite the early morning weather looking unpromising, our group of 29—9 of whom came by train—had 5 hours of dry weather for a walk from Crofton Downs Station down the Korimako and Kaiwharawhara Streams to see changes and plantings since the many previous records by Wellington botanists. The park has been tirelessly worked in for pest-control and planting over the last thirty years by the volunteer Trelissick Park Group (with WCC and GWRC support), who maintain a good website. Jonathan Anderson from this group,

having detailed knowledge of the botanical activities, joined us for the day to point out features.

We saw sewer pipe reconstruction work but not the one well-hidden planted kauri seedling. At Wightwick's Field we saw the perimeter plantings, with Jonathan saying that the northern rātā / *Metrosideros robusta* had fruited last year. Just inside private property is the oldest planted nikau / *Rhopalostylis sapida* in the catchment, now developing a trunk. Natural nikau are rare in the park.

We saw the steamside scouring by recent storms and the amount of replacement planting that's been necessary. Many of the planted *Poa* spp. have not done well with wet feet. Some of the faster growing planted species e.g., wineberry, planted in previously blackberry-riddled areas, are now dying out allowing more light for the slower growing planted trees. On the stream banks before bridge 6 we saw a patch of alder / *Alnus glutinosa* over the stream—this weed may have spread from Cummings Park; a narrow-leaved lacebark / *Hoheria*

sexstylosa is self-seeding from a large one over the creek; and damage by the released weevil, *Cleopus japonicus*, doing its work on butterfly bush / *Buddleja davidii* above us. A few heritage plantings, mostly miro / *Prumnopitys ferruginea*, were examined at morning tea.

Here and there some exotic ferns met their fate in the hands of BotSoccers. Of concern is the adventive maidenhair fern / *Adiantum raddianum*, seen in patches on the valley track and the remnant track. On the sidle track near the crossroads we saw two naturally occurring kāmahi / *Pterophylla racemosa*. The plentiful fruiting of kōhia / NZ passionfruit / *Passiflora tetrandra* made a spectacle with many vines having fallen to lower levels so seeing their leaves was easy. Other old vines in the remnants and lower valley track have reached a monstrous size.

We admired the large hīnau / *Elaeocarpus dentatus* var. *dentatus*



Adiantum raddianum. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

below the crossroads from the upstream alternative track branch to the stream, where *Trichomanes venosum* draped the rocky bank. At lunch, a group visited the fifty-one kaihikatea / *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* planted for the Christchurch mosque victims. The next points of interest in the valley were: the trackside rimu / *Dacrydium cupressinum*, decorated as a Christmas tree most years; the notable large tutu overhanging the stream; and good patches of velvet fern on rocky cliff places with good fertility. We saw *Sophora* in the lower valley—50 or so we're told—most seen above in typically inaccessible places.

After some people went to nearby bus routes, the remaining group returned to Crofton Downs Station via the *Beilschmiedia tawa*-dominant forest remnant track. A notable feature of the park is the abundance of poataniwha / *Melicope simplex*, especially on the sidle tracks. Wharangi / *Melicope ternata* is also present to a lesser extent and there are hybrids of the two. Also appearing to hybridise are the large-leaved milk tree / *Streblus banksii* and the small-leaved milk tree / *S. heterophyllus*—we saw examples of both.

We added several common weed species to the list and eight indigenous plants, including *Griselinia lucida*, *Asplenium appendiculatum*, *Diplazium australe*, *Loxogramme dictyopteris*, *Pteris macilenta*, *Arthropodium candidum*, *Pseudopanax laetus* and *Sophora chathamica*—the latter two not native to the Wellington region.

Thanks to Chris Horne and Julia Stace for leading an introductory session on plant identification.

Participants: Jonathan Anderson, John Barnett, Paul Bell-Butler, Ellen Blake, Eleanor Burton, Gillian Cand-



