



Waikato Botanical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER

No. 29, May 2009

President:

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

Secretary:

Monica Peters
Ph (07) 854 9118 a/h
monica.peters@landcare.org.nz

Treasurer:

Jan Butcher
Ph (09) 236 9722 a/h
jjbutcher@ps.gen.nz

For all correspondence:

Waikato Botanical Society

The University of Waikato
c/- Department of Biological Sciences
Private Bag 3105
HAMILTON
Email: bot_soc@waikato.ac.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS 2009

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, to arrange carpooling or for any last minute change of plan. Please be prepared on all trips with your own lunch, drink, sturdy footwear, and clothes for all seasons.

Lake Mangahia fieldtrip & Waikato Wetland Plants Field Guide Workshop

Saturday 13th June 2009

We are offering these two activities together but you can attend one or the other if you prefer. Please let us know of your attendance (RSVP) and we can provide some refreshments in between (yes bribery)!

Lake Mangahia

A great trip for anyone interested in ecological restoration!

Monica is offering a guided trip to Lake Mangahia, a privately owned lake with partially covenanted wetlands to learn about the restoration project planned for this site. This trip will be in the morning before the workshop. The lake is part of the Waipa District group of peat lakes.

Meet: Depart 9am Landcare Research carpark, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, Hillcrest. Returning to University (via Landcare) for field guide workshop by 1pm.

Contact: For RSVP and carpooling Monica Peters monica.peters@landcare.org.nz or ph 07 859 3725 (wk) mob 021 049 2036

Waikato Wetland Plants Field Guide Workshop

After the trip to the lake we will run an afternoon workshop at Waikato University to progress with compiling species information for the WBS Waikato Wetland Plant Field Guide. After a successful workshop last year, we will follow the same format of working in pairs or small groups to fill in species information on to a spreadsheet. This is the backbone of the book! Lots of resources will be provided including reference books and computers. We will be working adjacent to the Waikato Herbarium which will be available for use (Herbarium tours are offered for those interested). PLEASE REMEMBER you don't need to be a plant ID expert to help we have a lot of resources at our finger tips we just need to gather the appropriate information.

Meet: 1pm at Waikato University Gate 9, Hillcrest Rd (we will be in D1.16, swipe card access required at the C-D link stairwell at Gate 9 entrance, please call 07 838 4466 x 7824 or our mobiles if you arrive late! or lurk at the gate and we will keep an eye out)

Contact: RSVP or queries to Monica as above, or Liz Overdyck eg3@waikato.ac.nz ph 07 846 0965 (a/h) mob 021 155 3622

Threatened Plant Collection Working Bee

Saturday 11th July 2009

A working bee in the threatened plant garden. Please bring gloves, old clothes and boots for weeding, planting and propagating activities.

Meet: 9.45 am at Waikato University Gate 9, Hillcrest Rd

Contact: Liz Overdyck ph 846 0965 eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Hauraki Forest Remnant - Hapuakohe

Saturday 8th August 2009

The Hapuakohe Range to the North-East of Huntly borders the western edge of the Hauraki Plains. The bush remnant we are exploring is untracked and steep in places, so a reasonable level of fitness will be required.

Meet: 8.30 am, Landcare Research carpark, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, Hillcrest.

Contact: Catherine Beard ph. 859 0999 email: Catherine.Beard@ew.govt.nz

Hauraki Wetland Remnants

Sunday 20th September 2009

A visit to remnants of the Hauraki Plains once magnificent kahikatea forest and what is left of the salt meadow on the banks of the Waihou River. This trip is being re-run after cancellation due to inclement weather last year.

Frank Speedy Memorial Reserve - This kahikatea-*Cordyline* forest remnant south of Ngatea is an area gifted by the Speedy family that was part of the homestead reserve but is now a public road side rest area. It is an area that has been passed a million times but probably never really looked at. Large clumps of *Gahnia xanthocarpa* are present in the wetter areas under the canopy, also good specimens of mature *Streblus heterophyllus* in the shrub layer along with *Melicope simplex* and other small leaf plants, are of interest in this isolated reserve including some

hybrids between two *Melicytus* species. From here a 10 min. drive to the Kopu Bridge, and a short walk along the mangrove fringe of the Waihou River. Heading downstream beside the tidal edge, we'll look at salt tolerant plants away from the tall fescue that dominates this area. The carpets of salt tolerant *Samolus repens*, *Selliera radicans* and *Sarcocornia quinqueflora*, found in certain spots as almost pure growths, in and amongst the mangroves, are well worth seeing.

