



## Waikato Botanical Society Inc.

### Newsletter No. 18, November 2004

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### WAIKATO UNIVERSITY GARDENS 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2004

Nine people turned out on a brilliantly fine winters morning to wander and botanise The University of Waikato gardens. The trip was to be led by garden manager Mark Thompsen, however, a confusion over times meant that he was there half an hour before anyone else and had gone home before we arrived (Mark sends his sincerest apologies)! So, seeing as I have spent so much of my time at the university, I led the trip around. We started by wandering around the lakes where many natives have been planted, and some of the older plantings in the gardens are here. I was able to tell the story of *Olearia angulata* to the group – this species is classified as 'data deficient' by the Department of Conservation. After some investigation into it, it seems that it is nearly impossible to distinguish from *Olearia albida*, and in fact the only difference between the two might be chromosome number. This makes distinguishing it in the field extremely challenging! The October trip to Te Toto gorge may provide an opportunity for everyone to test their identification skills as we are likely to encounter both species growing naturally here.

Following the walk around the lakes, we investigated the ferny. This is a very well planted shaded hillslope, where the majority of ferns are named – an excellent spot in which to learn some of the ferns!

If you live around the Hamilton area, remember that anyone can wander the university gardens. There are a few quirky and interesting species tucked away, making it a good place to practice your botanising skills without driving too far (and some of the plants are even labelled for you!).

Joanna McQueen

**HUNUA FIELD TRIP – MANGATANGI TRACK  
26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2004**

A small group of seven headed out from Kaiiua on the firth of Thames on this marvellously sunny morning. The Mangatangi track starts just 5 mins drive up a gravel road which accesses the water supply reservoirs of the Hunua Ranges. The track starts by a stream and follows a ridge which quickly lead us out of the lower slopes of pate (*Schefflera digitata*), kanono (*Coprosma grandifolia*) and other broadleaves into the kauri (*Agathis australis*) stands. A lot of the bush had been cut over in the past with tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*), kauri and the odd rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*) emerging through the tall kanuka (*Kunzea ericoidies*) secondary forest. The understorey was lush with broadleaved coprosmas, toropapa (*Alseuosmia macrophylla*) and ferns. The toropapa was showing a range of flowering stages with some still in bud and others well open in a range of dark red to paler creamy colours. In open, drier sections by the track the sundew *Drosera auriculata* was flowering, *Pterostylis trullifolia* was also here but not in flower. Further up the ridge we walked through stands of large hard beech (*Nothofagus truncata*) trees and found more orchids- *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum*, *Pterostylis agathicola* (in flower) and *Drymoanthus adversus* (in bud). The drier more open understorey including *Coprosma spathulata*, *Leucopogon fasciculatus* (flowering profusely), *Pittosporum tenuifolium* and the grass tree nei nei (*Dracophyllum latifolium*).

The track goes on to a trig point then meets the reservoir road again. However, we retraced our footsteps back down the ridge and went to look at the shore birds on the Miranda coast to finish off the trip in the sun.

Liz Grove

**COCKAYNE LECTURE – ROYAL SOCIETY SERIES  
DAVE KELLY**

Well this wasn't a botanical society organised event, but it is worth mentioning in the newsletter because it was very relevant to us. Dave Kelly, plant ecologist/botanist from the University of Canterbury presented an excellent talk as part of the Cockayne Memorial Lecture Series, organised by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Unfortunately, this event was poorly advertised due to the Royal Society being inactive in Hamilton. However, a number of our members made the talk, in spite of the short notice. Dr. Kelly gave an impassioned talk about mast seeding, in particular looking at *Nothofagus* and *Chionochloa*. He has come up with some theories about why plants carry out mast seeding. For *Chionochloa* it seems to be trying to fool its host-specific seed predators by seeding at unpredictable times, and then putting out so much seed that the seed predators can only eat a small amount of it. By having a strategy where flowering depends on the summer temperature, plus the amount of reserves in the plant, flowering times are effectively chaotic. This can eventually starve the seed predator to extinction. The reason for *Nothofagus* masting seems to be different and is likely to do with pollination efficiency.