Streblus heterophyllus. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

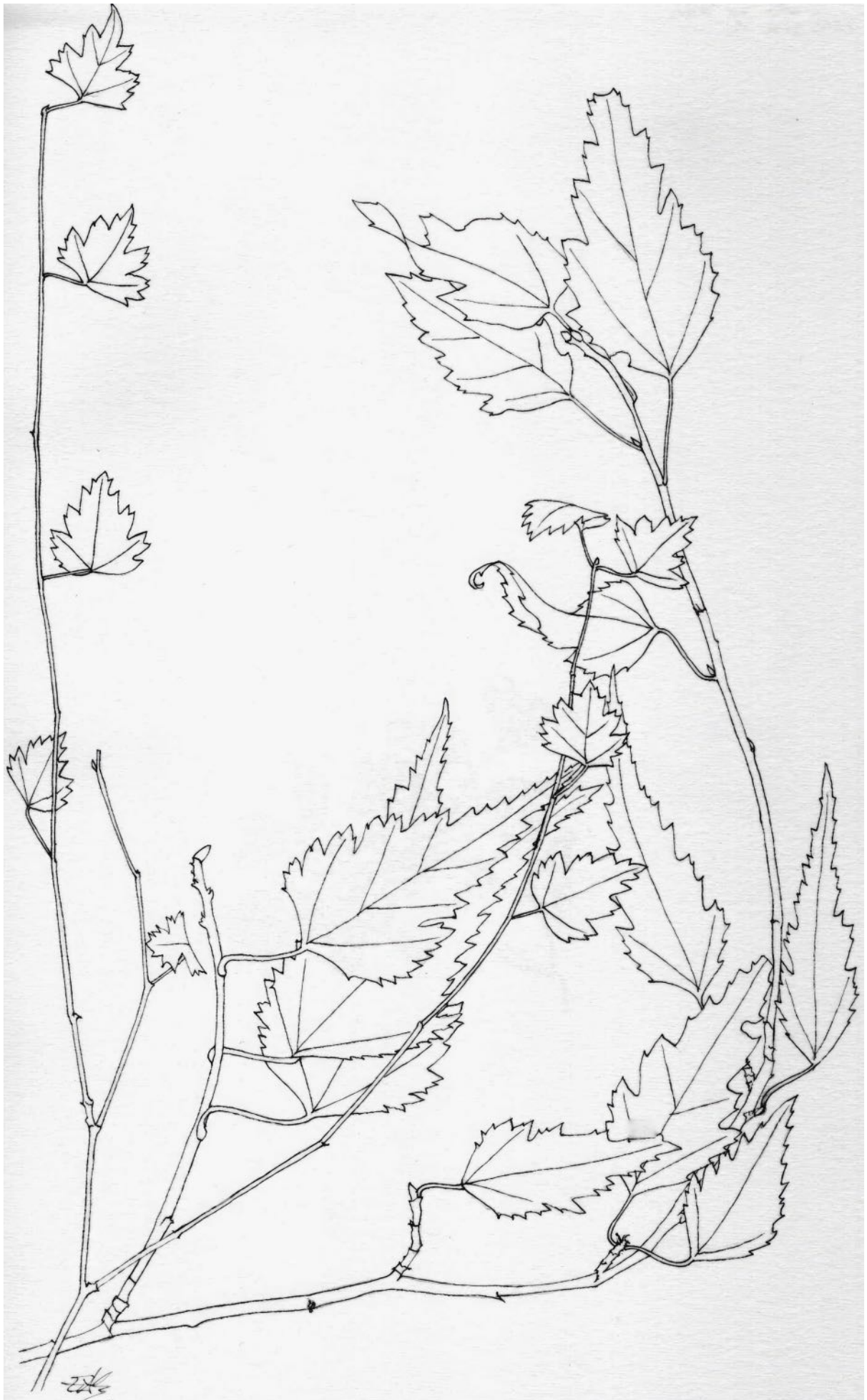
ler, Daniel Davis, Katrijn De Bock, Michele Dickson (co-leader and scribe), Julia Fraser, Ken Fraser, Ian Goodwin, Jill Goodwin, Chris Horne, Amanda Howey, Kate Jordan, Ilya Lhabanon, Pip Kirkham, Molly Melhuish, Leon Perrie, Lynne Pomare, Kerry Popplewell, Robin Procter, Dave Reynolds, Lara Shepherd, Sunita Singh, Julia Stace (co-leader), Benjamin Wright, Yeou Su Min.