Meet: 9.30am Frank Speedy Memorial Reserve SH2, 2km East of Ngatea township.

Contact: Doug Ashby dj.ashby@xtra.co.nz ph 07 862 4706

TE MÄRA REO Language garden & Lake Hakanoa wetland

Saturday 17th October 2009

Dr Richard Benton will show us around his 2ha Ngaruawahia property which has been developed into a "language garden". Over the last decade Richard and his family have planted many of the NZ native plants whose names were brought here by this country's first Polynesian settlers (<http://www.tumanako.org/>). Afterwards, we will visit a remnant wetland on the shores of Lake Hakanoa (Huntly) and continue along the boardwalk to a restored area.

Meet: 9:30am at Landcare Research carpark, Gate 10 Silverdale Rd, Hillcrest.

Contact: Monica.monica.peters@landcare.org.nz Ph 859 3725 (wk) mob 021 049 2036

Threatened Plant Collection Working Bee

Saturday 31st October 2009

A working bee in the threatened plant garden. Please bring gloves, old clothes and boots for weeding, planting and propagating activities.

Meet: 9.45 am at Waikato University Gate 9, Hillcrest Rd

Contact: Liz Overdyck ph 846 0965 eg3@waikato.ac.nz

Pureora Waihora Lagoon & Mt Pureora

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November 2009

The diversity of the park will allow us to be flexible with our timetable so there will be opportunities to visit other botanically interesting sites depending on what folks feel like. A suggestion is that we explore the lagoon on Saturday morning. The nationally endangered water brome *Amphibromus fluitans*, described as a "cryptic, somewhat elusive species" can be found here. On Sunday we'll tackle Mt Pureora. Along an altitudinal gradient, the vegetation forms a sequence from submontane to montane conifer-broadleaved forest, then to subalpine scrub and shrub-mossfield (see Leathwick et al. 1988, NZJB online). If the weather's good (and if we botanize fast enough!) we should have some great views from the summit.

Meet: at Pureora village cabins Saturday 10:30am. There will be an option to head down on Friday night to stay in the park, either at the cabins or at the nearby DoC campground (no facilities).

Contact: Monica for cabin/campground bookings and carpooling monica.peters@landcare.org.nz office: 859 3725 / 021 049 2036

NOTICES

Congratulations!

Our President, Liz Overdyck is currently on maternity leave. Proud parents Liz and Ollie brought 6 week old Hana to her first WBS event – Bruce and Bev Clarkson’s fascinating talk about their 6 month research trip to the US and South America. We all thoroughly enjoyed the talk and Hana seemed to as well (at least we’d like to think she did!) – *Monica Peters*

Reinvigorating the WBS

At our last committee meeting in March this year we discussed ways we could “reinvigorate the WBS”. As a small society, the challenge is both to retain existing members as well as to grow the membership base. While a strong core group supports the WBS, we’d like to encouraging both existing, new and non-members along to our events (field trips, AGM, evening talks). We discussed a range of ideas – and we’d like your feedback. Send your thoughts to Catherine.Bead@ew.govt.nz

Encouraging new members

- *Run informal event at University e.g. BBQ to encourage membership of new students*
- *Develop field trip calendar earlier so it can be given to University Flora Course participants*
- *Ensure Environment Centre and local papers, councils etc are receiving our event programme and reminders*

Improving attendance at evening talks (and at AGMs)

- *Trial earlier talk time e.g. 5:30pm, include drinks and nibbles with gold coin donation e.g. 1hr drinks, nibbles, show and tell...then speaker?*
- *Establish evening talks as a regular event e.g. every 2 months*
- *Have raffle for plant etc. at evening talks*
- *Participants to bring along interesting plant related items (seeds, plants to be ID’d, new books etc) for table at talk (successful model used by Otago Botanical Society)*
- *Target visiting lecturers/scientists/interesting speakers through Waikato University, Landcare Research, Environment Waikato. Vet potential speakers to ensure quality is maintained*
- *Advertise talks at time to university students at their lectures*
- *Establish stronger links with leading botanists and encourage to present evening talks or lead trips for the WBS*

