

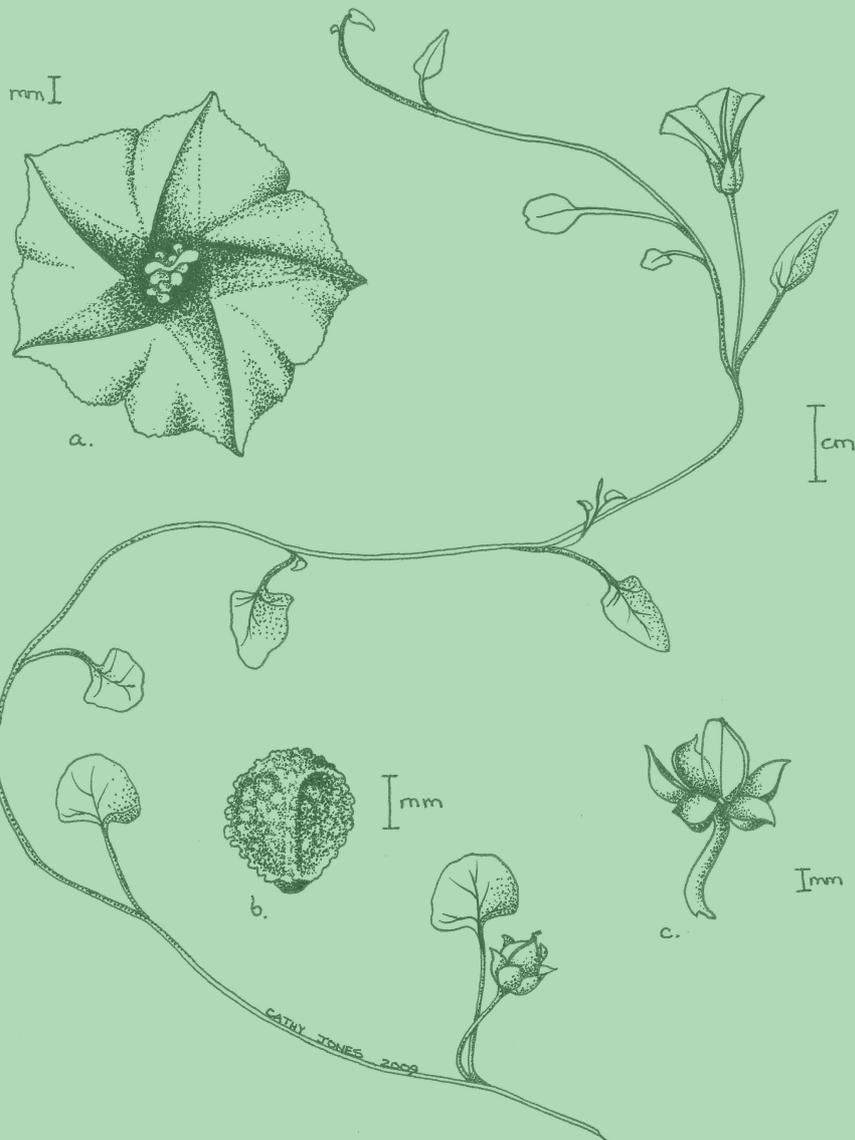
NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 95

March 2009

Convolvulus waitaha (Sykes) Heman, Mollay et de Lange



New Zealand Botanical Society

President: Anthony Wright
Secretary/Treasurer: Ewen Cameron
Committee: Bruce Clarkson, Colin Webb, Carol West

Address: c/- Canterbury Museum
Rolleston Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 8013

Subscriptions

The 2009 ordinary and institutional subscriptions are \$25 (reduced to \$18 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice). The 2009 student subscription, available to full-time students, is \$12 (reduced to \$9 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice).

Back issues of the *Newsletter* are available at \$7.00 each. Since 1986 the Newsletter has appeared quarterly in March, June, September and December.

New subscriptions are always welcome and these, together with back issue orders, should be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer (address above).

Subscriptions are due by 28 February each year for that calendar year. Existing subscribers are sent an invoice with the December Newsletter for the next years subscription which offers a reduction if this is paid by the due date. If you are in arrears with your subscription a reminder notice comes attached to each issue of the Newsletter.

