



Waikato Botanical Society Inc. Newsletter No. 16, February 2004

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MAUNGATAUTARI AND MISTLETOE 5TH OCTOBER 2003

We had a great turn out (despite ominous rather heavy rainfalls on the approach from Hamilton) for the field trip to Maungatautari in October led by Bruce Clarkson. Waikato folks were joined by some members of the Rotorua Botanical Society and Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust. The trip started with a four-wheel drive up through Bruce Deans property on the northern slopes of the mountain to the bush edge so that we were half way up the mountain before we even had to walk (thanks Bruce Dean!).

Bruce Clarkson gave us an introduction to the geology of the eroded, nearly 800m high mountain and provided us with a species list to date. The walk began through pukatea *Laurelia novae-zelandiae*, mangeao *Litsea calicaris* and tawa *Beilschmedia tawa* forest, with plenty of supplejack *Ripogonum scandens* in the understorey. A few fuchsia *Fuchsia excorticata* trees were flowering near the bush edge and the odd emergent podocarp and northern rata *Metrosideros robusta* could be seen. As we headed up the ridge the small uncommon shrub *Alseuosmia quercifolia* was seen along with an abundance of other regenerating understorey species such as hangehange *Geniostoma ligustrum* var. *rupestre*, kanono *Coprosma grandifolia*, shining karamu *C. lucida* and toropapa *Alseuosmia macrophylla*. *Nestegis* sp. and *Mida salicifolia* saplings and trees were seen on the ascent, and higher up the mountain *Astelia fragrans* and *A. trinervia* all showing signs of successful possum and goat control. We got helpful tips on distinguishing *Nestegis lanceolata* from *N. cunninghamii* and debate was had over one particularly large maire individual (*M. salicifolia* or *Nestegis* ?!). A karaka *Corynocarpus laevigatus* tree was a surprise half way up the mountain, a sign of Maori travellers long before us.

We did a bit of steep, slippery scrambling through kamahi *Weinmannia racemosa*, Tawheowheo *Quintinia serrata* and Tawari *Ixerba brexioides* forest before emerging onto our first rocky outcrop "Little Rock" at 640m for a well deserved lunch break in the sun. Below the

rocky bluffs was *Blechnum vulcanicum*, close to its northern limit. Up on top we saw some of the hardy, sun-loving shrubs and herbs including *Celmisia gracilentia*, *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* and *Gonocarpus incanus*. We then traversed through stunted forest over to another prominent rocky point "Hook Nose" at 680m where we saw *Gaultheria antipoda* and *paniculata* forming a hybrid swarm, and *Thelymitra* orchids not quite in flower yet. Then came the descent down another ridge where *Corybas acuminatus* was seen in flower growing amongst *Pterostylis trullifolia*.

Back at the farm edge and nobody had spotted any *Dracophyllum* species, which are unusually absent from the mountain's flora. But, the highlight was yet to come- a very healthy population of mistletoe (*Ileostylus micranthus*) was spotted growing on a large mangero in a paddock as we crossed through Bill Garland's property. The plants were flowering with their inconspicuous, small white flowers. This is the first time mistletoe has been recorded on the mountain and the healthy looking plants are likely the result of some diligent possum control on the pasture edge here. To top the day off Bruce Dean took us to see a remnant patch of swamp maire *Syzygium maire* growing in a gully on his farm.

Thanks Bruce Dean and Bruce Clarkson!

TE KOPIA GEOTHERMAL FIELDTRIP 22ND NOVEMBER 2003

Unfortunately, there is no write up for this field trip. An article from anyone who attended would be gratefully received for publication in a future newsletter!

END OF YEAR GATHERING 7TH DECEMBER 2003

Members who turned out at the Hamilton Gardens were impressed to find the Salvation Army band were on hand to provide private entertainment. Just kidding, it was in fact a Christmas concert which lent a festive air to our end of year picnic. Expecting a mob of fellow Botsocer's would be easy to spot, directions for the picnic were "meet by the lake". However, a horde of unexpected concert-goers made things a little more difficult and the picnic progressed for a while in two groups – those with the food, and those wondering where those with the food were. But, a happy ending, the two were reunited and a pleasant evening was had by all.