Evening talk venue

- *Change the venue from the University of Landcare Research to avoid new charges imposed by the university for using lecture theatres*

Improving attendance at field trips

- *Attendance at field trips fluctuates – trips further away (e.g. Pureora, Port Waikato) seem to attract more people.*
 - *Establish stronger links with the Auckland Botanical Society by joining field trips*
 - *Run workshops e.g. previous workshop at Rotorua herbarium on rush and sedge ID*
-

The forgotten flora

A recent article in the Waikato Times (May 19, 2009 Eco Issues section) highlighted endangered plants in the region. Journalist Jeff Neems neatly summarised their plight “Endangered plants are never as captivating as threatened animals, but they are as important – now and in the future.” The Waikato Biodiversity Forum (www.waikatobiodiversity.org.nz) provided a graphic showing the key locations of some threatened plant species in the region and the article text was provided by Bruce Clarkson and Monica Peters. If you would like a copy of the article, contact Monica (details on the front of the newsletter).

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENING TALKS

Pokaiora clearing, Pureora Forest Park & Teucrium survey, Mapara Scenic Reserve

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November 2008

Pokaiora clearing, Pureora Forest Park

This was a combined trip with Rotorua Botanical Society. We met at the Car Park where Western Bays road crosses the Waihaha River. The track follows the northern bank of the Waihaha River for the first 2 kilometres. Not far up the river we found *Clematis forsteri* in flower. A bit further along we found *Pittosporum colensoi* in flower.



The track headed up a bit of a hill overlooking the river and we spotted *Gaultheria antipoda* and *Gaultheria oppositifolia* both flowering. The later being distinguished with hair under the leaf. *Dracophyllum strictum* was also growing on this bank above the river. Further along we came across flowering *Olearia arborescens* and on a bank one the side of the track was a large patch of *Corybas oblongus*.





Other plants that I noticed growing along the side of the track were *Toronia toru*, *Carex geminata*, *Muehlenbeckia australis*, *Macharaena sinclairii*, *Morelotia affinis*, *Corokia cotoneaster* and *Melicytus lanceolatus*

The find of the day had to be *Calochilus robertsonii*. This small orchid was easily overlooked growing on the side of the track.

We stopped at the top of a small rise and rested before heading back to the carpark. Some of us then headed back to Pureora Village to stay overnight in the cabins.

Mapara Scenic Reserve

Mapara Scenic Reserve is a small patch of bush of about 7ha, located 16 km sw of Te Kuiti. Our mission was to rediscover *Teucrium parvifolium* which had been last seen in the reserve about 20 years earlier. We had a good look around the reserve but unfortunately did not find any *Teucrium*. There was a wet area inside the reserve that had been an oxbow in the river that has been invaded by *Glyceria maxima*. In other places we found Japanese walnuts which we dealt to where we could.



We were challenged in our identification of the small leaved coprosmas that we came across. The LH one is *Coprosma rotundifolia* but we didn't really agree on whether the RH one was *Coprosma arborea* or *Coprosma aerolata*.



An unoccupied grey warbler nest. In one part of the wet oxbow we found an unusual cabbage tree. The tree that had fallen down horizontally and then resprouted several times to form 4 trees.

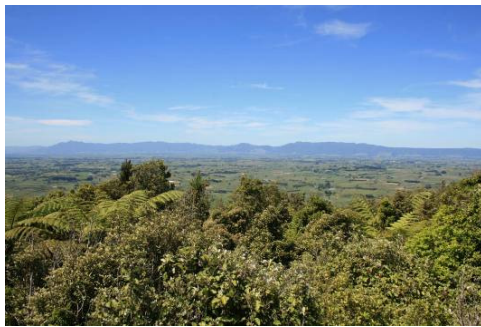
- Thomas Emmitt.

Susan and Thomas are now off on their big OE around Europe.

They hope to be back in New Zealand towards the end of the year.

Te Tapui Scenic Reserve

Saturday December 6 2008



Te Tapui Scenic Reserve is about 2400 ha with 2 high points of about 500m.a.s.l. There is a loop walk that takes about 2 – 3 hours if you don't stop and do any botanising. It is mainly tawa forest. There is a small resident fallow herd which keeps the undergrowth quite open in places. We saw a tree where a deer had rubbed its antlers. After a short time along the track John Hobbs pointed out *Blechnum membranaceum* which I hadn't seen before. It had smaller more delicate fertile fronds that *Blechnum chambersii*.

