



### From the President

The 2024 season of evening meetings was off to a great start with Carlos Lehnebach's talk about research on threatened orchids and Peter Bellingham's on forest disturbance, disentangling the effects of natural disturbance events from those caused by introduced browsers. I'm writing this before Peter Heenan gives his talk on ecosourcing for resilience which I am sure will prove to be of great interest to members and non-members alike. It is pleasing to see the rising number of people attending evening meetings in person - it makes things far more welcoming for our speakers. Don't forget that there are plants for sale for only \$5, which goes into the Jubilee Award Fund. Contributions such as these increase the value of the fund and enable us to maintain a worthwhile annual award.

Remember that the zoom link for evening meetings remains the same each month and you should be able to find it on the website and here in the newsletter: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547154619?pwd=bE0zRXRWSXBBUkVoUjdPcEljNXIjUT09> and on the Wild Plants of Wellington Facebook Group page.

Some fine field trips have been planned for the year to suit people of all interests and abilities. Ngā Manu Nature Reserve proved to be a popular choice this month and those of us who could knelt down before some *Dactylanthus taylorii* flowers to look, sniff and photograph—what a treat. The next trip is to Te Ara Paparāangi and Gilbert Bush Reserve, Newlands on Saturday 4 May—not to Matiu / Somes Island as advertised in the December newsletter. It has been a while since Peter Gilbert led the last trip to this reserve so I'm betting there will be something new to add to your lists.

We have some new members attending meetings and trips, plus people who are thinking of joining. Please make them feel welcome—it can be scary coming to a meeting of people who all seem to know one another.

*Frances Forsyth, President*

### What on earth?

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



### Articles for web site

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

[www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz)

Please send your article to:

Richard Herbert

e-mail [herbert.r@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:esmereldadoris93@gmail.com) or 479 0497.

### BotSoc on Facebook

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

This is the unofficial page for Wellington Botanical Society.

### Meetings

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

Meetings are in person and usually available on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547154619?pwd=bE0zRXRWSXBBUkVoUjdPcEljNXIjUT09>.

### Field trips

Day trips to locations in the Wellington region are usually held on the first Saturday of each month.

Extended excursions are usually held at New Year, and sometimes Easter and the first weekend in December.

**DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE – 20 August 2024**

Articles may be edited for clarity and length

## Wellington Botanical Society

<b>Address:</b>	PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6140		
<b>Web site:</b>	<a href="http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz">www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz</a>		
<b>President:</b>	Frances Forsyth	021 072 5210	
<b>Vice-Presidents:</b>	Owen Spearpoint	562 8780	
	Sunita Singh	027 405 2987	(also Programme Organiser)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Laura Girvan West	021 583 934	<a href="mailto:wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com">wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Vacant—volunteer sought		<a href="mailto:wellingtonbotsoctreasurer@gmail.com">wellingtonbotsoctreasurer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Vacant—volunteer sought		<a href="mailto:wellingtonbotsocmembership@gmail.com">wellingtonbotsocmembership@gmail.com</a>
<b>Auditor/Reviewer:</b>	To be advised		
<b>Submissions coordinator:</b>	Vacant—volunteer sought—please contact Secretary		
<b>Bulletin editor:</b>	Eleanor Burton	479 0497	
<b>Newsletter editor:</b>	Chris Horne	475 7025	
<b>Annual subscription:</b>	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 included donation

**New subscribers:** Please complete form at the back of this newsletter.

## ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS AND MEETINGS

### Ideas please

We welcome your ideas about:

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

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

### Field trips—single day

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

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

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

### What bring—clothing

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

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

### What to bring—gear and food

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

### Field trips—overnight

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

### Overnight trip gear and food

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

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

### Summer camps

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

### Postponing field trips

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

### Health and safety

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

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

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

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

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

### Fitness and experience

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

## Transport

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

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

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

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

## Trip leaders

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

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

## Other matters

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

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

## Meetings

### Public transport to meetings

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

#### TO MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### FROM MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

**Cable Car:** No service after 8 p.m.

Further information [info@metlink.org.nz](mailto:info@metlink.org.nz) Metlink, 0800 801-700.

### Zoom link for meetings

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547154619?pwd=bE0zRXRWSXBBUkVoUjdPcEljNXIJUT09>.



# NOTICES

## 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*

## Awards and grants

28 June 2024. **Waikato Botanical Society Student Scholarship – Call for applications for 2024.** Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

30 September 2024. **Grant to Graduate Students - Applications sought.** Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

6 October 2024. **Jubilee Award 2024 - Applications sought.** Please see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Events

2nd Saturday each month, except January. Ōtari-Wilton's Bush – Plant Care. **Meet:** Te Marae o Tāne Visitor Centre, 160 Wilton Rd, Wilton at 9:00 a.m. **Bus:** No. 14 Wilton bus, departs Courtenay 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.*

28 May, 6 p.m. Coastal Reserves Management Plan hui. Lyall Bay Surf Life-Saving Club, 101 Lyall Bay Pde., Lyall Bay.

6–9 October. NZ Plant Conservation Network AGM. Whangārei.

- <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz>

## Submissions called for

12 May. Wellington City Council 2024-2034 Long-term Plan.

- [wcc.govt.nz/ltp-2024-2034](http://wcc.govt.nz/ltp-2024-2034).

## 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*

## Newsletter by e-mail?

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

*Ngā mihi, Laura Girvan West, Secretary*



## 'What on earth?' revealed

Sori of gully fern / *Pakau pennigera*. The sori are composed of groups of sporangia, which contain spores. The sori of most fern species are protected by a thin membrane called an indusium but indusia are lacking in gully fern.

Photos: Jeremy Rolfe.



# FIELD TRIPS & EVENING MEETINGS

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

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

## 4 MAY – 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

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**Saturday 4 May: Field trip** **Te Ara Paparāangi and Gilberd Bush Reserve, Newlands**  
Walk the track [Te Ara Paparāangi](#), including [Gilberd Bush Reserve](#), from Tamworth Crescent to Waihinahina Park, and back. With a locally good diversity of small trees (including large kānuka), ferns (including *Leptopteris hymenophylloides*), herbaceous flowering plants (native and weedy), and bryophytes (including *Lopidium* and *Treubia*), there is interest for everyone. The track is good, but some might want to bring a walking pole for a few short, steep sections. It's a slow one hour one-way, and longer still when botanising. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. in the [carpark at the south end of Tamworth Crescent](#), Newlands. **Bus:** No. 52 Newlands 8.35 a.m, from Courtenay Place to Somes Crescent then walk to Tamworth Crescent. **Maps:** Street map + NZTopo50-BQ31 Wellington; WCC website. **Co-Leaders:** Lara Shepherd, [lara.shepherd \(at\) tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz), ph. 027 363 5854; Leon Perrie, [leon.perrie \(at\) tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:leon.perrie@tepapa.govt.nz), ph. 027 419 1378.

**Monday 20 May: Evening Meeting** **Members' Evening**  
Share a pre-meeting bring-your-own supper: a flask of hot drink, cup and a small plate of 'nibbles' to be followed by a few speakers—limit 10 minutes/person. For a gold-coin koha, or even 'folding money', buy one or more of the books we put on display to help build up the Jubilee Award Fund which supports research on NZ plants. Room opens at 7 p.m. Bring:

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

**Saturday 8 June: Field trip** **Heke St Reserve, Orleans-Makererua Reserve, Huntleigh Park**  
**Note:** NOT 1 June.  
Botanise Heke St Reserve (5-minute walk from Ngaio Station). Walk down Heke St to Makererua St to botanise & lunch in Orleans-Makererua Reserve. Walk to botanise Huntleigh Park's impressive mature forest then a 10-minute walk to Crofton Downs Station. **Meet:** 10 a.m. Ngaio Station car park, Collingwood St. **Train:** 9.32 a.m. Johnsonville line train from Wellington Stn to Ngaio Station. **Maps:** Street map + NZTopo50-BQ31 Wellington. **Leader:** Eleanor Burton 021 058 8324.

**Saturday 15 June** **Field trip – 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, then no. 112 Te Mārua bus to alight near Te Mārua store. Ask a leader to meet you there. **Maps:** Street map + NZTopo50-BP32 Paraparaumu. **Co-leaders:** Glennis Sheppard 526 7450, Sue Millar 526 7440.

**Monday 17 June: Evening Meeting** **Norfolk Island**  
**Speakers:** Lara Shepherd, Science Researcher, Te Papa and Leon Perrie, Botany Curator, Te Papa. Norfolk Island is a remote, subtropical island between New Zealand and New Caledonia. Many of Norfolk Island's native plants have affinities with New Zealand but there are also a number of endemic species. Much of the original vegetation of the island has been heavily modified since European settlement and invasive weeds are common. Many of the native plant species are now threatened. We will give an introduction to Norfolk Island and its plants. We will also provide an overview of our fern research on the island and why Norfolk Island ferns are critical to understanding New Zealand fern names.

