



Waikato Botanical Society Inc.

Newsletter No. 23, September 2006

For all correspondence:
Waikato Botanical Society
c/o Department of Biological Sciences
The University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
HAMILTON
bot_soc@waikato.ac.nz

President:
Liz Grove
Ph (07) 846 0965 a/h
eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Treasurer:
Janica Amoore
Ph (07) 829 3005 a/h
jda6@waikato.ac.nz

Secretary:
Andrea Brandon
Ph (07) 848 2447 a/h
abrandon@doc.govt.nz

Vice President:
Shirley Nichols
Ph (07) 855 5061 a/h
shirleyn@wave.co.nz

Newsletter Editor:
Cilla McAllum
Ph (07) 858 3166 a/h
pwehi@waikato.ac.nz

CONGRATULATIONS BRUCE! LODER CUP PRESENTATION 5 OCTOBER 2006

We warmly congratulate Bruce Clarkson, a long-serving member and society ex-president, whose exceptional ongoing commitment to biodiversity and conservation has been recognised with this Award.

The Minister of Conservation, Hon. Chris Carter will present the Loder Cup (New Zealand's premier conservation award) to Assoc Prof Bruce Clarkson. This award will be presented on Thursday 5th October 2006 at the WEL Energy Trust Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato.

UPCOMING BOTANICAL SOCIETY EVENTS 2006

See the end of the Newsletter for details. Our most recent trip was to see Peter Morriss's gully restoration in Hamilton, followed by a working bee at the threatened plants garden.

COOK'S SCURVY GRASS CONSERVATION SUCCESS 2006

Department of Conservation staff (Andrea Brandon, John Keene and Dave Smith) have just discovered a new population of *Lepidium oleraceum* (Cook's scurvy grass) on a remote western Waikato rock stack. The species is currently classified as Acutely Threatened/Nationally Endangered and while having a widespread distribution around the coast of New Zealand, is now largely confined to off-shore islands and rock stacks.

Using a helicopter, they were able to reach a couple of vegetated stacks that were otherwise inaccessible. New Zealand Steel kindly shouted the DOC staff the trip with a machine that they were using in the

area. They found over 80 plants growing mainly under taupata (*Coprosma repens*) bushes. This is a significant find for the region, and indeed for the whole of the North Island, where this species is now seriously at risk of going extinct.



A CALL FOR HELP- BOTANICAL DRAWINGS

Dr. Nichola Harcourt, curator of science at the Waikato Museum, is planning an exhibition focused on the Waikato River, due to open Nov 7, 2006. One of the segments in her exhibition will focus on botanical species living at the margins of the river (as well as plants living within the river itself). In addition to dried specimens, she is keen to "loan" some excellent biological drawings such as that displayed by Catherine Beard on your website. Any members who may have a talent for botanical drawing, please contact Nikki:

Dr Nichola Harcourt
Concept Leader - Science
Waikato Museum
1 Grantham Street
Private Bag 3010
Hamilton
NEW ZEALAND

DDI 07 838 6406
Fax 07 838 6571
Cell 021 05 29487
Email nichola.harcourt@hcc.govt.nz
www.waikatomuseum.co.nz

POHUTUKAWA TREES FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS

Good morning folk,

If any of your organisations have planting or restoration projects in the Kawhia/Aotea area and could use eco-sourced pohutukawa in any project, Project Crimson has an embarrassment of plants in the Te Hinengaro O Kawhia Trust nursery in Kawhia which we would be happy to provide at no cost to suitable projects. This situation has come about due to a bit of a delay in getting planned projects underway this winter and the outstanding growth of our stock. The trees are in PB5 planta bags and average around 1m tall. If you know of any other suitable plantings for this winter please advise those responsible of the availability of a substantial number of trees. For further information or any questions give me a call on 0274 586500 or email me.

Gordon Hosking, Trustee Project Crimson

CHEESEMAN SYMPOSIUM

Don't forget the Cheeseman Symposium to be held in Auckland from 20th-22nd November 2006, to celebrate the centenary of the publication of the first full flora treatment to be published by a resident New Zealand botanist, Thomas F. Cheeseman's *Manual of the New Zealand Flora* (1906). The conference is being organised in conjunction with the New Zealand Botanical Society, Auckland Museum, Auckland Botanical Society, Landcare Research and the University of Auckland.