BOTANY OF ROTORUA

Following is an ad for the Botany of Rotorua book which was also advertised in a newsletter last year. At that time we didn't quite get enough people interested to organise a bulk order at the 10 copies for \$10 each deal. If you are interested and haven't already let me (Shirley) know, please do so. If we manage to top up the numbers to 10, I'll get in touch with those who of you who registered your interest last year to see if you still wish to purchase a copy.

BOTANY OF THE WAIKATO

And don't forget – our very own Botany of the Waikato book! We still have plenty of copies so if you don't have one, or would like more to give as gifts, the order form is later in the newsletter. Please note the new price.

YOUR CHANCE TO PURCHASE

BOTANY OF ROTORUA

COMPILED BY BRUCE CLARKSON, MARK SMALE, CHRIS ECROYD

This 132 page book published in 1991 with many beautiful colour photos covers all aspects of the flora of the Rotorua District.

Sections written by a range of well known authors covering history of the vegetation, native forest, exotic forest, pasture, naturalised vegetation, aquatic vegetation, lake shore vegetation, mires, thermal areas, micro-algae, Mt Tarawera, threatened plants, coastal plants inland, mosses and liverworts, fungi, and traditional uses

COPIES STILL AVAILABLE FOR ONLY \$20 EACH

OR

\$10 EACH FOR 10 OR MORE

WHILE STOCKS LAST

CONTACT CHRIS ECROYD 07 347 9067

OR EMAIL CHRIS.ECROYD@FORESTRESEARCH.CO.NZ

OR SEND CHEQUE TO ROTORUA BOTANICAL SOCIETY C/THE HERBARIUM, FOREST RESEARCH, PRIVATE BAG 3020, ROTORUA

FESTIVAL OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Keep an eye out for information on the upcoming Festival of the Environment which runs from March 12th-21st. The Festival gives people the chance to explore the Waikato, learn about pressures on the environment, learn how to protect and improve the environment, and find out about the Waikato's special places. There are a variety of organisations involved, providing activities such as music, dance and theatre; competitions; seminars; workshops; and recreational activities.

The Botanical Society was hoping to put on a great seminar during the festival with a world renowned New Zealand botanist, but unfortunately the talk has had to be cancelled though we certainly hope to be able to run a seminar next year.

The Festival website can be found at www.explorefestival.co.nz though the calendar of events is not yet listed.

DEPARTURES

You may have noticed the details for Secretary are missing from the top of this newsletter. This is because Jenny Hurst has departed for further study at Lincoln. Our huge thanks to Jenny for her hard work on behalf on the Society, and good luck! Please direct any Secretarial matters to other members of the committee.

Estee Farrar has also moved on - thanks and farewell Estee.

So, the committee is a little depleted at the moment, and several others are closeted away finishing off theses!

THE PROGRAM

Despite our diminished ranks, this years program is now out! We have tried very hard to avoid clashes with other botanical societies and Waikato Forest and Bird so we expect some great turnouts!! Evening talks have been poorly supported in the last few years so we have organised mainly weekend events, which have always had a good attendance.

If you have ideas for other field trips and are prepared to lead them, feel free to get in touch and we will see what we can do to add them to the program.

WAIKATO BOTANICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM 2004

Field trips to meet at Waikato University Gate 10 (Silverdale Road) in the carpark in front of Landcare Research, unless stated otherwise or arranged with trip leader. If you do not intend on travelling by your own vehicle from this point it is advisable to check with the trip leader that you can be accommodated in another vehicle. Please be prepared with your own lunch, drink, sturdy footwear, and clothes for all seasons.

Saturday 21 or 28 February

Maungatautari seed collection and propagation workshop

Waikato Botanical Society members are invited to attend this workshop run by the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust. The workshop will focus on collecting seeds from the mountain for use in planting riparian areas off the mountain and any substantial clear areas enclosed in the new predator proof fence. The principles from this workshop can be applied to other restoration projects as well – just remember you need to get permission to collect seeds from public land!

Please contact the Trust directly to register your interest and get details on the venue, date and time.