### Saturday 6 July: Field trip

### Denton's Bush and Ōtaki River estuary

Start in lowland forest remnant on the Ōtaki River plains, and then on the north side of the Ōtaki River and river mouth. Denton Bush is a good example of mature lowland forest with a kohekohe, kahikatea, pukatea and nikau canopy. The north side of the Ōtaki River and river mouth has regenerating scrub and wetlands much of which has been planted. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. west side Waikanae Station's north end carpark. From there we will ride share and travel in convoy to Denton Bush. **Train:** 8.14 a.m. on Kāpiti line from Wellington Station to Waikanae Station. **Maps:** Street map + NZTopo50-BP32 Paraparaumu. **Leader:** Owen Spearpoint ph 027 285 8083 or email: [Owen.Spearpoint@gw.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Spearpoint@gw.govt.nz)

### Monday 15 July: Evening Meeting

### Understanding what we see when we look at native bush

**Speaker:** Dr. Hera Cook, Senior Lecturer, University of Otago. Many New Zealanders love the bush but, beyond finding it beautiful, we know little about the impact of human settlement on our forests and the swift changes taking place. This talk examines how I came to understand what I was seeing and learnt about forest dynamics, the impact of pest animals and the current situation. It suggests how we might encourage greater awareness among a wider audience and analyze the major obstacles standing in the way of doing so.

### Saturday 3 August: Field trip

### Central Park, Brooklyn

Central Park is relatively sheltered for a winter trip, handy for public transport, and within walking distance of cafés for an after-trip treat. Within the park, for beginners there is excellent diversity of small native trees and ferns. Experts can search for taonga species that have survived near downtown e.g., the giant liverwort *Plagiochila stephensoniana* or are re-establishing, and survey for problematic and new weeds. <https://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/outdoors/parks-and-reserves/town-belt-reserves/central-park>. <https://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2017/03/06/wellingtons-central-park-a-ramble-through-its-history/> **Maps:** Street map + NZTopo50-BQ31 Wellington. **Bus:** No. 7 Kingston 9.00 a.m. from Railway Station to stop at top of Willis St. Walk 150 m to park entrance. **Meet:** 9.30 a.m. inside the entrance gate to the park, on Brooklyn Rd. **Co-leaders:** Lara Shepherd, email [lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:lara.shepherd@tepapa.govt.nz), phone 027 363 5854; and Leon Perrie, email [leon.perrie\(at\)tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:leon.perrie(at)tepapa.govt.nz), phone 027 419 1378.

### Monday 19 August : Evening Meeting

### AGM; Sex, Flowers and Species – Tony Druce Memorial Lecture

**Speaker:** Phil Garnock-Jones, Emeritus Professor, Victoria University of Wellington. The age-old question of how to define species seems no closer to becoming settled science. But regardless of how we recognise species, we can be sure that sex and mating are at the heart of what a species is. For flowering plants, that focuses our attention on flowers, as we have done since Linnaeus first made known the nature of plant sexuality and applied it to taxonomy. Flowers are complex structures comprising multiple organs that (mostly) work together to bring about mating. And although unisexual plant gametophytes (female embryo sacs and male pollen grains) produce the eggs and sperms, sporophyte plants and the flowers they bear can express their sexuality along an axis from strictly female, through more common hermaphrodites, to strictly male. Unfortunately for taxonomists, flowers are short-lived and—worse—they lose their shape and colour when pressed. I'll use close-up photography to demonstrate the remarkable diversity of form and function in some New Zealand flowers and relate it to Tony Druce's prime interest: species taxonomy.

### Saturday 7 September: Field trip

### Kaiwaru Wetlands, Waikanae

These degraded wetlands within Waikanae Park require a significant restoration effort. The dominant kānuka canopy includes individual kohekohe, mataī and pukatea. The wetland is dominated by exotics but is also one of two known Kāpiti mainland sites that contain nationally critical tauriki / *Korthalsella salicornioides*, hosted on mānuka and kānuka. If time permits we will also visit Russell Reserve—a small area of kohekohe-titoki forest, a habitat type that is uncommon in Foxton Ecological District and which is much reduced in the Wellington region. It provides habitat for kererū and *Streblus banksii* / large-leaved milk tree (At Risk – Relict). The park is partly protected as Recreation Reserve. **Meet:** 10 a.m in front of Wrestling Club off Park Ave, Waikanae Park or 9.30 a.m. at Waikanae Station to collect people arriving by train. From here we travel in convoy. **Maps:** Street map + NZMSTopo50-BP32 Paraparaumu. **Train:** 8.14 a.m. Kāpiti line from Wellington Station to Waikanae Station. **Co-Leaders:** Andy McKay 027 555 653; Laura West 021 583 934 / [wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com)

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



# PUBLICATIONS

- Tā Tātou Rohe. 5.4.24. Greater Wellington Regional Council.**
  - [gw.govt.nz](http://gw.govt.nz)
- Common Ground. Supplement Two. – Who's Who in New Zealand Botanical Names: Val Smith. 2023.** Fifty people whose names are referred to in the botanical names of native plants. A4, soft cover, 56 p.
  - [valdsmit@xtra.co.nz](mailto:valdsmit@xtra.co.nz)
- NZ Plant Conservation Network: *Trilepidea* 238, 3/24.** Follow the link below—file size 4.34 MB:
  - [https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/site/assets/files/0/76/721/trilepidea\\_march\\_2024\\_final.pdf](https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/site/assets/files/0/76/721/trilepidea_march_2024_final.pdf)
  - Please tell us of any plant conservation news and events (have you found a threatened plant? Are you undertaking a restoration project? Do you have plant stories, talks, planting days, field trips, etc.?) which you would like promoted nationwide. Email details to: [info@nzpcn.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpcn.org.nz).
- NZ Botanical Society: 155 3/24: *Dracophyllum filifolium*, AGM & financial statement; call for nominations for Allan Mere Award 2024 by 30.6.24; news from AK, Rotorua, WN & NN BotSocs; contacts for other BotSocs; new population of native oxtongue *Picris angustifolia* subsp. *merxmuelleri*; biographical sketches: Albert J Allom (1825–1909), Robert Adams Wilson (1875–1964); book review: Mountain daisies – A guide to *Celmisia* in Aotearoa/NZ by Jane Godsen. Manuka Press 12/23.**
  - NZBS, c/o Canterbury Museum, PBag 4744, CH 8154. [www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz](http://www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz). Subscriptions due by 30 April – \$28, students \$15.
- Auckland Botanical Society: Newsheet 4/24.**
  - [aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com)
- Canterbury Botanical Society: newsletters 3/24, 4/24.**
- Canterbury Botanical Society: Journal 54 2023\*:** Searching for native plants in weedy urban spaces; people & places—Canterbury BotSoc 1953–1992; pearl fruit / *Margyricarpus pinnatus* on Sumner Beach dunes; threatened plants survey on rock outcrops - Port Hills & Banks Peninsula; *Carex inopinata*; Tāretekautuku / Yarrs Lagoon – description & plant lists – native & exotic; new site of *Myosotis colensoi* – Castle Hill Basin; *Colobanthus* on Banks Peninsula: laurels – space invaders; promoting fungal disease – the role of plant nursery biota; etc. \* Erratum: '2024' on cover.
  - CBS, 80 Colombo St, CH 8023.  
[info@canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz](mailto:info@canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz) <http://canterburybotanicalsociety.org.nz>
- Botanical Society of Otago. 3.24. Newsletter 101.**
  - <https://bso.org.nz>
- Forest & Bird. 391 Autumn 2024:** The need for ocean protection; condemnation of government plans to fast-track consenting process; mining Denniston Plateau?; Ōtari-Wilton's Bush – 4–pages; huge solar farm threatens Mackenzie Basin; Open Day; *Morelotia affinis*; etc.values of a constructed wetland; the plastics problem; Fensham Reserve, Carterton; revegetating Mauao – the mountain at Mt Maunganui; cat menace; etc.
  - [www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) [office@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:office@forestandbird.org.nz), Ground Floor, 205 Victoria St, WN 6011.
- A fund for the future of native plant conservation at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.** Colour brochure: A5, two folds.
  - [www.nikaufoundation.nz](http://www.nikaufoundation.nz) [info@nikaufoundation.nz](mailto:info@nikaufoundation.nz)
- Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust News and Views 3.24:** Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Fund; Chair's report; Ōtari update; Nikau Foundation link; Bob Fantl; walks; plant sales; AGM 8 May; Pā Harakeke; Lions Ōtari Conservation Lab update; *Mentha cunninghamii*; etc.
  - [owbt.org.nz](http://owbt.org.nz)
- Gorge Gazette 63 4.24:** Activities in Trelissick Park, Ngaio Gorge.
  - [trelissickgroup@gmail.com](mailto:trelissickgroup@gmail.com)
- Glean Report:** Science & technology reports coming to Wellington.
  - [report@gleanreport.com](mailto:report@gleanreport.com)
- Southern Environmental Association:** Tawatawa Reserve, Island Bay. Autumn newsletter.
  - [seanewslet@gmail.com](mailto:seanewslet@gmail.com).
- Friends of Wellington Botanic Garden, 3.24.**
  - *FOWBG-Newsletter-March-2024.pdf* available online to members.
- Canopy. 74 Autumn 2024, Native Forests Restoration Trust:** New staff; Patui Reserve, Taranaki; Taumatahinau Reserve joins Northland's reserves; search for black maire seeds; etc.
  - [www.nfrt.org.nz/forestguardian](http://www.nfrt.org.nz/forestguardian)
  - [https://www.nfrt.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Canopy-74\\_Autumn-2024-e-newsletter.pdf](https://www.nfrt.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Canopy-74_Autumn-2024-e-newsletter.pdf)
- Pipipi 57 5/23:** Cyclone Gabrielle impacts – downpours & gales; huge slips of 12/21 are revegetating; *Caladenia lyallii* and *Lastreopsis velutina* have reappeared on Hinewai; South African climbing weed – *Helichrysum petiolare* appears on Hinewai; etc. **58 11/23:** Severe gales & downpours affect vegetation; Pest-Free Banks Peninsula aims to rid peninsula of possums; etc.
  - No subscription system for biannual Pipipi but donations welcome. Direct credit BNZ 02 0832 0044225 00.
- The Forgotten Forest:** Robert Vennell. Harper Collins NZ. RRP \$40.
  - Bookshops.
- Fungi of Aotearoa – A curious forager's field guide:** Liv Sissons.
  - Bookshops.
- Kaipupuri taonga ki te ao Whānui – The taonga we stand for everywhere with everyone:** A4 colour, 57 p. Available in English and Te Reo Māori.
  - [maurituhono.org.nz](http://maurituhono.org.nz) [naumai@maurituhono.org.nz](mailto:naumai@maurituhono.org.nz)
- The Hutt News. 14.9.23:** Waiwhetū Stream, Lower Hutt now free of Cape pond weed.
- What's Up DOC? 3/24.**
  - <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/newsletters/whats-up-doc/>