The registration form may be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/Documents/Registration-06.pdf>

More conference details maybe found on the Network website (www.nzpcn.org.nz) under Conservation info/Events/Conferences or at the following link:

http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/news_events/conference.asp

Trip Reports and Talks from the Previous Six Months:

AGM TALK CATHERINE BEARD: ON THE TRAIL OF THE ICEMAN 5 APRIL 2006

In the (European) summer of 2005 Catherine attended the International Botanical Congress in Vienna, Austria, and on its completion, joined one of the organised botanical excursions. The trip was a combination of travel by bus to many botanically interesting places in the lowlands of Austria, and foot travel, including the highlight of the tour - a four day hike over the alps from Austria into Italy following an ancient trail that has been used by shepherds and hunters for thousands of years. The weather remained favourable and our guides were extremely knowledgeable of species and geology, so in addition to learning a great deal, we were also treated to stunning displays of alpine flowers and grand views. Above 3000m the weather even held out to allow for a walk up to the site where the 5000 year-old ice-mummy (Ötzi the Iceman) had been prised from the clutches of the ice in 1991 (we later had an interesting tour through the museum where his body is held). Summer in the Alps is a great time to see many of the flowering plants that you may only know from gardens, so if you enjoy walking in high places, the Iceman trail comes highly recommended by this botanist!

Catherine Beard

BRUCE CLARKSON TALK: BOTANY OF SOME EUROPEAN MOUNTAINS 5 JULY 2006

Bruce Clarkson presented a varied glimpse of the botany of some European mountains, beginning in Spain with the Pyrennes, before moving to Gran Sasso and Vesuvius in Italy followed by Mont Blanc (France). These were highlights of a visit to Europe in 2005, and included mountain plants and landscapes that ranged from recent volcanics to karst country. These ecosystems seem to be hugely modified in comparison with our own, for example, with grazing occurring throughout the Spanish Pyrenees, based on ancestral family rights spanning the centuries. There were also other bizarre differences: Bruce and Bev noticed with a shop selling souvenirs literally on the lip of the volcanic crater in Italy, with the souvenirs carved into suggestive shapes from the volcanic rocks! (I can't quite

see DOC supporting this one). Bruce also shared moving aspects of their personal trip, visiting some of the Italian families who sheltered Bruce's father during WW II and linking up with local communities there.

Cilla McAllum

**PROTECTED SIGNIFICANT TREES OF HAMILTON CITY AND
THREATENED PLANTS WORKING BEE
13 AUGUST 2006**

A small group joined up with Helen Lea our guest leader from the Hamilton City Council. Helen explained the criteria/system that the Council used for assessing trees to be placed on their Significant Trees Register. This includes tree size, form, life expectancy, role in location, ecological, cultural and landscape value. She had also brought along some prints of old photos of the places where we visited. We started on the Ferrybank Park with those 3 magnificent London Plane-*Platanus x hispanica*. We walked along the river path and whilst admiring the bunyabunya pine-*Araucaria bidwilli* which is at the back of the old Hamilton Hotel, a short nasty bout of raindrops hastened our progress up to the main street. The old Railway building and the adjacent palms were seen, then along the Claudelands Bridge, dropping down to the river level through Jesmond and Parana Parks which adjoins the Memorial Park. This park was established with trees planted as a memorial to family lost in the WW I and II. There appears to be no records as to the identity of these people and Helen would like to be able to find out. She is hoping that some funding may come forward to help what could be a long process. There was a good number of exotic trees along with a beheaded rimu. The view walking back over the Victoria Bridge and looking down river, was one of tranquillity and a reminder of just how many exotics are planted along the river banks over many years. We thanked Helen for giving up her time to join us and gave her a "Botany of Waikato" book.

We then relocated ourselves to the glasshouse compound at the University where we were joined by Andrea, Janica and her family. After lunch we planted out *Rorippa divaricata* (cress), *Picris burbridgei* (thistle), *Lepidium oleraceum* (Cook's scurvy grass) and *Teucrium parvifolium* (small-leaved shrub). Other species currently being propagated are: *Pimelea tomentosa*, *Calystegia marginata*, *Sicyos australis*, *Streblus banksii*, *Hebe speciosa* and *Myosotis spathulata*. Once again a nasty shower made us dive for cover, but apart from those two showers, the weather forecast which had probably kept some people at home, once again proved to be false, so I was able to enjoy a pleasant day and have the opportunity to do a little of the River Walk.

Jan Butcher.

**COROMANDEL TRIP TAIRUA AND SAILOR'S GRAVE
13 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Red Bridge walk, Tairua

We left the ominous clouds in Hamilton and met the other half of the group in sunny Tairua on this spring morning. Doug led us off on the Red Bridge walk which loops through secondary vegetation in the foothills of the main Coromandel Range. We were immediately struck by the abundant flowering of *Alseuosmia macrophylla* (toropapa) which was common in the thick understorey, also noted in flower were *Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *angustior*, *Hebe macrocarpa*, *Leptecophylla* (=Cyathodes) *juniperina*, *Brachyglottis repanda* and *Coprosma rhamnoides*.