Deadline for next issue

The deadline for the June 2009 issue is 25 May 2009.

Please post contributions to:
Melanie Newfield
17 Homebush Rd
Khandallah
Wellington

Send email contributions to atropa@actrix.co.nz. Files are preferably in MS Word (with the suffix ".doc" but not ".docx"), as an open text document (Open Office document with suffix ".odt") or saved as RTF or ASCII. Graphics can be sent as TIF JPG, or BMP files. Alternatively photos or line drawings can be posted and will be returned if required. Drawings and photos make an article more readable so please include them if possible. Macintosh files cannot be accepted so text should simply be embedded in the email message.

Cover Illustration

Convolvulus waitaha (Sykes) Heenan, Molloy et de Lange drawn by Cathy Jones from material collected from Cape Campbell, South Marlborough in January 2009.

a. flower, b. seed, c. dehisced capsule showing sepals and persistent annular disc.

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NEWS

New Zealand Botanical Society News

■ **Call for Nominations for Allan Mere Award 2009**

Nominations meeting the following conditions are invited for the award of the Allan Mere for the year 2009.

Conditions of the Allan Mere Award

- The Award shall be made annually to a person or persons who have made outstanding contributions to botany in New Zealand, either in a professional or amateur capacity.
- The Award shall be administered by the New Zealand Botanical Society.
- Nominations for the Award may be made by regional Botanical Societies, or by individuals, to the Secretary of the New Zealand Botanical Society. Nominations shall close on 30th June each year. Nominations shall be signed by nominator and seconder, and accompanied by two copies of supporting information that must not exceed one A4 page.
- Selection of the successful nominee/nominees shall be made by the Committee of the New Zealand Botanical Society, normally within three months of the closing date for nominations.
- If, in the opinion of the Committee, no suitable nomination is received in any particular year, the Committee may refrain from making an award.
- The Mere shall be formally presented to the recipient on an appropriate occasion by the President of the New Zealand Botanical Society or his/her nominee, but otherwise shall remain in the custody of, and be displayed by, the Herbarium Keeper of the Allan Herbarium (CHR) at Landcare Research, Lincoln, together with the book recording awards.
- The recipient shall receive an appropriately inscribed certificate.

Nominations should be forwarded by 30 June 2009 to:

Ewen Cameron, Secretary, New Zealand Botanical Society, c/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch 8013.

■ **Call for suggestions for Loder Cup nomination 2009**

The NZBS is one of the named groups able to nominate people for the Loder Cup – New Zealand's premier conservation award.

On Gerald Loder's first visit to New Zealand in 1886 he was introduced to this country's unique and distinctive flora. He was captivated and became an enthusiastic collector. Over a period of time he developed an outstanding selection of New Zealand and Southern Hemisphere plants on his estate in Surrey, England.

In 1926, he donated a cup to encourage and honour New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain and cherish New Zealand's indigenous flora. Gerald Loder became Lord Wakehurst in 1934. He remained passionately involved with what he called our "incomparable flora" until his death in 1936.

The Loder Cup is entrusted to the Minister of Conservation who appoints the Loder Cup Committee and awards the Cup. The Department of Conservation handles the administration of the award and any other matters.

The Cup is awarded annually to the person, group of people, or organisation which has exceeded all other nominees in furthering the aims and objects of the donor of the Cup.

Suggestions for consideration by the Committee for the Society's nomination should be forwarded to the undersigned by Tuesday 5th May 2009.

Ewen Cameron, Secretary, New Zealand Botanical Society, c/o Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, CHRISTCHURCH 8013

Regional Botanical Society News

■ Auckland Botanical Society

December, End-of-year function

Firstly Paul Champion, NIWA's wetland ecologist, assisted by Kerry Bodmin, ran a very highly organised wetland workshop. With a large number of plant specimens available for inspection, members were able to work their way through submerged plants, turf plants, and rushes and sedges, with expert advice on the finer details of identification. Dinner followed, and then a few powerpoint presentations wound up a pleasant summer's evening at the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

January, Chatham Island trip

The New Year began with the second ABS trip to the Chatham Islands. Members who hadn't been able to attend the first trip in 2007, together with friends, made up the party of 27 who spent 6 enjoyable days on the main island. The weather allowed 9 lucky people to get to Pitt Island, though the second group was disappointed. All the usual wonderful plants were seen, with once again the high-light being to stand on the rocks at Kaingaroa Point, surrounded by the suite of endemic plants that grow there, many of them in flower.