## Waikato Botanical Society Student Scholarship – Call for applications for 2024.

Applications are invited for the Waikato Botanical Society Student Scholarship. The scholarship is open to any student studying for any degree or diploma with a research component in any tertiary institution in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The scholarship allocation awarded will be up to \$2,000.

Priority will be given to research projects which most align with two key aims of the Waikato Botanical Society. Which are:

- To encourage the study of botany, particularly that of New Zealand and the Waikato Region.
- To encourage the conservation of indigenous flora of New Zealand and the Waikato Region.

Applicants will also be assessed against the following set of criteria:

- Relevance and value in terms of filling gaps in existing New Zealand flora information
- Application, use or recognition of mātauranga Māori
- Ability to implement the research findings for the benefit of flora conservation
- Practical, feasible and achievable research
- Ability of the student Another key aim of the Waikato Botanical Society is to disseminate knowledge about and encourage interest in the flora of New Zealand.

The successful recipient of the grant will be invited to give a presentation to Waikato Botanical Society members on the findings of the research and contribute a summary article for the Botanical Society newsletter. Recipients of the award will be asked to acknowledge the society where possible in research publications such as a thesis.

The grant will be given in instalments as a contribution to expenses associated with the research project, identified in the application form.

Closing date for applications: **Friday, 28 June 2024**

A copy of the Application Form and the Rules of the award may be downloaded from the Waikato Botanical Society website.

### Contact for enquiries

Waikato Botanical Society Secretary. Email: [secretarybotsocwaikato@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybotsocwaikato@gmail.com)

## Jubilee Award 2024 – 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: field work; 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 [troggs@duck.com](mailto:troggs@duck.com) by **6 October 2024**.

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 2024**.

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.

## Call for nominations for BotSoc committee

Calling for nominations for the following positions: Vice President, Membership Secretary, Submissions Committee Member and Committee Member.

### Vice-President

- Ability to step into the President's role for short periods as and when required, e.g. run evening members' meetings, run committee meetings, liaise with the Secretary and Treasurer

### Membership Secretary

- Competency with Google Docs filing system
- Competency with Excel spreadsheets and how to create mailout labels
- Check membership secretary email weekly
- Check the bank account weekly
- Register new members and de-register members as required
- Contact members as required
- Send a monthly meeting reminder email from Google Drive list

### Submissions Committee Member

- Be familiar with current submissions processes and their timeframes
- Have the critical analysis skills for determining the potential effects of proposals (positive, negative and neutral) and the writing skills to develop a submission
- Keep abreast of local, regional and national regulation, planning and policy proposals and any potential effects they might have on flora and vegetation
- Produce draft submissions reflecting the Wellington Botanical Society's stance and provide to the committee for comment well before the submissions process closes



- Revise the draft submission according to agreed feedback and send to the President for final sign off

### Committee Member

- Attend committee meetings roughly every six weeks on a Wednesday from 7–8.30pm at the Ōtari-Wilton’s Bush Visitor Centre, Tāne Whakapiripiri
- Undertake light duties associated with running the society, e.g. make recommendations for monthly field trip destinations, and speakers and/or topics for evening meetings
- Make new and potential members feel welcome

### Nominations

Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary, Laura Girvan West, [wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtonbotsocsecretary@gmail.com) by Friday 16 August 2024 for the AGM on Monday 19 August 2024. Self-nominations will be welcome. More detailed job descriptions are available from the President and Secretary of the Society.

## QEII National Trust update

*Natalie Morrison – Communications Advisor*

*Jamie Pearson – Land Protection Advisor*

*Becky Harris – Team Leader Land Protection*

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

As of March 2024, QEII has a total of 5,214 registered covenants protecting 185,457 hectares throughout New Zealand. In the Wellington region there are 383 Open Space Covenants registered, protecting 6,541 hectares. The largest

registered covenant in the Wellington region is 824 hectares and the average size is 17 hectares.

### New covenants in the Wellington region

In the Wellington region, as well as nationally, approvals and registrations of new covenants have slowed down recently for a variety of reasons, but mainly due to economic pressures. Many people seem to be holding off on covenanting plans and fencing is taking longer due to both costs and unfavourable weather conditions. As such, no new registrations have taken place in the Wellington region yet this calendar year.

### Threatened plant found in QEII covenant

Members of QEII’s Central Team, some of whom support QEII’s work on the ground in the Wellington Region, spent some time together out in the field as part of their annual gathering. While the team were out and about with Horizons Regional Council staff, the team was excited to spot the tiny *Gratiola concinna*, which is Threatened – Nationally Endangered in a covenant in the southern Tararua region.



*Gratiola concinna*, found in a covenant in the southern Tararua region.

## DOC Wellington

### Visitor Centre

*Te Pae Manuhiri, Te Rohe  
ō Te Whanganui ā Tara*

Conservation House,  
18–32 Manners St

- Track, hut, conservation information
- Kapiti Island visitor permits
- Hut tickets, backcountry hut passes
- Hunting permits

Open: Mon–Fri 9 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.  
Sat 10 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Tel: 04 384 7770 Fax: 04 384 7773

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

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

New Zealand Government



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

As per the NZPCN website this species is usually found in muddy depressions of forest clearings, along the edges of streams, lakes, rivers or ponds. *Gratiola concinna* is true to its name: *gratiola* meaning “Little beauty” and *concinna* meaning “Charming, elegant”. This pretty, dark green perennial herb forms prostrate leafy mats, creeping widely and bearing white flowers in December-February. *Gratiola concinna* faces habitat loss mainly through the drainage and degradation of its wetland habitat and competition with introduced weeds.

This species was originally found in the covenant in December 2023 after an intense search and was known from the area historically. Finding this species in a covenant is heartening and QEII hopes to work with local experts and organisations to ensure its protection and potentially propagation.

### QEII's contribution to new covenants

QEII contributes to fencing and initial establishment costs of new voluntary covenants. In most cases, QEII will share fencing costs of standard stock-proof fencing equally with the landowner. Third party funding may be available in some cases, often from local or regional councils. Each new covenant qualifies for an establishment grant of between \$500-\$5,000, to be used for covenant enhancement, which could include weed and pest management or plants for revegetation. Ongoing maintenance of the covenant area and fences are at the landowner's cost.