At about 12 o'clock when we were only about half way to the top we stopped and had lunch (the ones that hadn't left their lunch in the car). We had a scout around off the track and found some *Gastrodia* orchids.



After lunch the team split into two - one group heading back to the cars and the other group continuing on to the top. Just near the summit we came across the only specimen of *Streblus heterophyllus* that we had seen all day. From the top it was a quick jaunt down to get back to the cars by 5 PM. – Kerry Jones

Maungakawa – Te Tapui Scenic Reserve

NZMS 260, T14 400738, 120 – 495 m, Maungatautari Ecological District
John Hobbs, Mark Smale, Paul Cashmore, Kerry Jones & Liz Overdyck

FERN ALLIES		<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	kiwakiwa
<i>Huperzia varia</i>	hanging clubmoss	<i>Blechnum membranaceum</i>	
<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>	fork fern	<i>Blechnum novaezelandiae</i>	kiokio
<i>Tmesipteris lanceolata</i>	fork fern	<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>	gully tree fern
<i>Tmesipteris tannensis</i>	fork fern	<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	silver fern
FERNS		<i>Cyathea medullaris</i>	mamaku
<i>Adiantum cunninghamii</i>	common maidenhair	<i>Cyathea smithii</i>	soft tree fern
<i>Anarthropteris lanceolata</i>	lance fern	<i>Dicksonia squarrosa</i>	wheki
<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	hen & chicken fern	<i>Diplazium australe</i>	southern lady fern
<i>Asplenium flaccidum</i>	hanging spleenwort	<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	water fern
<i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>	shining spleenwort	<i>Hymenophyllum demissum</i>	
<i>Asplenium polyodon</i>	sickle spleenwort	<i>Hymenophyllum dilatatum</i>	
<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	nini	<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	
<i>Blechnum discolor</i>	crown fern	<i>Lastreopsis glabella</i>	
<i>Blechnum filiforme</i>	thread fern	<i>Lastreopsis hispida</i>	hairy fern

<i>Leptopteris hymenophylloides</i>	heruheru	DICOTYLEDONOUS LIANES	<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	clematis
<i>Lygodium articulatum</i>	mangemange	<i>Metrosideros diffusa</i>	rata vine	
<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	hounds tongue	<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	rata vine	
<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	fragrant fern	<i>Metrosideros perforata</i>	rata vine	
<i>Pneumatopteris pennigera</i>	gully fern	<i>Muehlenbeckia australis</i>	pohuehue	
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	bracken	<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	NZ jasmine	
<i>Pteris macilentia</i>	sweet fern	<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>	NZ passion vine	
<i>Pyrrhosia eleagnifolia</i>	leather-leaf fern	<i>*Rubus fruticosus aggr.</i>	blackberry	
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	leathery shield			
<i>Trichomanes venosum</i>	veined filmy fern			
GYMNOSPERMS		DICOTYLEDONOUS HERBS		
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea	<i>Cardamine sp.</i>	bitter cress	
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu	<i>*Cirsium arvense</i>	Californian thistle	
<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro	<i>*Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle	
DICOTYLEDONOUS TREES AND SHRUBS		<i>*Crepis capillaris</i>		
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki	<i>*Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	
<i>Alseuosmia quercifolia</i>		<i>*Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish heath	
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa	<i>*Galium aparine</i>	bedstraw	
<i>*Berberis glaucocarpa</i>	barberry	<i>Galium propinquum</i>		
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora	<i>Haloragis erecta</i>	shrubby haloragis	
<i>Coprosma arborea</i>	mamangi	<i>*Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy	
<i>Coprosma grandifolia</i>	kanono	<i>*Lotus pedunculatus</i>	lotus	
<i>Coprosma lucida</i>	shinning karamu	<i>*Mentha pulegium</i>	pennyroyal	
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	karamu	<i>*Phytolacca octandra</i>	ink weed	
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe	<i>*Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort	
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau	<i>*Plantago major</i>	broadleaved plantain	
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i>		<i>*Polygonum aviculare</i>	wireweed	
var. <i>ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange	<i>*Prunella vulgaris</i>	selfheal	
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka	<i>*Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood	<i>*Senecio bipinnatisectus</i>	Australian fireweed	
<i>Knightia excelsa</i>	rewarewa	<i>Solanum americanum</i>	nightshade	
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kanuka	<i>*Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	
<i>Laurelia novaezelandiae</i>	pukatea	<i>*Veronica plebeia</i>		
<i>*Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet	MONOCOTYLEDONOUS TREES AND LIANES		
<i>Litsea calicaris</i>	mangeao	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	cabbage tree	
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau	
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	supplejack	
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou			
<i>Nestegis lanceolata</i>	white maire	ORCHIDS		
<i>Olearia rani</i>	hekatara	<i>Acianthus sinclairii</i>	pixie cap	
<i>*Prunus persica</i>	peach	<i>Corybas trilobus</i>	common spider orchid	
<i>*Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese hill cherry	<i>Earina autumnalis</i>	ruapeka	
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five-finger	<i>Earina mucronata</i>	peka-a-waka	
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i>	lancewood	<i>Gastrodia</i>		
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate	aff. <i>sesamoides</i>	potato orchid	
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>		<i>Pterostylis banksii</i>	green hood orchid	
var. <i>aviculare</i>	poroporo	<i>Winika cunninghamii</i>	bamboo orchid	
<i>Solanum aviculare</i>				
var. <i>albiflorum</i>	poroporo (white fl)			
<i>Streblus heterophyllus</i>	turepo			