10 June 2023: Devil's Elbow Remnants – Reikorangi Road Bush D, Waikanae

This is one of a series of bush remnants near the Waikanae River; it has a popular swimming hole, though apparently not in winter. We started on a river terrace with tawa/tītoki forest, and descended fairly quickly to the level of the river, where there are large podocarps, northern rātā, also pukatea. As we went along the river we found a stand of ribbonwood, but the best find of the day was large swamp maire, with healthy seedlings and no myrtle rust. Quite near these

were very big toro / *Myrsine salicina*, very cool as I usually only see it at shrub size. There were pockets of swampy areas towards the back of the river terrace, with a different flora; we couldn't quite convince ourselves that we had found *Coprosma tenuicaulis* (*C. rotundifolia* being variable and annoying). The river terrace itself was mostly rank grasses, but there were clumps of *Hierochloa redolens* in amongst it.

Participants: Paul Bell-Butler, Ellen Blake, Eleanor Burton (co-leader / scribe), Paul Callister, Daniel David, Michele Dickson, Joe Dillon, Jenny Fraser, Julia Fraser, Ken Fraser, Richard Grasse, Bryan Halliday, Chris Horne, Kate Jordan, Andy McKay (leader), Viola Palmer, Leon Perrie, Bev Scott, Lara Shepherd, Sunita Singh, Carol West.



Ribbonwood / *Plagianthus regius*, Reikorangi Road Bush. Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

17 June 2023: Te Mārua Bush Workbee, Upper Hutt

On a cool wet morning our small group made short work of planting four each of locally sourced kānuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), red mātipō (*Myrsine australis*), *Coprosma*

propinqua and lowland horopito (*Pseudowintera axillaris*). These were planted in the southern section as both infill to fill the SH2 boundary and to replace the dying plants from

the original planting—begun about 2008.

We surveyed the rest of the bush without finding any areas of concern. We did find a grove of black maire (*Nestegis cunninghamii*) seedlings that will be collected for the F&B nursery.

We collected three bags of rubbish and weeds including some barbed wire from an original tōtara strainer post. We saw very little tradescantia and montbretia.

Participants: Jenny Dalton, Gavin Dench, Chris Horne, Lynne McLellan, Sue Millar, Allan Sheppard and Glennis Sheppard (co-leaders, scribes), Graeme Sheppard, Sunita Singh.



1 July 2023: East Harbour Regional Park: Moana Road route – Korimako Track

It was a nice clear day for our group of nineteen plus a dog. We met near the bus stop on Marine Parade, Days Bay. The route from Moana Road and back down Korimako track took us about four hours at an easy pace. The BotSoccers were unusually orderly on the walk up to the Main Ridge track, with everyone keeping together as one group. We chose not to set up a learners' group as the Moana Road route is largely single-file. This didn't prove to be a problem as we had plenty of people who were keen to share their knowledge.

This Moana Road route up to the Main Ridge track may not appeal to everyone as it is not graded and maintained to the standard of the park's other tracks. However we made it up the narrow path with no problems, and enjoyed being under the closed canopy, also noting, unsurprisingly, that it is far less weedy than the main tracks. Often along the Moana Road track we saw *Coprosma microcarpa*, and *Nestegis lanceolata*, which the group soon learned. We saw *Syzygium maire* lower down the track, and the plants here looked to be in good health with no obvious signs of dieback. Further up we found the minute orchid *Corybas cheesemanii* in two spots—it had just finished flowering—thanks to Bill's keen eyes for



Coprosma microcarpa. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

pointing this out.

Once on the Main Ridge track we stopped for a late morning tea before continuing towards Korimako Track. Here the track widened but became quite boggy in places. *Drymoanthus adversus* was common along the track here, with plants easy to find growing on *Pterophylla* (*Weinmannia*) *racemosa*, *Fuscospora solandri* and *F. truncata*. We looked for *Drymoanthus flavus* without luck until we saw a single plant while descending the

Korimako Track. Many of the group had stopped botanising by this point and were just enjoying the walk down in the pleasant weather.

Participants: Laura Girvan West & Lynne Pomare: co-leaders. Paul Bell-Butler, Eleanor Burton, Bill Campbell, Riccardo Ciarle, Blue Cronin, Michele Dickson, Jenny Fraser, Richard Grasse, Kate Jordan, Graeme Lyon, Joaquin Lozaga, Molly Melhuish, Sarah Parker, Bev Scott, Ben Wright, Tirth Vaishnav.



Morelotia affinis, Korimako Track, East Harbour Regional Park. Illustration: Eleanor Burton.