### Become a member of QEII

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

## Greater Wellington Pest Plant Update

Moth plant (*Araujia hortorum*), an Eradication species in our Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), was found at a local garden centre growing as a seedling from a pot. This was reported to us by a member of the public. The moth plant came from an Auckland nursery that grows hen and chicken fern (*Asplenium bulbiferum*) for sale. It's likely this was produced from contaminated potting mix. This has been reported to Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) as moth plant is a National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) species and they are working with the nursery.

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) is an Exclusion species in our RPMP. There are two sites in our region that we have been controlling regularly. At the first site we initially removed over three tonnes of material and soil from the property and have been digging up small amounts of regrowth from missed roots on inspections. At the other site we have removed over one tonne of material. Over summer regrowth was significant, which led us to use chemical control and digging methods.

In the Wairarapa and Waikanae, we have located four new sites of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a Progressive Containment species in the RPMP. We actively control this species across our region primarily through manual methods but use chemical control on larger infestations.

Eelgrass (*Vallisneria spiralis*, *V. gigantea*), a Sustained Control species within our RPMP, is controlled in wetlands or water-bodies identified as specific outstanding wetlands and water-bodies defined in our Natural Resources Plan.

Although we do not control it in aquarium tanks or small ponds—it is illegal for people to possess eelgrass within the Wellington region. We have found one new site in the Wairarapa between two known sites and have actively controlled this site through hand removal.

In biocontrol news, we have released ragwort plume moth (*Platyptilia isodactyla*) at two sites in Wellington to help with control at these sites and to assist ragwort plume moth spread within our region. Our neighbours at Horizons Regional Council helped us by collecting the caterpillars from a well-populated site to provide for translocations.

We recently monitored our tradescantia yellow spot leaf fungus (*Kordyana brasiliensis*) sites within our region. Two sites are doing very well with one showing infection across all plants on site. We have observed a natural spread across Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River to a Key Native Ecosystem site that we do other pest control work in. Spread in this area is prolific enough for us to consider translocating infected tradescantia (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) to other sites within the region to help spread the fungus. This involves moving live plants from the initial sites to grow at the translocated site. As it is an NPPA species, MPI have granted us a permit to do this work.

Mark McAlpine (*Kiataki a tima*, Team Leader – Pest Plants), Greater Wellington Regional Council

## Percy Scenic Reserve News

Much like last year, many of the plants around the reserve have struggled with the dry summer which followed a wet and windy spring. Many of our Veronicas have had a hard time of it, they are often the first to start to struggle.

We have grown several seed batches including *Plantago triantha*, *Sophora longicarinata* and *Chionochloa beddii*, which have all now been potted up.

We have also taken several batches of cuttings, amongst these were *Melicytus novae-zelandiae*, *Olearia cheesemantii* and *Coprosma wallii*.

Through the summer, as time allowed, we have been repotting some of the plants in the alpine collection and potting on propagated plants in to larger pots. Those which are now probably three years old are now in 1.5 to 1.8 litre pots.

Those propagated plants in the larger pots and are now of a size to be planted out have been moved into the stand-out area to harden off for planting. Some of these plants will go into the alpine collection, some will be planted around the reserve and some will be planted in the wider Lower Hutt area. These include *Atriplex cinerea*, *Muehlenbeckia ephedroides* and *Melicytus improcerus*.

We have over the last couple of years been growing *Celmisia* “Mangaweka”, along with Ōtari–Wilton's Bush, to plant out in to the wild in the Manawatū. This *Celmisia* species is extinct in the wild. Another batch of seedlings was potted up over the summer. Again, in conjunction with Ōtari we have been growing cuttings of *Myosotis petiolata* for planting out in the wild, this time in Hawkes Bay. This *Myosotis* species has only two known plants in the wild. Both of these projects are also being carried out in conjunction with the local DOC departments—both great projects for us to be involved with.

We took some cuttings of *Metrosideros bartlettii* last year, most have died, but about twenty are still going. One has rooted and has been potted up. The cuttings were taken from a tree in the conservatory in central Lower Hutt. It is



possible this tree is of a different genetic make-up from the others around Percy Reserve.

One of our *Myosotis australis* subsp. *australis* has flowered for the first time, it has turned out to be the yellow version of the plant rather than the usual white, which was interesting. I am not sure of the percentage of plants with yellow rather than white flowers.

An update on the new glasshouses: The old glasshouse near the office has been demolished and the shade-house has been dismantled. The shade house will be rebuilt on the site of the demolished house using the rescued parts of the original shade house. This leaves the site where the shade house had been standing free for building the two new climate-controlled glasshouses. The construction of the foundations for these should be starting very soon.

*Cliff Keilty, Gardener*

## Ōtari Update

The dry summer weather has put a lot of stress on plants in the forest and gardens with many plants drooping—none quite as spectacularly as the para / king fern in the Fernery.



Para / king fern wilting in the dry weather.

I was pleased to be able to support the recent launch of the Ōtari-Wilton Bush Fund, which has been established by the Trust with the Nikau Foundation. It is a strategic initiative that I believe will enable more scientific research, environmental education and conservation work on our amazing native flora. I am excited at the potential that this fund brings! More information here: [www.nikaufoundation.nz/donate-now](http://www.nikaufoundation.nz/donate-now).

We are excited about the new entrance signage which is now being installed at our main entrances. This has been a long time coming so it is fantastic to see it being realised.



The gardens are quite busy with a steady stream of tour groups and schools enjoying learning about native plants.

Some minor track improvements have been completed on the upper Blue, Yellow and Jock's tracks. We are planning an upgrade of track markers in the forest this winter, but the unexpected collapse of the bridge near the northern carpark may delay this. Work on the entrance to the Visitor Centre deck is expected to start soon so please respect any detours and keep to the tracks and paths. We have had the trees in the gardens and along the Circular Walk assessed by arborists who have identified some actions we can take but nothing urgent.

Perhaps the most interesting process of drafting the WCC Long-Term Plan that I have been part of (and I have seen a few!) has been completed with a draft soon out for community consultation. Please take the time to engage with the process and make your opinions heard. There is a significant investment in water (more than \$4 billion) as well as a new rubbish (and green waste!) collection system proposed which will likely help us reduce cost, carbon emissions, garden waste dumping (the main source of weed infestations in reserves) and the prevalence of rats (they love compost) across the city. Also funding is proposed for the redevelopment of the Ōtari nursery and resolution of the sewage overflows near the northern carpark. Submissions open from 12 April: [www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz](http://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz)

Our friends in animal control have been doing regular patrols and report generally good behaviour by dog owners, while there are a few persistent people who insist on not following the rules who have been getting tickets. Please remind people with dogs off leads that they risk a \$300 fine, do not confront people or tell them what to do—be their ally. If you are comfortable taking a photo of the owner and/or dog, please send it to [info@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wcc.govt.nz) or log it on the WCC Fixit app. It is especially important that dogs are kept on a lead because kiwi are now nesting in Ōtari.

The team and I are increasingly frustrated at people not respecting the closure of the mulch pile at the northern carpark. We make this available to the public for free and it is annoying when closures are not respected. Unfortunately, we are currently considering alternative locations that do not have public access. When the rope is up across the pile it is closed—no exceptions. The mulch pile is currently closed while Wellington Water investigates solving the sewage overflow nearby.

The Ōtari Wilton Bush Trust has a great line up of walks—they are all listed at [www.owbt.nz/visiting](http://www.owbt.nz/visiting). Please have a look and join in.

We have garden weeding volunteer sessions on Thursday mornings every week and additionally a newish group that is focused on weeding in the forest on the first and third Thursday of the month. Please get in touch if you are keen.

*Mā te wā,*

*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](mailto:Tim.Park@wcc.govt.nz) [Wellington.govt.nz](http://Wellington.govt.nz)*



## TRIP REPORTS

### 4 November 2023: Days Bay loop, East Harbour Regional Park

We were treated to an excellent walk up Days Bay's Korimako Track, led by Te Papa's resident orchid-extraordinaire, Dr. Carlos Lehnebach. We focussed on orchid hunting, with about twenty-five people present. Highlights were numerous including abundant

*Thelymitra nervosa* plus *Caladenia variegata*, both *Drymoanthus* species and several *Pterostylis* species including *P. montana* in flower.

Carlos discussed his work on orchids and the work being done on germination at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Lion's plant laboratory. I discussed

my work on modelling the impacts of climate change on our orchids.

Near the end, we were also treated to good views of a shining cuckoo, while riflemen and tomtits followed us throughout.

Joe Dillon

### 7 & 9 December 2023: Rātā walks, Lower Hutt

These looped through the suburb of Waiwhetu, starting and ending at Woburn Railway Station. The first was an after-work walk on Thursday and a Saturday morning walk.

There were a dozen northern rātā en route at every stage of flowering from full bloom to not-at-all. The rātā at Our Lady of Compassion School, which is about 2m tall, was covered in blossoms and the majestic Leighton Ave rātā put on a spectacular show (see photo).