Contact: Linley O'Neill ph 07 823 7455 or linley@maungatrust.org

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 March

Sand dune systems at Otama and Matarangi, and Waitaia Valley

On Saturday we will visit Otama which has a relatively undisturbed dune system, and has some interesting dune plants such as *Austrofestuca littoralis*. Matarangi has remnant populations of *Pimelia arenaria*. We will make a stop at Black Jack Scenic Reserve to check out a population of *Korthalsella salicornioides* and have a quick look at the shrubland for a possible return trip.

On Sunday we will visit Waitaia Valley to look at a population of *Pittosporum virgatum* and regenerating bush and shrubland.

Grade: Easy/Moderate. Please note it could be very hot on the dunes.

Please contact the trip leaders for details and accommodation bookings,

Contact David Burnett ph.859 1868/ 856 5287 or Marilyn Merrett ph. 855 0732

This is a weekend trip but you may wish to attend for either day only.

Meet at Harbourside Holiday Park, 135 Albert St Whitianga at 10.30 am on Saturday or 9.30am on Sunday.

Monday 5 April

Douglas Bridge talk on “Coastal herbfield ecology and restoration, Taranaki”

Doug is a PhD student at the University of Waikato and will talk about his work to date on the remnant native herb turfs on the Taranaki coastline. Doug's work focuses on the interaction between native and introduced plant species, other impacts and the conservation management of these herbfields.

The talk will be followed by the Waikato Botanical Society **Annual General Meeting**. Please stay to hear an update from your committee members and have your say while enjoying tea, coffee and biscuits.

Venue: McMeekan Centre, Ruakura 7pm

Contact: Liz Grove ph 07 839 3270 (hm), 07 838 4466 x7824 (wk) or eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Sunday 2 May

Kinleith Forest wetlands, western Mamaku Plateau joint Rotorua Botanical Society trip.

This trip will visit rarely botanised wetlands in the northern part of Kinleith Forest in the vicinity of Waihou and Moth Roads. This includes a large manuka wetland.

Note: Please advise trip leader no later than Wednesday 28 April if you are planning to come on this trip as forest access permits need to be arranged for all vehicles.

Contact: Paul Cashmore (Rotorua Bot. Soc.) 07 348 4421 (hm), 07 349 7432 (wk) assisted by Robin Black (CHH Forests)

Meet 8:15am at Landcare carpark, Hamilton or 9:15am corner of Pine (Pinedale) Rd and SH 1 south of Putaruru (first junction past the Timber Museum heading south). Bring gumboots!

Sunday 13 June

Botanical workshop

Topic and venue to be announced

Sunday 4 July

Waingaro forest remnant restoration

This will be a visit focussing on privately owned river flat mixed conifer forest (kahikatea, matai and totara) near Waingaro. A good range of lowland species is present including some uncommon in the Waikato. The forests have been recently fenced off and are showing a good recovery of groundcover and shrub species but you may be tempted to pull out some of thousands of invading Chinese privet seedlings.

Bring your swimming togs and entry money for pools at Waingaro Hot Springs afterwards if interested.

Contact: Bruce Clarkson b.clarkson@waikato.ac.nz or ph 07 855 9534 (hm), 07 838 4327 (wk) **Meet:** at 8.30am the Landcare carpark, Hamilton.

Sunday 8 August

Mauao (Mt Maunganui) joint Rotorua Botanical Society trip.

Explore the flora of Mauao, over a hundred indigenous species present including *Psilotum nudum* - a primitive fern ally, *Lepidosperma laterale* at its southern limit, *Astelia banksii*, *Rhabdothamnus solandri*, *Tetraria capillaris* and *Schoenus apogon*. Regeneration following the January 2003 fire will be of interest. Excellent views from the top of the mountain. A conservation plan has recently been prepared for Mauao, and weed control and restoration planting is in progress.

Contact: Sarah Beadel (Rotorua Bot. Soc.), sarah@wildland.co.nz or ph 07 343 9017 (wk), 07 362 4315 (hm)

Meet at 7:30am the Landcare carpark, Hamilton or at the jetty on the Pilot Bay side of Mauao at 9am.