5 August 2023: Birchville Dam track, Upper Hutt

We had originally planned to walk the upper reaches of Korokoro Stream from the Stratton Street entrance to Belmont Regional Park. However, a recce revealed that wet feet and scrambling would be required to see vegetation that was not very interesting. So we shifted the trip to the Birchville Dam track in Upper Hutt. Birchville Dam was completed in 1931 on Clarke's Stream, a tributary of Te Awakairangi/Hutt River, to supply water to Upper Hutt. It was retired in 1958 when Upper Hutt joined the Wellington regional water scheme. During our trip the track was well used and particularly popular with families and dog walkers.

Eighteen BotSoccers attended the trip, with three travelling by train (thanks to Jenny Fraser for providing transport from the train station). At the initial meeting point, we managed to fit everyone into five cars to carpool to the rather small car park (perhaps the most efficient BotSoc car-pooling ever!?!). We were later joined by Helen White with budding botanist Olivia (9 months) who seemed to enjoy her first BotSoc trip.

Most of the group only made it to the dam, along the short flat walk of less than 1 kilometre. This walk is only meant to take about 20 min (without botanising) but the interesting and diverse plants, plus lunch,

kept us occupied for over four hours. Following a quick introduction to fern terminology by Leon, we split into several groups, with some focussing on testing Leon and Pat Brownsey's draft fern guide, others opting for an introduction to flowering plants by Leon, and a few doing their own thing. A few speedy people ventured beyond the dam and reached the ridge but had to return the same way because the Cannon Point Walkway was closed for upgrades.

Some of the largest visible trees of the track were near the bridge by the car-park, including a large tawa (*Beilschmiedia tawa*) and pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*). From the dam viewpoint we saw a large rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) and rātā (presumably *Metrosideros robusta*). The forest had a diverse understorey particularly rich in ferns and bryophytes. Five species of tree fern were on the existing plant list and we added a sixth (*Cyathea cunninghamii*). The whekī-ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*), with their squat trunks and some hosting large five-finger/whauwhaupaku (*Pseudopanax arboreus*) were notable. We admired a very tall mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*) near the dam.

We had a few botanical additions to Pat Enright's thorough list, including kāmahi (*Pterophylla* (*Wein-*



Scars from pūriri moth larvae on trunk of putaputāwētā. Photo: Kate Jordan.

mannia) *racemosa*), nīkau (*Rhopalostylis sapida*), lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*) and several weeds (both exotic and native).

Participants: Brittany Abels, John Barnett, Ellen Blake, Eleanor Burton, Gavin Dench, Jenny Fraser, Julia Fraser, Ken Fraser, Anna-Kate Goodall, Richard Grasse, Chris Horne, Kate Jordan, Leon Perrie (co-leader), Lynne Pomare, Dave Reynolds, Lara Shepherd (co-leader / scribe), Sunita Singh, Julia Stace, Helen White (and Olivia).

DOC Wellington

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Te Pae Manuhiri, Te Rohe
ō Te Whanganui ā Tara

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18–32 Manners St

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- Hunting permits

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Sat 10 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

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Web: www.doc.govt.nz

New Zealand Government



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Te Papa Atawhai

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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

2 September 2023: Introduction to Bryophytes, Tāne's Track, Tunnel Gully

The fantastic weather and interesting location drew a big turnout of twenty-seven people, including several newcomers and two botanists from Southland. Tāne's Track is one of the best lowland forest remnants in the Wellington region—it is dense and damp, providing perfect habitat for bryophytes, the focus of this trip.

From the car-park in a grove of eucalypts we headed around the loop track at bryologist pace (very slowly). Hand lenses and magnifying glasses gave us an appreciation of the intricate beauty of these tiny plants. Leon had prepared a simple guide to distinguish liverworts and mosses so this was our first challenge. We found a good range of bryophytes to test ourselves, so we were soon able to spot the characters that help to

generally distinguish between the two groups: leaf veins (mosses)—or not (liverworts or mosses), intricate leaves (liverworts)—or not (mosses) and wiry stalks on spore capsules (mosses) versus fleshy, translucent stalks (liverworts).

We were lucky to find many liverwort sporophytes (including in different stages—emerging to split open in four valves). With their fragile stalks these sporophytes are short-lived and often difficult to spot. Further along the track we added another distinct group to our repertoire—hornworts lined the track bank in places and Paul also spotted an epiphytic hornwort on a branch above the stream.