Unfortunately, I was injured and couldn't lead the walks. I am very grateful to John Barnett and Jenny Fraser who stepped in at the last minute and led people around, armed with a slightly fuzzy map. I met up with each group at the end.

The Thursday evening group (led by John) saw pūkeko and kārearea, both of which are fairly common in this part of the Hutt. The group disagreed with my identification of one tree as *Metrosideros kermadecensis* (which, admittedly, was my being lazy and saying 'well, it's flowering in June'). Chris Horne pointed out it was hairless underneath, ruling out *M. kermadecensis*. Julia Stace hypothesised it was a hybrid. Investigations are continuing.

The Saturday morning group (led by Jenny) included Councillor Andy Mitchell, who spotted some more mature native trees to add to his ever-expanding list to investigate for protection.

**Route:** Grenville St, Waiwhetu Rd, Guthrie St, Riverside Drive, around Te Whiti Park, Whites Line East, Hinemoa St, Wainui Rd, through Our Lady of the Rosary School, Bell Rd, Whites Line East, Leighton Ave.

**Participants:** *Thursday*—Iona Angus, John Barnett, Chris Horne, Graeme Lyon, Michael Pringle, Grant Roberts, Colin Sarten, John Simes,

Julia Stace, Nate Yew. *Saturday*—Jenny Fraser, Andy Mitchell, Sandra Pearce, and apologies to two men whose names I didn't record.



The very impressive northern rātā on the corner of Leighton Ave and Awamutu Cres, Waiwhetu.

## 20–27 January 2024: Erua, Ruapehu Summer Camp

E ngā hau e whā o te motu, ngā mihi o te ata rā ki a koutou.

Twenty-seven Te Whanganui-a-Tara BotSoc friends attended the summer field trip based at Taylor Lodge, Erua, on SH4 north of Ohakune. Most of us were from the Wellington area. Four BotSoc folk were unable to attend due to ill health. As far as I am aware everyone who attended the camp has now recovered from the puns.

We visited several very different plant habitats described in the following trip reports. We botanised Silica Rapids, Taranaki Falls, Mangawhero Forest, Waitonga Falls, Lake Rotokura, Rangipo Desert / Tukino Skifield, Turoa Skifield, Whakapapa Skifield plus some odd pull-ins and bits around the area.

Highlights for the groups were seeing three faces of Ruapehu—West, South and East during our week. The torrential downpour on our first day of

field trips did nothing to dampen the spirits of Chris Horne and our DOC local Ranger Lois Allison-Cooper as we headed along the Silica Rapids track, the river becoming a raging torrent while overhead lightning flashed and thunder exploded.

We owe a debt to our wonderful hosts Kylie & Ben at Taylor Lodge, Erua, who also catered for us, and to Lois Allison-Cooper who on 20.11.23 travelled to Te Whanganui-a-Tara to give a beautiful kōrero about her work with DOC in the Ruapehu District. Lois also took a day botanising with us when we arrived and spent some time talking through her mahi in the area.

I'd like to thank:

- our wonderful Wellington Botanical Society committee for making these adventures possible;
- Helen White for sponsoring the student placements which allow for bright new botanists to attend;
- Kate Jordan for taking on the

mammoth task that would normally be done by Richard Herbert—recording each day who got lifts in whose cars so that mileage could be paid to drivers;

- Gail Donaghy & Graeme Jane for sending us some species lists;
- all those who contributed to the day-to-day chores—a big pat on the back—ngā mihi nui.

*Tom Mayo, Trip Leader.*

**Participants:** John Barnett, Paul Bell-Butler, Katrijn de Bock, Gavin Dench, Michelle Dickson, Joe Dillon, Jenny Fraser, Julia Fraser, Ken Fraser, Laura Girvan-West, Barbara Hammonds, Deryn Hardie-Boys, Chris Horne, Megan Ireland, Kate Jordan, Blue Kronin, Tom Mayo, Pascale Michel, Sarah Parker, Mick Parsons, Sunita Singh, Owen Spearpoint, Elizabeth Stockman, Karen Whitton, Steve Whitton.



Summer trip participants minus people who left early.



### 21.1.2024: Silica Rapids

**Map:** NZTopo50-BJ34 Mt Ruapehu; BH34 Raurimu

Our first day in Tongariro National Park began with a warm muggy start plus a briefing and discussion on where we would spend our day. With a heavy storm expected in the afternoon, we elected to do a couple of short walks.

Our first taste of Tongariro vegetation was along the Marton Sash and Door cycleway—a bog dominated by *Empodisma minus* and *Gleichenia alpina*. There had been a tip-off that the extremely rare tree, *Pittosporum turneri*, grew here. Despite many keen eyes, we didn't have sufficiently detailed information to locate the plants!

We moved on to the Silica Rapids track, a popular tourist walk on the north side of Ruapehu. Today, however, we had it mostly to ourselves due to the aforementioned weather. The beginning of our walk meandered through grassland and shrubland dominated by red tussock / *Chionochloa rubra* subsp. *rubra* var. *rubra*, inaka / *Dracophyllum longifolium*, *D. recurvum* and hybrids thereof, hebes—*Veronica odora*, *V. tetragona*, *V. venustula* and snow tōtara / *Podocarpus nivalis*. Some of us stopped often to sample the delicious tōtara receptacles.

The latter half of the walk followed the rapids through mountain beech (*Fuscospora cliffortioides*) forest. By this time lightening and thunder accompanied the rain pelting down, so most were simply trying to finish the track without slipping over! My 'plant of the day' was the giant mountain sedge / *Gahnia procera*. A very robust tussock-forming plant, it was most common in the open areas and its form contrasted strongly with the grasses and shrubs in the landscape.

Paul Bell-Butler

**Participants:** Most of the party plus DOC Biodiversity Ranger, Lois Allison-Cooper who had spoken at our evening meeting on 20 November 2023.

### 22.1.2024: Taranaki Falls track

**Map:** NZTopo50-BJ34 Mt Ruapehu; BH34 Raurimu

After yesterday's soaking, we looked forward to much more benign weather for this great botanising walk. We weren't disappointed by both the weather and the treasures unfamiliar to most of us in our group.

The rather ubiquitous *Calluna vulgaris* / Scottish heather in full flower greeted us at the start of the track but it soon gave way to a scrub community dominated by *Coprosma pseudocuneata* and *Olearia nummulariifolia*. A wetter hollow on the track obviously held enough wetness for the edges to be a bank of *Pentachondra pumila* and a glossy bed of *Wahlenbergia albomarginata* subsp. *albomarginata* with no sign of flowers. Among the dominant red tussock, *Chionochloa rubra* subsp. *rubra*, was a surprising amount of *Anthoxanthum redolens* in full flower. On reaching a small forest remnant beside a stream we were greeted by large *Polystichum vestitum*. Here we had lunch surrounded by a suite of *Coprosma* species. The dominant species was *Coprosma foetidissima* but associated with it were *C. tenuifolia*, *C. microcarpa* and *C. cheesemanii* as we came out into the open again. Also within reach were beds of both *Lagenophora srangulata* and *L. pumila* within the shade.

Further into the forest there was a stand of large *Pittosporum colensoi*. Along the stream where light entered the canopy *Rytidosperma gracile* lined the side of the path.

Emerging from the forest onto freshly weathered volcanic ash there were both *Gentianella bellidifolia* and *Forstera tenella* within metres of one another.

Near the end of the walk above the falls on a north-facing slope, a divaricate that had been puzzling us for some time, betrayed its identity by its fruit and pale red flowers. It was *Aristotelia fruticosa* scattered as if it were an orchard in an open area among low grasses.

Mick Parsons

### 23.1.2024: Mangawhero Forest

**Map:** NZTopo50-BJ34 Mt Ruapehu

This track is in a reserve set aside in the logging days by the Scenic Preservation Society when the Main Trunk Line was being built and almost all the timber in the area was logged. Just a few patches of forest were being saved as examples of the ancient native bush. It is a beautifully maintained reserve of ancient podocarps and tawa, rich in ferns and mosses, on the outskirts of Ohakune. There are many light wells created naturally by falling trees. Here young potential forest giants are shooting up. Halfway around the loop walk, at 1.7 km, we

crossed the road to the Turoa ski field, which was built by the people of Ohakune in the early 1950s. They had a vision of creating access to the Mt Ruapehu ski field higher up to keep the town alive after the timber extraction finished. (There were 40 timber mills in Ohakune at its peak.) This 18.6-km road is one of a few Special Purposes roads in NZ.



Photo: Pascale Michel.

The Mangawhero walking track, formerly the Lions Wheelchair Walk, begins and ends beside the 15-minute Rātā Walk, which engaged five of our group for half a day. There were many, many magnificent podocarps, with huge rātā vines in their canopies, and layers of plants below them, as it is in ancient forest. At one place several vines of *Metrosideros colensoi*, were aligned, making an impressive curtain beside the track. Completing the Mangawhero Loop took those five people the rest of the day.