Sunday 26 September

Karangahake Gorge

This trip will follow the Dubbo track in the Karangahake Gorge and explore old mineshaft entrances, a long rock railway tunnel and other restored mining relics. We will follow a loop track back along the Waitawheta river to the starting point, about 4 hours at an easy pace, plus botanising time. Bring torches for tunnel and mine entrances.

Contact Jane Hart ph. 07 867 5580 or jane.hart@xtra.co.nz

Meet at the carpark, Hamilton 8.30am or at the L&P bottle by the Ohinemuri River at Paeroa by 9.30am.

Sunday 31 October

Te Toto Scenic Reserve

This trip will explore the coastline just south of Raglan in Te Toto Scenic Reserve. We will follow the Te Toto stream gorge down through coastal bush from the foot of Mt Karioi to the sea and then take a coastal path around some rocky bluffs (not as scary as it sounds!) and return to the road through recently fenced regenerating bush. Interesting plants to keep an eye out for are *Myosotis spathulata*, *Olearia angulata* and *Sophora fulvida*, there is also an old maori garden site and plenty of interesting geology.

Contact: Liz Grove ph 07 839 3270 (hm), 07 838 4466 x7824 (wk) or eg3@waikato.ac.nz and Andrea Brandon abrandon@doc.govt.nz

Meet at the carpark, Hamilton 8.30am or at the Te Toto carpark 9.30am.

Sunday 21 November

Whangamarino wetland joint Auckland Botanical Society trip.

Visit the peatbogs of Whangamarino wetland and learn about conservation issues at the site including water level regulation, pest fish, native fish, invasive weeds, and threatened plant management.

Numbers are limited on this trip to minimise damage at the site, please register your intention to attend with Shirley Nichols. Bring gumboots!

Contact Shirley Nichols shirley.nichols@agresearch.co.nz ph 07 855 5061 (hm) or 07 838 5215 (wk) and Shannon Fergie sfergie@doc.govt.nz or ph 07 850 8348 (wk)

Meet at the Landcare carpark, Hamilton 8.30am or turn off SH1 just north of Meremere onto Island Block Road, we will meet 50m along Island Block Rd at the junction with Te Puia Ave at 9.30 am.

Sunday 5 December

End of year picnic with Rotorua Botanical Society.

The grand event will take place in the Gudex Memorial Reserve on Sanatorium Hill (Pukemako). Our mission will include a search for the elusive mistletoe *Trilepidia adamsii* and you may be tested on your knowledge of early botanists of the region...(prizes offered of course!). This will be a potluck picnic so bring something yummy to share, a picnic rug and the family if you wish.

Contact: Jo McQueen ph 07 838 4466 x 7857 (wk) or jmcqueen@waikato.ac.nz

Meet at the Landcare carpark, Hamilton at 10.30am or at the Gudex Memorial obelisk at the reserve at 11am.

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 December

Iwitahi Native Orchid Heritage Protection Area, Kaingaroa Forest, joint Rotorua Botanical Society trip.

This weekend is the annual camp for the Friends of Iwitahi group and the Waikato Botanical Society is invited on a guided tour around the Protection Area on Saturday. There will be many native orchids in flower including rare species found naturally at the site and those that have been relocated to the Protection Area. Those who are interested may also like to join in with other activities over the weekend including orchid surveys, slide shows and discussions with other native orchid enthusiasts. Please contact trip leader for further details on accommodation and transport arrangements.

Contact: Liz Grove ph 07 839 3270 (hm), 07 838 4466 x7824 (wk) or eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Meet at the Iwitahi Protection Area on the Napier-Taupo Highway by 11am.

Subscriptions

Don't forget the 2004-05 membership year begins in March. Please complete and return the form below, any subs now received will be allotted to next year.

WAIKATO BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Membership form

Please return with your subscription to: Membership
Waikato Botanical Society
c/o Department of Biological Sciences
Waikato University
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton

Please print clearly

Name(s):

Address:

E-mail:.....

Phone:(day)(evening)

Subscription enclosed:	Individual/Couple/ Family	\$15.00 (per year)
	Student	\$5.00 (per year)

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