Vascular plants were largely overlooked during the first section of

the track but Laura added *Coprosma linariifolia* to the existing plant list. Towards the carpark, when we were oversaturated with bryophytes, we appreciated the very large northern rātā, pukatea, tawa and hīnau on the valley floor,

Participants: Lucia Adams, John Barnett, Paul Bell-Butler, Eleanor Burton, Gavin Dench, Joe Dillon, Jenny Fraser, Ken Fraser, Juliette Fuehrhop, Ian Goodwin, Jill Goodwin, Chris Horne, Ashtyn Isaac, Kate Jordan, Leon Perrie (co-leader), Robyn Procter, Brian Rance, Chris Rance, Laura Rutten, Lara Shepherd (co-leader, scribe), Sunita Singh, Julia Stace, Rita Urry, Julia Wilson-Davey, Carol West, Helen White + Olivia.



Liverwort sporophytes: immature (left) and mature—dehiscent (right). Photos: Ian Goodwin.

Newsletter by e-mail?

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

Ngā mihi,
Laura Girvan West, Secretary

Wellington Botanical Society – 2024 Summer Field Trip

In: 20 January 2024, out: 27 January 2024

Based at Taylor Lodge, Ruapehu. 20 Pokaka Road, Erua 3990

To register, complete the below form and send to botsocsummercamp@gmail.com and pay your deposit when you have received confirmation of your place on the camp.

Fill in the form's check boxes by double-clicking on them, then click on 'checked' button.

Completed forms and deposit to be in by 25 November 2023.

Name:	Address:
Home phone:	Mobile:
E-mail:	
Emergency contact:	Relationship:
Phone:	

Travel and accommodation arrangements

Please indicate which evenings you intend to be at Taylor Lodge, Ruapehu <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Jan
Type of accommodation you require: <input type="checkbox"/> Bunk accommodation in dormitories, \$25.35 per person/night <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (no fires) \$25.35 per person/night <input type="checkbox"/> I/we will make my/our own arrangements.
Please specify your mode of travel to Taylor Lodge, e.g., public transport, own car, or as a passenger with someone else. Public transport – Own car – Passenger in someone else's car Do you need transport from the Bus Stop / Train station / Airport nearest Taylor Lodge? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If you are going with your own car, how many additional passengers could you take? None <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> If you are taking a car, will it be available for day trips? Is it a 4WD? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any dietary requirements? <input type="checkbox"/> Vegan <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy-free <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian

Student application

Do you wish to apply for the student support? Yes / No

If so, are you studying or doing an apprenticeship in 2023 or 2024? Yes / No

Please acknowledge that you know you need to pay your own transport to and from and the possible additional cost at the end of the trip. Yes / No

Payment

Estimated cost per person: \$470. Please deposit \$470 by internet banking when your registration is confirmed.

Account name: Wellington Botanical Society

Account number: 02 0536 0017812 02

Reference: put your name in the particulars/reference boxes of the payee section.

At the end of the trip, depending on the final cost, you will be sent an invoice (or a refund) for the full cost less your original payment.

E-mail the registration form to Tom Mayo at botsocsummercamp@gmail.com

Wellington Botanical Society

Te Rōpu Manaki i Ngā Tamariki a Tane,
o Te Whanganui a Tara



Membership application

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

I wish to join the Society

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

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

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

I would like to receive my newsletters by e-mail as a PDF: YES / NO (Delete as appropriate)

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

Signature Date:..... / /

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

Membership fees for the year ended 30 June 2024 are:

Type of membership: *Ordinary* \$35; *Country* \$30; *Student* \$10; *Group/family* \$40.

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

Please pay direct to the Society's bank account 020536 0017812 00

using the following details:

Particulars: *Name*

Code: *Membership type*

Reference: *amount of any included donation*

and e-mail this completed form to the Membership Secretary at wellingtonbotsocmembership@gmail.com

or post to: **Membership Secretary, Wellington Botanical Society Inc, PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6140**

Payment enclosed for	Ordinary membership	\$.....
	Country membership	\$.....
	Student membership	\$.....
	Group/family membership	\$.....
	Donation	\$.....
	TOTAL	\$.....

As we can no longer accept cheques, cash payments can be made directly to a member of the committee on meeting nights or field trips if the correct value is placed in a sealed envelope addressed to Membership Secretary with a copy of this form.

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

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

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

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

If you agree to your name and address being on the circulated list, please sign the authorisation below and return it with this membership application.

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

Specifically the list is not to be used for marketing, soliciting or political purposes.

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

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

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