Joanna McQueen

**ECOSOURCED WAIKATO**

Wayne Bennett, coordinator for Ecosourced Waikato, is establishing an informal email network for people interested in ecosourcing and growing native plants (ecosourcing is the practise of growing native plants from a representative sample of local populations in order to maintain ecological integrity). Wayne hopes to share up to date information with others who are interested in native plants and if you wish to be included on this list please contact him at-

[wbennett@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wbennett@xtra.co.nz). Wayne is also looking for volunteer seed collectors (for city plantings and restoration projects) and people to provide observations on fruit and seeding behaviour of native species.

## **NIWA WAIKATO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR**

Congratulations to Katie de Lange, recipient of the Waikato Botanical Society special prize at the science fair in August. Katie presented a project which involved studying the relationship between tree ring width and climate records for several native tree species.

## **BOTANY OF THE WAIKATO**

Please note a new price – now \$15 per copy

## **NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

The Society has joined the Waikato branch of the NZAEE, an association of groups delivering or requiring environmental education. The vision and purpose is “to be the umbrella organisation of environmental education programme providers and to provide strategic direction for environmental education in the Waikato.” The group aims to identify gaps in environmental education, develop and deliver environmental education where it is required, facilitate improved methods of learning, and bring those requiring environmental education or potential recipients into the environmental education network. Membership will enable us to promote the Society and its activities, network with other groups and, most importantly, gives us the opportunity to contribute our expertise to the community.

## **FIELD TRIP CANCELLATION**

**Unfortunately our November 21<sup>st</sup> trip to Whangamarino has had to be cancelled due to work commitments of the trip leader. However, Shannon is keen to reschedule the trip for next year and may have even better information on the status of threatened plants by then.**

## **2005 PROGRAM**

It's that time of year again, when we start thinking about next years program. If you have any ideas for potential activities, or comments on the format (less/more field trips, more workshops, other kinds of activities?) please send them to any one of the committee members.

## IWITAHI NATIVE ORCHID FIELD TRIP – RSVPs PLEASE

Please RSVP interest in Iwitahi Native Orchid trip to Liz by November 20th to give an idea of numbers please...

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 07 846 0965 (hm), 07 838 4466 x7824 (wk) or eg3@waikato.ac.nz

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



# FLORA OF NEW ZEALAND

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Department of Biological Sciences  
Summer course: Biol 226C



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WAIKATO

**Open to students with genuine botanical interests in the following three categories:**

- Students completing first year biology and intending to major in plant biology
- Second and third year plant biology students
- Others with a background in horticulture or botany (will be admitted at discretion of Course Coordinator)

*The course begins with a weekend field trip to Pureora Forest Park where a wide range of plant species and habitats will be studied. This is followed by two intensive weeks of lectures and labs at the University, after which students will be expected to complete an individual assignment. The course is internally assessed and final results will be available mid-year.*

**Topics covered during the course include:**

- The origin of New Zealand's unique flora
- The basics of plant taxonomy
- Modern methods of plant classification and identification
- Field identification of plants

**WHAT TO DO NOW**  
Obtain a **FLORA ENROLMENT FORM** from the Dean's office (F1.07) or the Biology Office (E2.20). Forms must be signed and stamped by Dr. Chrissen Gemmill (R2.12) or Dr Bruce Clarkson (E2.20) before enrolment can proceed.

**Enquiries to:**  
Dr. Chrissen Gemmill, email [c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz) (phone 07 838 4053)  
Dr Bruce Clarkson, email [b.clarkson@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:b.clarkson@waikato.ac.nz) (phone 07 838 4237)  
Or contact the Department of Biological Sciences (phone 07 838 4022)  
Waikato University, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton

## 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.

### **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](mailto: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.

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





**WAIKATO BOTANICAL SOCIETY**

**Book Order Form**

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Please return with payment to:      Book Order  
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