GRASSES		RUSHES AND SEDGES	
* <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop	<i>Carex dissita</i>	flat leaved sedge
* <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal	* <i>Juncus tenuis</i>	track rush
* <i>Dactylis glomeratum</i>	cocksfoot	<i>Schoenus maschalinus</i>	dwarf bog-rush
* <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	<i>Uncinia ferruginea</i>	hooked sedge
* <i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial rye grass	<i>Uncinia uncinata</i>	hook grass
<i>Microlaena avenacea</i>	bush rice grass	OTHER MONOCOTYLENOUS HERBS	
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>		<i>Astelia solandri</i>	kahakaha
var. <i>imbecillis</i>	creeping beard grass	<i>Collospermum hastatum</i>	
* <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	paspalum	<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kieke
* <i>Schedonorus arundiacea</i>	tall fescue	<i>Libertia ixioides</i>	mikoikoi
* <i>Setaria viridis</i>	green bristle grass		

List compiled by John Hobbs

Evening talk: “The Environmental History of Whangapoua estuary – what pollen and sediment can tell us”

Tuesday March 24 2009

Yanbin Deng, currently the terrestrial ecologist at Environmental Waikato treated the WBS to a journey through time at this year’s AGM. The Whangapoua estuary, on the eastern shores of Great Barrier Island was the site for Yanbin’s PhD research, carried out under the supervision of John Ogden and Mark Horrocks (University of Auckland). What makes this site so unique is the intact sequence from saline to freshwater wetland. The main plant communities represented (in order of tidal influence) are: mangroves, sea rush meadow, salt meadow (oioi), *Baumea* sedges, manuka shrubland and freshwater swamp dominated by manuka, raupo, cabbage tress and kahikatea .

One of several research questions Yanbin asked was “What is the impact of disturbance – especially burning by early Maori – on the rate and direction of the successional process? To find answers, Yanbin extracted sediment cores from various representative locations and examined the pollen record. To explain the stories pollen can tell, slides of the great Terracotta Army uncovered in China and the “Iceman” discovered high in the Alps were shown. The pollen found in the former reveals the burial site as grassland surrounded by pine forest; and we now know what the Iceman ate and what time of year his journey ended. However in the Whangapoua samples, one pollen type was not represented – *Juncus kraussii*, the sea rush). Yanbin found that this did not reflect an absence from the historical record, but that the pollen while present, instead became severely degraded though the chemical processes of pollen preparation for analyses.

The results are undisputable: despite changes in the rate of sediment deposition and associated vegetation changes though historic climate change and naturally occurring fires, by far the greatest effect on the estuary has been through human hands.