Joe Dillon recorded nine *Hymenophyllum* species: *H. demissum*, *H. dilatatum*, *H. flabellatum*, *H. flexuosum*, *H. multifidum*, *H. nephrophyllum* (kidney fern), *H. rarum*, *H. scabrum* and *H. villosum*.

Beside the track were many *Alseuosmia pusilla* mimicking *Horopito colensoi* but lacking the peppery taste and white backs to the leaves. Close to the track was a gob-smacking group of five *Dicksonia fibrosa* d.b.h. c. 50 cm. People seeing the moss *Dawsonia superba* for the first time were suitably impressed.





*Hymenophyllum dilatatum*. Illustration: Deryn Hardie-Boys.

The bright yellow flowers of birds-foot trefoil, *Lotus pedunculatus*, stood out—a common weed throughout our trips in Tongariro National Park.

If you are ever travelling through Ohakune this would be an accessible place to break your journey and ‘bush bathe’ for a while.

The park is now a dual World Heritage Area.

Julia Stace

## Reference

*The Ohakune Mountain Road Yard by Yard* by Karen Hawke Grimwade. (First published by the Ruapehu District Council. Bought from the Ohakune i-Site.)

## 24.1.2024: Te Onetapu (Rangipo Desert) from Tukino Skifield access road

**Map:** NZTopo50-BJ35 Waiouru

Our first stop was not far off SH1 where we ventured into the freezing cold, stiff southerly for our first look at the vegetation on the eastern and more arid side of Ruapehu. It's not called a Desert for nothing!

Features of the landscape at this altitude, c. 1100 m, were how the plants grew in clumps on the otherwise bare substrate of sandy to gravelly volcanic material. The clumps were mainly of individual species such as *Rytidosperma setifolium* with their fluffy, mature seed heads bending with the wind, while a bit further on there were mounds of more substantial plants like *Dracophyllum recurvum* and *Podocarpus nivalis*. It seems that as plants grow they accumulate wind-blown sand which then allows them to grow wider and higher, and for more species to grow together.

The grass *Anthosachne solandri* was one plant that almost always grew as an individual plant among a clump of other species, with just one seed

head with its strikingly long awns sticking up on a long stem.

Other plants were more mat forming e.g., *Carmichaelia nana*. Some of these had been browsed, and hare pellets indicated the likely culprits. The good news was that many plants bore fresh seed pods, buried amongst their low growing stems. Some mats of *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* were almost covered by their fleshy fruit, while others were still flowering.

When the going got a bit tough for 2WD vehicles, most of us piled in to the three 4WDs, eventually reaching the locked gate at just over 1400 m, above the intersection with the Round the Mountain Track.



Mick's truck plus travellers on Te Onetapu. Photo: Julia Stace.

Here we dispersed down into the rocky terrain around a small watercourse, sheltered from the wind, where one of us spied a pair of mating *Maoricicada cassiope*. They were virtually immobile, making them ideal photographic subjects but surely also vulnerable to predation. Luckily no hungry predators were out in the midday sun.



*Maoricicada cassiope* out in the midday sun. For more information about cicadas: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/kihikihi-cicadas-and-their-sounds/cicadas-aotearoa-new-zealand-3>. Photo: Barbara Hammonds.

Other highlights were flowering mats of *Raoulia albosericea*, *Styphelia*

*nesophila*'s large orange fruits glowing against the desert, and the central North Island endemic *Pimelea microphylla* with its pointy white fruit that looked oversized for the size of the plants. Higher up, *Parahebe spathulata*, in flower, caused some excitement. On one of our stops we investigated one of the larger patches of vegetation, where we found ancient-looking trees of *Olearia nummularifolia*, some with trunks likely exceeding 10 cm in diameter, and with exposed roots forming dramatic sculptures.

The landscape was astonishing: not just the big views in all directions, but as we got higher up, the gentler slopes were patterned with striations of wind-winnowed sand of different hues from darker to lighter browns-oranges, and where the slopes had been cut by watercourses, horizontal layers of varying consistencies showed.



Te Onetapu (Rangipo Desert) striations. Photo: Barbara Hammonds.

Lower down, damage caused by people driving off-road vehicles willy-nilly over the terrain was disappointing to see.

Barbara Hammonds

## 24.1.2024: Swale behind the National Army Museum, Waiouru

Thanks to Joe having time on his hands before his bus to Wellington, and the marvels of modern communication, most of us were treated to a rare find, *Drosera pygmaea* (At Risk – Relict), in a location many of us wouldn't have thought to look: a damp swale or overflow area behind the Army Museum. Perhaps due to being regularly filled with water and/or occasional maintenance spraying, the swale wasn't overgrown with rank grasses and had a fair amount of bare ground between the sparse vegetation, ideal habitat for this species. Even so, it took a determined search to find the first

tiny plant, but then we were away: bums up, heads down, marvelling at and photographing the tiniest of sundews any of us had ever seen. This is one of its few known locations.



*Drosera pygmaea* with a finger for scale. Photo: Barbara Hammonds.



*Drosera pygmaea* photographed with a cellphone, through a 10x hand lens. Photo: Katrijn De Bock.

## 25.1.2024: Turoa ski field and surrounding alpine area

**Map:** NZTopo50-BJ34 Mt Ruapehu  
Five cars left Taylor Lodge and drove to the Turoa ski field carpark with about twenty people. The day was an absolute stunner with clear skies and very little wind; despite this Laura decided it was a balaclava kind of day.



Laura Girvan-West prepared for the elements.

The site comprised a typical alpine zone with loose boulders and gravels and most of the area was both high in elevation (1600+m above sea level) and steep in topography.

As the site is annually covered in snow the vegetation was low in stature and of the 'rugged' nature. As such it was one of those botanising trips where heads were down, butts were up and hand lenses were out. One of the dominant species was the moss, *Racomitrium pruinosum*, which seemed to be the perfect site for many other species to grow from including *Drosera arcturi* which I think shows the magic of water retention in a brutally exposed site!



*Drosera arcturi*.

Botanical highlights included *Anisotome aramatica*, *Brachyglottis bidwillii*, *Celmisia gracilentia*, *C. incana*, *Dracophyllum recurvum*, *Podocarpus nivalis*, and *Veronica tetragona*.

Non botanical highlights included spectacular views to as far as a hazy Mount Taranaki, one of the best sites possible for morning tea and a single snowball expertly rolled by Paul.

Whilst the botanical biodiversity may have been lower than we would often see within a forested ecosystem.. ..it was a joy to see how these beautiful small plants find spaces between the rocks to intermingle in an endless array of diversity.

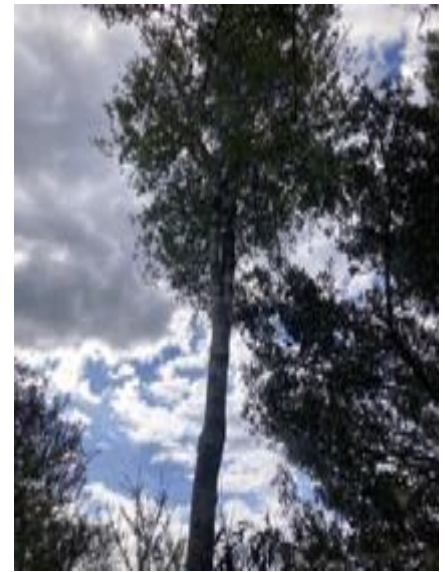
Joe Dillon

### 25.1.24: *Pittosporum turneri* second time lucky

After the day's main outing, some of us went to Erua Road and the Erua Conservation Area, just across Waimarino Stream, where Jenny and John had located the so-far-elusive *Pittosporum turneri* (Threatened: Nationally Vulnerable, and now confined to the Central North Island) the day before. After hilariously stumbling across the *Empodisma minus* swamp from one

mound to the next, trying to avoid the watery depths hidden between and below, we emerged on to solid ground under a patch of scrubby forest on the west side of the stream, where, to our delight, we found not just three adult trees, but numerous juveniles. There were also some *Corokia cotoneaster*, and the At Risk – Naturally Uncommon fern, *Botrychium australe*. Thanks John for showing us the way!

We were then treated to a bonus on the east side of the stream: a group of mature *Melicytus flexuosus* (Threatened: Nationally Vulnerable), one with fruit. Alas, the one juvenile seen had been heavily browsed.



Mature *Pittosporum turneri*. Photo: Barbara Hammonds.

### 25.1.24: Rotokura Lake Walk

In the mystical woodlands of New Zealand, our escapade unfolded along the Rotokura Lake walk. Our first marvel was a towering *Pteridium esculentum*, an extraordinary fern stretching to an impressive 3 metres, heralding the wonders ahead.