Species typical of the local vegetation type seen as we ascended the slope included *Weinmannia silvicola*, *Cordyline pumilio*, *Pseudopanax discolor*, *Olearia townsonii* and *O.*

furfuracea, *Lepidosperma laterale* (sword sedge), *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Lycopodium deuterodensum*, *Schoenus tendo*, *Lindsaea linearis* and *Astelia trinervia*. We stopped at the stream by a large, solitary *Agathis australis* (kauri) tree (no doubt left unlogged due to a split trunk) to see a group of native trout, indeed some quite large banded kokopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*) in a pool. While stopped here a large patch of *Pterostylis agathicola* in flower was discovered and nearby some browse damaged *Mida salicifolia* (National threat rank = Gradual Decline).

As we came onto the upper slopes and ridge top we found *Pomaderris rugosa*, *P. phyllicifolia* var. *ericifolia* and *P. kumeraho*, the latter of which had newly opened clusters of yellow florets in large flower heads. We also noted *Toronia toru*, *Corokia buddleioides*, *Pittosporum umbellatum*, *Drosera peltata* subsp. *auriculata* and *Thelymitra longifolia* along the ridge. Some seedlings of *Prumnopitys ferruginea* (miro) and *Rhopalostylis sapida* (nikau) were just emerging and some older pine trees have also invaded this area. After enjoying a sunny lunch stop some interesting finds on the ridge descent were *Schizaea bifida*, *Diplodium* (= *Pterostylis*) *trullifolia* and *Brachyglottis myrianthos* (which had not quite yet opened its flowers but had quite distinctively '*Brachyglottis*' elongated terminal flower panicles and purplish stems to distinguish it from the similar *Olearia rani*).

Species List:

Adiantum cunninghamii	Leucopogon fasciculatus
Agathis australis	Lindsaea linearis
Alseuosmia macrophylla	Lycopodium deuterodensum
Asplenium polyodon	Lygodium articulatum
A. flaccidum	Metrosideros perforata
Astelia trinervia	Microsorium pustulatum
Blechnum novae-zelandiae	Mida salicifolia
Brachyglottis kirkii var. angustior	Morelotia affinis
B. myrianthos	Myrsine australis
B. repanda	Nertera dichondrifolia
Coprosma grandifolia	Olearia furfuracea
C. lucida	Olearia rani
C. rhamnoides	O. townsonii
Cordyline pumilio	Pinus sp.
Corokia buddleioides	Pittosporum umbellatum
Cyathea medullaris	Pneumatopteris pennigera
C. dealbata	Pomaderris kumeraho
Dianella nigra	P. phyllicifolia var. ericifolia
Diplodium (=Pterostylis) trullifolia	P. rugosa
Dodonea viscosa	Prumnopitys ferruginea
Drosera peltata subsp. auriculata	Pseudopanax arboreus
Earina autumnalis	P. discolor
Gahnia lacera	Pteridium esculentum
Geniostoma rupestre var. ligustrifolium	Pterostylis agathicola
Gleichenia dicarpa	Rhopalostylis sapida
G. microphylla	Rubus cissoides
Gonocarpus micranthus	Schizaea bifida
Hebe macrocarpa	Schoenus tendo
Hedycarya arborea	Thelymitra longifolia
Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum	Tmesipteris elongata
Ichthyostomum (=Bulbophyllum) pygmaeum	T. tannensis
Knightia excelsa	Toronia toru
Kunzea ericoides	Weinmannia silvicola
Lepidosperma laterale	
Leptecophylla (=Cyathodes) juniperina	

(compiled by E.Grove and A. Brandon)

Sailors Grave, Whenuakite

Our afternoon trip further north to Sailors Grave, Whenuakite was rather brief given our typically slow botanising at our first site! However, we found a recently made track which allows access around the headland to the north of Sailors Grave beach through regenerating scrub including *Pseudopanax lessonii*, *Pittosporum umbellatum*, *P. crassifolium* and a stand of large, old flowering *Vitex lucens* (puriri) trees. There has been some planting of kauri through the area and we were a little dismayed to see *Agapanthus* planted in the bush albeit possibly on private land. The beach north of the headland deserves a return trip for botanising as we did not have time to do it justice and there are several threatened plants which are known to occur locally.

NEW BOOK : EAGLE'S COMPLETE TREES AND SHRUBS

**EAGLE'S COMPLETE TREES AND SHRUBS OF NEW ZEALAND
BOTANICAL PAINTINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS BY AUDREY EAGLE
Published by Te Papa Press, 3 November 2006, rrp \$200**

An outstanding contribution to the study of botany in New Zealand and an essential addition to any library.