Sedimentation rates in pre-impact times were c 0.4 mm/yr; in Polynesian times c.0.9mm/yr, more than doubling in European times to 2.2mm/yr. Overall vegetation changes have been significant. Increases in charcoal and bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) pollen occurred during Polynesian times pointing to increased fires beginning from c.800 year ago. This continued with the arrival of Europeans, who introduced pine and grasses. The overall direction of vegetation change has been linear - beginning with mangroves then followed by estuarine marsh communities (sea rush, oioi and *Baumea juncea*). Further transitions, from *Baumea* to a terrestrial system of *Leptospermum*

shrubland or Cordyline/Dacrycarpus swamp forest, followed two main pathways associated with autogenic accumulation of peat and sediment inputs from land respectively. – *Monica Peters*

Deng, Y., Ogden, J., Horrocks, M., Anderson, S. & Nichol, S. L. 2004. **The vegetation sequence at Whangapoua Estuary, Great Barrier Island, New Zealand.** *New Zealand Journal of Botany*.42: 565-588.

Deng, Y., Horrocks, M., J., Ogden, Anderson, S. 2006. **Modern pollen-vegetation relationships along transects on the Whangapoua Estuary, Great Barrier Island, northern New Zealand.** *Journal of Biogeography*. 33: 592-608.

Ogden, J, Deng, Y., Horrocks, M. Nichol S. & Anderson S. 2006 **Sequential impacts of Polynesian and European settlement on vegetation and environmental processes recorded in sediments at Whangapoua Estuary, Great Barrier Island, New Zealand.** *Regional Environmental Change*. 6: 25-40.

Deng, Y., Ogden, J., Horrocks, M., Anderson, S. 2006. **Application of palynology to describe vegetation succession in estuarine wetlands on Great Barrier Island, northern New Zealand.** *Journal of Vegetation Science*.17: 765-782.

Evening talk: “Vegetation in the western U.S.A.”

Tuesday May 26 2009

The WBS was treated to a most enjoyable evening talk by Bruce and Bev Clarkson about their recent travels and research work in the desert and volcanic terrain of Nevada, California and Arizona, with some diversions to the cloud forests on the flanks of the Tungurahua volcano (yes, try pronouncing that correctly!) in Ecuador, and the vast Pantanal wetlands in western Brazil. Bruce and Bev illustrated their talk with a great selection of slides showing the hugely diverse flora of the regions they visited, with some interesting connections to New Zealand's own flora. There were also spectacular landscapes – cinder cones and lava flows in Lassen Volcanic National Park, canyons, rock formations and arid deserts, contrasted by Bev's pictures of luscious wetland vegetation in Brazil. We were also entertained with some interesting stories of non-research related activities, such as a visit to the casino strip in Las Vegas (best place in the world to study people), but also some fairly horrifying happenings such as the small plane that crashed nearby while they were out doing field work. We were even encouraged to think outside the botanical, with an occasional critter-picture to ponder (the Capybara was my favourite). All in all, an excellent evening with a great turnout. – *Catherine Beard*

AGM

Waikato Botanical Society AGM minutes

Tuesday March 24, 2009

Present (Members): Liz Grove, Catherine Beard, Monica Peters, Norman Mason, Paul and Kay Etheridge, Wyne Johns, Yanbin Deng, Jan Butcher, Sandra Valderrama
Present (Visitors): David Bradley, Jackson Efford
Apologies: Kerry Jones, Bruce Clarkson,
Location: S.1.01, Waikato University
Start time: 6:50pm

Presidents Report- appended

Prepared by Liz Overdyck

Previous minutes:

Minutes from the last AGM were circulated.

Liz Overdyck moved that they be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Norm. Motion carried.

Matters arising:

Slight typographic error in previous minutes pointed out by Wyne. Corrected by Monica.

Financial Report – appended to next newsletter

Jan Butcher, current Treasurer summarised the Financial Report.

- The finances are in a healthy state
- Funds will be re-invested when the term expires though at a lower interest rate given the current national/international financial situation.
- Jan suggested that the subscription rate should remain the same as it currently stands as the WBS has a strong core group of supporters and a steady income from e.g. book sales to students taking botanically related university courses.

Jan Butcher moved that the financial report be accepted, seconded by Liz Overdyck. Motion carried.