Beneath a canopy of *Pseudopanax arboreus*, the understorey was a patchwork of *Coprosma* species— *Coprosma autumnalis*, *C. tenuifolia*, *C. rhamnoides*, and *C. microcarpa*, and *Blechnum* ferns (*B. novae-zealandiae* and *B. discolor*) each playing their part in this verdant mosaic. The path then led us into a cathedral of beeches, where towering *fuscospora fusca* / red beech and *Lophozonia menziesii* / silver beech imparted a spacious, serene aura.

Here, amidst these arboreal monarchs, *Cyathea* and *Dicksonia* tree-fern species stood like guardians of old. Draping these giants, elegant



epiphytes like *Astelia solandri* adorned the branches, adding a touch of ethereal beauty to the forest's high canopy. The air resonated with the melodies of *Todiramphus sanctus* / kōtare / kingfisher and *Anthornis melanura* / korimako / bellbird, weaving a spell-binding ambiance.

The first lakeside—Dry Lake, a realm of *Leptospermum scoparium* / mānuka and *Leucopogon fasciculatus* and *Leptecophylla juniperina*, welcomed water-birds into its tranquil embrace. As we ventured through ancient beeches, the reflective beauty of Mount Ruapehu in the second lake's waters—Lake Rotokura—was a sight of idyllic splendour.

Our tale culminated with a majestic fungal find, a symbol of the ever-present mysteries in these enchanted woods. In Rotokura, every leaf and fern frond spun a narrative, inviting us into a world where nature's magic reigns supreme.



Impressive bracket fungi on the Rotokura Lake Walk.

*Katrijn de Bock*

## 25.1.2024: Horopito Track

**Map:** Mt Ruapehu NZTopo50-BJ34  
Our group of six explored Horopito Track which leads to Mangaturuturu Hut from Horopito settlement. The day was fine and warm with some

cloud on the mountains. After much searching and asking a local resident, we found the road access to the entrance to the DOC conservation estate closed by a locked gate. We learned driving access might be granted with permission from the owner of the farmland between Horopito and Tongariro National Park. However the farmer was not home so without driving access we walked the first 4 km across pasture, then into mānuka and kānuka regeneration, toward distant majestic Mt Ruapehu. Once we reached the regenerating mānuka and kānuka we discovered the understorey had a rich diversity of native flora. The edges and ditch along the farm track through this section of regeneration gave us rewarding sightings of wetland communities. In the ditch beside the road and under the mānuka scrub a wide range of leafy and rushy *Juncus* spp, *Carex* spp, *Potamogeton suboblongus*, *Myriophyllum triphyllum*, *Gonocarpus agregatus* and *Drosera binata* were common. Within the kānuka scrub we saw large *Elaeocarpus hookerianus* with juvenile and adult forms, fruiting *Aristotelia fruticosa*, flowering *Neomyrtus pendiculata* and *Clematis quadribacteolata*.

After two hours botanising and walking, we reached the Tongariro National Park boundary. Under a spreading *Fuscospora solandri* we had lunch. Then we crossed the fence and continued up the old logging road / Horopito Track which was gravelled, slightly overgrown in places, but still well defined. The mature beech / podocarp forest was a sharp contrast to the farmland: the main canopy species were *Fuscospora solandri*, *Libocedrus bidwillii*, *Dacrydium cupressinum*, *Podocarpus laetus* and *Pectinopitys ferruginea*. The understorey showed evidence of years of ungulate browsing and pigs. The dominant species we saw were *Sticherus cunninghamii*, *Gahnia pauciflora*, *Leucopogon fasciculatus*, *Pseudowintera colorata* and *Coprosma colensoi*. On the track where water had accumulated we saw patches of *Drosera spatulata* and *Gonocarpus micranthus* subsp. *micrathus*. In the wetter parts of the adjacent forest we saw large patches of *Astelia grandis*, *Microlaena avenacea* and *Blechnum minus*.

*Owen Spearpoint*

## 26.1.2024 Tree Trunk Gorge Walk – East end

**Map:** NZTopo50-BJ35 Waiouru  
More road works!—but all three vehicles eventually arrived at the Urchin campsite/car-park off Kaimanawa Rd, an access road for the Tongariro Power Scheme. Six of us, not intending to climb Urchin as did some of the group, ambled onto the Tree Trunk Gorge Track at the north end, where the track initially follows two little tributaries of the Tongariro River. Immediately we were enchanted by the beech forest, dominated by massive red beech, mingimingi, kāmahī and crown fern, glittering in dappled light. Mostly we saw a healthy understorey, often including five *Coprosma* spp, *Pseudopanax* spp, horopito, black maire and putaputawētā, with occasional tōtara, miro and mataī. We saw a shrub of *Helichrysum lanceolatum*. Below the giants we recorded numerous *Astelia fragrans* and some sixteen species of fern including the lovely *Leptolepia novae-zelandiae*. Of the *Hymenophyllum* spp. *H. multifidum* and *H. demissum* were easily identified. Tree ferns were well represented by the *Dicksonia* spp., then two handsome specimens of *Leptopteris superba* surprised us as we turned a bend, as did a few unexpected *Austroblechnum colensoi* in a particularly shady, damp spot. At our feet we saw some common herbs, including *Ranunculus reflexus*, *Nertera depressa*, *Lobelia angulata* and *Urtica sykesii*. We saw the climbers *Clematis paniculata* and *Rubus schmidelioides*.

In one area of the forest, a storm had apparently created a small clearing where track-clearing of fallen trees had left freshly cut logs of mataī which Gavin determined to be about 300 years old.

After botanising about 600 m over nearly 2 hours, we decided that we'd better get a move on. We returned after reaching the track's highest point, to allow time to visit the Pillars of Hercules bridge lookout and a section of that track. In the vicinity of the bridge, the numerous *Cordyline banksii* and *Lycopodium volubile*, not seen earlier in the day, were eye-catching. One little orchid, possibly a *Prasophyllum* remained unidentified.

Birds which called to each other on our meanderings were long-tailed cuckoo, N.I. robin, kākā, fantail and wax eye.

*Michele Dickson*



## 10–11 February 2024: White Rock Road and Tunanui, Wairarapa

### Saturday: White Rock Road forest remnants

#### Linkwood Bush

Our party of eight met in Martinborough then travelled in convoy to explore Linkwood Bush, a QE2 covenant on the Tora Coast Road. The day was dry, overcast and not too hot. We parked on the roadside and set off into the adjacent covenant. It covers a steep east-facing hill slope, a remnant of MF2 rimu, matai, hinau type forest in the valleys with MF5 black beech forest on the ridges and drier sites. The MF2 forest type is regionally endangered with 16% remaining. We traversed the base of the slope along the fence and in the adjacent farmland identified *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Podocarpus totara* var. *totara* and *Prumnopitys taxifolia*. We did not see any rimu. Soon we made interesting finds: *Asplenium bulbiferum*, *Diplazium australe*, *Microlaena polynoda* and *Trisetum lepidum*, which were all either not seen before, or uncommon in eastern Wairarapa. We did not see the mistletoes which were recorded during past visits. Our progress was slow so we had lunch before we botanised our way up the slope with care as it was often very steep. We saw *Nestegis cunninghamii*, *N. lanceolata* and *Streblus heterophyllus*. Along the bush edge at the top of the slope we saw the divaricating shrubs, e.g., *Coprosma*



Awanui Bush.

*crassifolia*, *C. aerolata*, *C. rhamnoides*, *C. rigida*, *Raukaua anomalus*, *Melicytus micranthus*. Descending the slope we found *Carmichaelia australis*, *Alectryon excelsum*, *Cordyline banksii*, *Metrosideros colensoi* and *Sophora microphylla*. We saw several species of ferns including *Blechnum membranaceum*, *Parapolystichum microsororum* subsp. *pentangulare*, *Polystichum neozelandicum* and several species of *Asplenium*. We returned to the cars at 2pm. At this

point Pat went home and the rest of the group went to the second site.

#### Awanui Bush

This covenant is a short drive from Linkwood Bush. There was plenty of room to park in the paddock opposite the grazed bush remnant. As we crossed the dry riverbed with small native herb fields on the banks either side, the swamp forest of *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* / kahikatea with wetland in the foreground and mature forest canopy looked inviting (image 2). The forest covers an east-facing gully and hill slope, another remnant of MF2 Rimu, matai, hinau type forest in the valleys with MF5 black beech forest on the ridges and drier sites. The MF2 forest type is regionally endangered with 16% remaining. We crossed the river flats seeing *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Streblus heterophyllus*, *Raukaua anomalus*, *Melicytus micranthus*, *Pennantia corymbosa*, *Sophora microphylla* and *Myrsine divaricata*. Climbing the spur on our right we noted the different forms of *Sophora microphylla* amongst the *Hoheria sexstylosa*, *Coprosma rigida*, *Kunzea ericoides* agg. Further travel up the spur was barred by a fence so we followed this back left to the gully seeing *Clematis foetida*, *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, and *Parapolystichum glabellum*.