The first volumes of *Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of NZ* were published in New Zealand in 1975 to universal acclaim, and quickly became classic references for New Zealand botanists and plant-lovers. This long-awaited new edition brings Audrey Eagle's botanical artworks together for the first time in over 40 years, depicting every native tree and shrub. The books are full of new paintings, including 173 new species and subspecies, and bringing the total number of plants illustrated to 806. All plants are all depicted at life-size and include many detailed enlargements, showing all aspects of the twigs, flowers, fruit, nuts and flowers of each plant in technically superb detail. Comprehensive notes, drafted in consultation with expert botanists from around New Zealand, provide up-to-date botanical and identification information on every plant, including descriptions and notes on habitat, distribution, synonymy and nomenclature.

Audrey Eagle has been painting New Zealand native plants since 1952. She was born in Timaru and spent her teenage years in the Oxfordshire countryside, returning to New Zealand after her marriage in 1949. Author of *Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand in Colour* (1975) and *Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand Second Series* (1983) and a number of other books, Eagle is an active member of botanical and conservation societies such as the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Nature Conservation Council and the Loder Cup Committee. *Eagle's Complete Trees and Shrubs of NZ* represents her life's work and the achievement of her goal: to illustrate representatives of all genera of native trees and shrubs.
NZ RRP (incl. GST): \$200.00 Extent: Volume I 544 pp, Volume II 592 pp, in a slipcase.
ISBN: 0909010080 **Illustration:** 500 full-colour plates **Format:** 280 x 230 mm portrait

For further information or to interview Audrey Eagle, please contact Publicist Angela Radford, ph 09 5797351 or 021 401104 email: angelaradford@xtra.co.nz

FLORA OF NEW ZEALAND COURSE

This University course runs from 2-16 February 2007 and covers topics such as the origin of the flora, the basics of taxonomy, an introduction to harakeke weaving and field identification of plants. It begins with a weekend field trip. Contact Dr Chrissen Gemmill for more information at c.gemmill@waikato.ac.nz or ph. 07 838 4237.

**WAIKATO BOTANICAL SOCIETY
PROGRAM 2006**



In the event of bad weather, please contact the trip leader on the morning of field trips if you are unsure if they will go ahead and don't want a wasted trip to the meeting point. It is always helpful to notify the trip leader of your intention to attend a trip in case you are late to the meeting point or for last minute changes of plan. Please be prepared on all trips with your own lunch, drink, sturdy footwear, and clothes for all seasons. We encourage carpooling for longer distances and suggest a contribution is made toward those ever increasing petrol costs for the driver.

Sunday 1st October

Peter Morris' gully restoration

& Botanical Society Native Threatened Plant Collection working bee #4

A visit to the 20 year old gully restoration project of Peter Morris in Mangaharakeke gully, on the edge of Hamilton at Newstead/Matangi. The six acres of restoration contains a wide variety of site types - from dry bank top areas to very wet backswamp so there is a large range of species to see.

After lunch we return to another working bee to weed the collection, plant out and propagate. Bring your old gardening clothes.

Contact: Liz Grove ph. 07 846 0965 (hm) or eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Meet: 9.30am University of Waikato Gate 9, from here we will proceed to Peter Morris, returning to the threatened plant garden site in the glasshouse compound at the University at 1pm.

Sunday 5th November

Ferns on Mt Te Aroha

A challenging climb, about 3-4 hours up, but well worth the effort to look at ferns in particular. A good selection of filmy ferns can be found towards the top of the track, but no doubt there will be plenty of others` to catch our breath over on the way up too. Note, this trip will now be led by Catherine Beard

Contact: Liz Grove ph. 07 846 0965 (hm) or eg3@waikato.ac.nz to carpool from Hamilton

Meet: 9am at the entrance to Te Aroha hotpools carpark.

Sunday 3rd December

Te Waihou Walkway and Wairere Falls

Combined Christmas trip with Rotorua Botanical Society

We will walk the Te Waihou walkway near Tirau and look at aquatic vegetation in the Blue Spring with Paul Champion from NIWA. Those who are interested will then travel over to the Wairere Falls where a 1hr boardwalk takes you up to the base of the falls, a further 45min walk uphill leads to a lagoon at the top of the falls.

Contact: Andrea Brandon ph. 07 858 1018 (wk) or abrandon@doc.govt.nz to carpool from Hamilton

Meet: 9 am at Landcare Research carpark, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, to carpool from Hamilton or 10 am at the Leslie Road carpark (Leslie Rd is off Whites Rd which is SH 28).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 2006-07 membership year began in March. Please complete and return the form to continue your subscription if you have not already done so. Please note we had a technical amendment to our subscription categories at the recent AGM which means that the \$5 subscription now applies to all unwaged persons e.g. retired, not only students.

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/Unwaged	\$5.00 (per year)

Please make cheques payable to "Waikato Botanical Society Inc."