Election of Officers:

President	Liz Overdyck (Wyne Johns/Norman Mason)
Secretary	Monica Peters (Liz Overdyck/ Catherine Beard)
Treasurer	Jan Butcher (Catherine Beard/Norman Mason)
Newsletter Editor	Norman Mason (Liz Overdyck/Wyne Johns)
Committee	Bruce Clarkson (Liz Overdyck/Monica Peters) Catherine Beard (Liz Overdyck/Norman Mason)

- Sandra Valderrama volunteered as a new member of the committee and was welcomed by existing WBS committee members present
- Catherine Beard will continue to receive emails directed to the WBS
- Monica Peters will function as Vice President while Liz goes on maternity leave

The election of officers, appointment of the new committee member, continuation of Catherine's role as WBS liaison and Monica's assistance during the President's impending leave above was agreed by a show of hands from those present at the AGM.

General business:

- Amendments to WBS rules (to enable the Charities Commission registration) were tabled at the meeting, specifically relating to Clause 11a. Two further clauses were added to section 8 namely, 8g and 8h. The purpose of the amendments is to provide clarity on winding up the WBS if this should ever happen, and to prevent private pecuniary profit during the operation of the WBS. These amendments were discussed at the AGM and agreed by the majority.
- Wyne highlighted the need to look at new strategies to collect threatened plants as since Andrea Brandon's departure from DoC as the threatened plant officer there is a vacuum and no current botanical contact in DoC. Additionally, Wyne thought there may be changes in the DoC seed collecting protocol though she already has a seed collecting licence.
- Liz pointed out that the space in the Waikato University glasshouses was subject to availability. Since Andrea's departure to work for the MfE in Wellington, Liz has made contact with a Biodiversity Manager at DoC, Laurence Barea who is supportive of the WBS Threatened Plants Garden.
- Wyne suggested using the Tamahere Community Nursery to propagate seed as the Tamahere Gully Group will carry out this task for other community members. Wyne will make contact with Jan Simmons to discuss this. The WBS has can provide seed raising mix through the Community Conservation Fund. Wyne is also running a workshop at the nursery in the first week of April.
- Additionally, Wyne suggested that seed collecting trips could be a stronger feature of future trips. Skilled botanists knowledgeable about the location of threatened species such as Peter de Lange and Gerry Kessels could be contacted in this respect.
- A comment was made that Biodiversity Rangers in general are leaving DoC from both the Te Kuiti and Hauraki offices.
- Catherine highlighted the need for both WBS and individual submission on the LTCCP as proposed funding cuts will have a significant impact on biodiversity values in the region.

Meeting closed at 7.45

Post Script: DoC Waikato have appointed a new botanist who will begin in June 09

President's Report

2009 Waikato Botanical Society

Firstly, thank you to all field trip and event organisers, your work behind the scenes is appreciated whether for a small select group of attendees or the bigger events. Field trip attendance has fluctuated from 2-3 people to 25+ on trips this year, usually the weather has an influence and of course the more inaccessible places are popular to visit. We had one trip postponement due to spring flooding, typically this was the day we were visiting the ephemeral plants of the Waihou floodplains unfortunately. We have continued to enjoy some combined trips with Rotorua Botanical Society and perhaps could put more effort in future into joining with other bot socs, local Forest and Bird, OSNZ etc...

Our film night on the 'Eden Project' with Robin Kewell was popular with members and non-members, with about 85 people attending. Thanks to Bev Collison at the Continuing Education Centre, Waikato University for covering the venue costs and providing tea and coffee. We lost

money after covering Robin's costs and providing nibbles, but the committee felt it was worthwhile keeping ticket prices low and raising the society profile, we had several new memberships and books sold. We plan to hold another film event in some form later this year.

The society continues to award two Waikato University prizes annually at undergraduate and graduate level and we are in the ongoing process of establishing an equivalent Wintec prize of \$200 per annum. We also sponsored our regular botanically related prize at the 2008 NIWA school science fair. We have discontinued our subscription to NZAEE (NZ Assoc. for Environmental Education) although this is in general a relevant organisation our membership was not delivering any direct benefits for the society. We continue to subscribe to the Hamilton Environment Centre and NZPCN (NZ Plant Conservation Network). This keeps society members in the loop with national botanical news and relevant local environmental issues and both are good platforms for promoting the society activities.