Admiring the vegetation from a spur at Awanui Bush.



Back down in the gully we ventured up the dry stream bed. Though also browsed there was, like the river flats, a diverse shrub layer and the usual array of wetland-adapted *Carex* spp, *Juncus sarophorus* and *Typha orientalis* around the pond. The canopy comprised *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, *Sophora microphylla*, *Kunzea ericoides* agg., a large *Hoheria angustifolia*, *Hoheria sexstylosa*, *Pennantia corymbosa* and *Nestegis cunninghamii* but the highlight for me was the largest *Nestegis montana* I have seen. At 4.30 we departed for Carterton and dinner after first paying a call to the farmer to say thank you for a great day of botanising. Awanui Bush is close to other native-seed sources. It has a good canopy cover and diversity of native flora. Protection from grazing by all browsers would see it establish a good example of matai - rimu - hīnau forest type.

**Participants:** Owen Spearpoint (leader and scribe), Eleanor Burton, Michelle Dickson, Pat Enright, Jenny Fraser, Chris Horne, Pat Mclean, Pascale Michel.

**Sunday: Tunanui forest remnants**

We woke on Sunday to heavy rain



Bot Soc and kahikatea kaumatua.

showers after a stormy night of southerly winds and rain so we had our fingers and toes crossed for clearing weather. Luckily, we were headed north towards Mauriceville. It was great to have John Van den Hoeven join us for the day. As we went

north beneath more patches of blue sky, our spirits rose. When we arrived at 10.20am at the farm woolshed where Trevor Thompson, QE2 National Trust Regional Representative, awaited us the sun was shining and the temperature not too cool. The



A very old *Podocarpus totara* that eluded the axe.



Tunanui covenants are MR7 Tawa, kamahī, podocarp forest type. About 22% of this forest type remains in the region - it is a regionally endangered forest type. Much of this forest type is found along the western edges of the Tararua Range in mild sub-humid to humid hill country.

After a health-and-safety briefing we walked the 200m to the two QE2-covenanted blocks. These are in adjacent gullies separated by a spur with isolated trees over pasture. Once up the spur a distance the farmer was very keen to understand why some of the tawa in the paddocks were collapsing and the bark falling off. It is hard to know the cause of these events. My experience with tawa in the Maungakotukutuku Valley, Kōpiti Coast, is the initial cause was environmental, e.g., frost which stressed the trees and allowed pathogens, e.g., the fungi *Armillaria* which is always present in the forest soils to infect the sapwood which further weakens the tree and allow other pathogens, e.g., wood borers to establish due to the better host conditions for them. I saw fungal stain in the sap wood of the dead trees.

The canopy of the covenants was intact and dominated by *Dacrycarpus*

*dacrydioides*, *Podocarpus totara*, *Alectryon excelsus* and *Beilschmiedia tawa*. There were also several *Nestegis lanceolata* and *Elaeocarpus dentatus*. The subcanopy included *Melicope simplex*, *Melicytus ramiiflorus*, *Myrsine australis*, *Carpodetus serratus*, *Pennantia corymbosa*, some very tall *Piper excelsum*, *Pittosporum eugenioides*, *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, *Plagianthus regius*, *Pseudopanax arboreus*, *P. crassifolius*, *Pterophylla racemosa*, *Schefflera digitata*, *Streblus heterophyllus*. The shrub layer was diverse, including *Cyathea* spp., *Brachyglottis repanda*, the common *Coprosma* spp, *Geniostoma ligustrifolium* and *Leptospermum scoparium*. We saw the beautiful cascading *Metrosideros colensoi*. Amongst the many climbers present were *Metrosideros diffusa*, *Clematis foetida* and *Passiflora tetrandra*. In the ground cover were six species of *Asplenium*, five species of *Blechnum*, *Lecanopteris pustulatus* and *L scandens*, *Paesia scaberula*, *Pakau pennigera*, *Parapolystichum glabellum*, *Pellaea rotundifolia*, *Polystichum neozelandicum*, *Pteridium esculentum* and *Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*.

We had lunch near the stream where we enjoyed a little sun with a

light sun-shower. We moved from the first to the second covenant at 2pm and then left at 3.30pm to return home. Both covenants were interesting botanically and it is wonderful that they have been fenced from grazing. It is possible the nearby wetlands may be retired from grazing as well. Both covenants have some problem weeds, e.g., *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Clematis vitalba*, *Hedera helix* and *Rubus fruticosus* agg. It is obvious that weed-control work had been happening and making a big difference—all credit to Trevor Thompson, given the number of covenants and the extensive area of the region he covers. I would like to thank him for the help with suggestions and setting up the visits for the weekend. I would also like to apologise for not asking him to share his knowledge of the covenants before we eagerly rushed off into the bush.

**Participants:** Owen Spearpoint Leader and scribe, Eleanor Burton, Michelle Dickson, Jenny Fraser, Chris Horne, Pat Mclean, Pascale Michel, Trevor Thompson, John van den Hoeven.



Old man's beard control by QE2.



## 2 March 2024: Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve

We planned to botanise the less visited section of Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve which is on the floor of Nikau Valley and heads east on one side of the gas pipeline and west on the other side. It is an area of regionally rare coastal and lowland kohekohe/tawa forest with kahikatea/pukatea, nikau and tree ferns. Wayne Mitchell from the restoration group gave us the background to the reserve and outlined the work and plans the group has for continuing restoration. They maintain extensive bait lines through the area which provide access tracks.

We did forays on both sides of the pipeline. Each becomes steep quickly with many large trees, including the impressive roots of *Griselinia lucida* / puka girdling the trunk of a kohekohe. There was an abundance of tree ferns and ground ferns, although not a large variety of species. We all got confused with naming *Microsorium* and thank Kate for sorting this out: *Microsorium* / *Lecanopteris* / *Dedroconche* / *Zealandia*

*Microsorium* has been renamed—but different things by different people. An overseas paper in 2019 split the three local *Microsorium*

species into *Dendroconche scandens* and *Zealandia pustulata* and *Zealandia novae-zealandiae*. But a New Zealand paper in 2021 lumped all three into *Lecanopteris*. To make life more complicated the NZPCN website has accepted the 2019 paper and the NZ Flora the 2021 paper. For our plant list, we have the NZ Flora names. We used lists compiled by B J Mitcalfe and J C Horne, C Ogle, M Wassilieff, D J Clark and I Gabites.

**Participants:** Jenny Fraser (Leader), Davis, Kate Jordan, Andy Mackay and family, Viv McGlynn, Wayne Mitchell, Sophie Williams.

Jenny Fraser



Right: Aerial roots of *Griselinia lucida* / puka on the trunk of a kohekohe.

## 6 April 2024: Ngā Manu Nature Reserve

We had a gloriously sunny day for our field trip. We focused our efforts on the boardwalk-loop in the swamp forest, dominated by pukatea and kahikatea.

We saw:

- carpets of pukatea seedlings and felt a constant rain of kahikatea seeds falling from the canopy.



Forest floor covered with pukatea seedlings.

- at least two species of mistletoe, propagated and cared for by mistletoe-whispering staff member Rhys Mills. Marked with ribbons they easy to spot.
- *Dactylanthus taylorii* / wood rose / pua o te reinga flowering under cages and noted the strong musky

aroma. One plant was also covered with an umbrella to prevent raindrops from dispersing the pollen before it could be used to fertilise other flowers.

- fine stands of *Syzygium maire* / swamp maire although we were concerned to see the amount of myrtle rust covering and killing seed heads. Thankfully some flowers appeared to be uninfected and producing viable seed. It was good to see some seedlings.

Non-botanical highlights were an incredibly large tuatara (captive) and a tūi feeding on the large *Tecomanthe speciosa*.



Tūi feeding on *Tecomanthe speciosa*.

### Further reading

*Ex situ* conservation of *Dactylanthus taylorii*. Karin van der Walt. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 58, pp 55-58, June 2021.

**Participants:** Andy McKay & Kate Jordan – co-leaders / scribes, Ellen Blake, Ben Carson, Hamish Carson, Gillian Chandler, Michele Dickson, Frances Forsyth, Jenny Fraser, Ken Fraser, Julia Fraser, Sarah Goldberg, Helen Gray, Chris Horne, Olivia Lu, Elvira Martin-Mathers, Viv McGlynn, Pat McLean, Molly McNeillage, Viola Palmer, Lynne Pomare, Julia Stace, Stefan Trybula, Sophie Williams, Mathew Woodbury.



# Wellington Botanical Society

Te Rōpū Manāki i Ngā Tamariki a Tāne,  
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 2025 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](mailto: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.*