Membership for 2008 was at 57 a slight drop from 2007 (62 paid up members) and 68 in the previous year. Renewal of subscriptions often seems to require multiple reminders and I hope that members will voice any issues if the Society is no longer meeting their requirements.

In the threatened plant garden we now have many species well established on the site and weeding remains a constant job, thank you very much to the working bee attendees. We have commissioned three individual species signs with 2008 DOC community conservation funding. These are being professionally produced giving a brief species description and providing useful information such as species distribution and threats, along with some illustrations. Thank you to Monica for liaising with the sign maker and working on the sign content. The Society has secured further funding (\$500 for 2009) from the DOC community conservation fund for more species signage and hopefully we will be at the point of extending the site later this year. We are currently running a bit short on seed and propagating materials following botanical staff changes at DOC, so please remember to consider whether any threatened species seed could be collected on field trips and arrange this prior to trips.

Botany of the Waikato books are still being sold in small but steady numbers to students and others. We have had several meetings and a workshop to get underway with creating a new Society publication on Waikato's wetland plants. The field guide currently consists of a brief outlining the structure of the book and an incomplete database of species descriptions and images. This is a slow project being undertaken voluntarily and I want to thank Monica particularly for her organising and enthusiasm and to other members for their involvement so far.

Thank you to the committee for their efforts throughout the year. Monica as secretary, Catherine as email communications co-ordinator, and Monica and Norm for newsletter editing. Jan Butcher has continued to do a great job as treasurer and is keeping the books in good order. Thank you to Cilla and Bruce as committee members, although they did both enjoy rather extended sojourns overseas last year! After 3 years Cilla is stepping down from the committee due to work commitments this year and we thank her particularly for her work on the newsletter during this time. I look forward to further enthusiasm and involvement from the committee for the year to come. - *Liz Overdyck*

Treasurer's report: Waikato Botanical Society Inc.

Income and expenditure for year ended 28.2.09

General funds	28.2.09	28.2.08
<u>Income</u>		
Donations	5.00	45.00
Subscriptions	785.00	745.00
Interest –cheque account	14.54	26.37
Term deposit	1,067.84	755.00
Book sales (23)	345.00	750.00
Postage and handling	5.00	55.00
Kewell film evening –sales	<u>389.00</u>	-----
	2,611.38	2,376.37
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Advertising	-----	-----
General –Kewell film	500.00	-----
Stamps and stationery	38.80	23.65
Catering	261.21	170.53
Scholarships/memberships	606.25	491.25
Threatened plant garden	-----	-----
Term deposit lodgement	<u>5,000.00</u>	-----
	6,406.26	685.43
<u>Opening balance as at 1 March 2008</u>	6,983.28	
Income	<u>2,611.38</u>	
	9,594.66	
Expenditure	<u>6,406.26</u>	
<u>Balance as at 28.2.09</u>	3,188.40	

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 28.2.09

Represented by: general funds (cheque account)	3,188.40
Term deposit (1 yr term due 30 Oct)	10,000.00
Term deposit (100 day roll over)	<u>5,000.00</u>
	18,188.40

ASSETS

868 Botany of the Waikato books based on cost \$15.94	13,835.92
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Notes from above (Kewell film)

Cost of film	500.00
Catering	<u>147.90</u>
	647.90
Door sales	<u>389.00</u>
Loss on event	<u>258.90</u>

Scholarships and memberships:

Waikato University	450.00
NIWA science prize	50.00
NZPCN sub	50.00
Environment Centre sub	<u>56.25</u>
	606.2

SUBSCRIPTIONS

REMINDER: have you paid your 2009/2010 subscription?

These are now due for the 2009-10 year which began 1st March. Please complete and post to the WBS Treasurer



WAIKATO BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Membership form

Please return with your subscription to:

Membership
Waikato Botanical Society
C/- Jan Butcher
P.O. Box 187
TUAKAU 2342

Please print clearly

Name.....

Address.....

.....

E-Mail.....

Phone Day.....Home.....Mobile.....

Subscription enclosed	Individual/couple/family	\$15 (per year)
	Student	\$ 5 (per year)

Cheques made payable to "Waikato Botanical Society"

Payment may be made direct to bank account: Waikato Botanical Society
03 1561 0016891 00

Please state your name and address and send notice of payment to
Jan Butcher jjbutcher@ps.gen.nz 09 236 9722