January, Ruahine camp

With only a short turn-around time for the Chatham's attendees, we were off again, this time heading "down the line" to the Ruahine Range, so beloved by Colenso. The well-set-up Sixtus Lodge was a good base for 3 days' botanising in the south-western portion of the range. The first plant of interest to catch our eyes was found growing on road cuttings – one of the everlasting daisies, *Anaphalioides subrigida*. The abundance of plants with *colensoi* as a specific name reflected the enthusiastic collecting habits of the first botanist to explore this area.

Waitangi Weekend, Great Barrier Island

Perfectly calm summer weather added to the delights of staying at the Orama Community Camp at Karaka Bay, Great Barrier Island. Outings to Whangapoua Estuary, Rangiwahakaea Bay, Coopers Castle and the surrounds of Karaka Bay filled in the time nicely. Botanical highlights included seeing *Fuchsia procumbens*, *Leptinella dioica*, *Plantago raoulii*, *Danhatchia australis*, *Halocarpus kirkii*, the endemics *Hebe pubescens* subsp. *rehuarum* and *Olearia allomii*, and 5 species of *Pittosporum* – *P. cornifolium*, *P. ellipticum*, *P. huttonianum*, *P. umbellatum* and *P. virgatum*.

February Field Trip

As luck would have it, a day's heavy rain preceded the trip to Goldies Bush Scenic Reserve, Waitakere, so with the water levels high, the intention to walk upstream to view the streamside botany was abandoned. This was regretted, as it was hoped to check out what may be the only population of *Lindsaea viridis* now left in the Waitakeres. A leisurely stroll through the regenerating bush was enjoyed, with the turn-around point being a ridge with a covering of young tanekaha and kauri.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 4 March | AGM and student talk. Ecology of <i>Eleocharis sphacelata</i> . Mieke Kapa. The Ruahine trip. Mike Wilcox |
| 21 March | Alice Eaves Bush, Orewa, & Wenderholm Regional Park |
| 1 April | The Chatham Islands. Peter de Lange |

Auckland Botanical Society, PO Box 26391, Epsom, Auckland 1344

President: Mike Wilcox

Secretary: Leslie Haines lhaines@unitec.ac.nz

■ Wanganui Museum Botanical Group

Wednesday 14 Feb 2007: Rangitikei/Turakina - mid-conference field trip.

An organiser of the 49th Annual Conference of the International Association for Vegetation Science, Jill Rapson of Massey University, had invited our Group to lead a party through several podocarp forest reserves owned by Forest and Bird in the Rangitikei and Turakina catchments. Five of us met the tour bus at Bulls, introduced ourselves to the 15 or so conference delegates and travelled on to the first stop, Pryces Rahui Reserve. Our objective was tall kanuka forest with regenerating podocarps, just below or at the kanuka canopy level. Soon all the overseas folk could recognise rimu, matai, kahikatea and totara, and some were learning other plants, especially tree ferns. We drove on to 'Little Sutherlands Bush' on Mangaone Road. Parts of this reserve have very large and widely-spaced kahikatea, matai, rimu and totara with a largely tawa canopy but, more unusually, an area of dense podocarps (plus the odd miro or two) of 'middle-aged' trees, forming the entire canopy – not a single broad-leaved canopy tree in an area of several hundred square metres. We lunched in this grove to better take in this remarkable place. A short stop at 'Big Sutherlands' let Jim Howard explain the history of plantings between the forest edge and the road (that's how large kahikatea can get in 40 years). As we had Dale Redpath from Massey on board, we needed to rush on down the Turakina to McPhersons Bush. Dale explained some findings from his study of regeneration here, the aftermath of the flood in February 2004 (see NZ Botanical Soc. Newsletter 80, for an extended account) after which almost all the tawa trees died. For us, the most worrying sight was the invasion of *Tradescantia*, a plant unknown here before the flood. A memorable experience to spend a day with botanists who were new to NZ forests – through their eyes we became more aware of our country's unique natural treasures. *Colin Ogle*

Saturday 3 March 2007: Lake Alice margins and dune forest remnant.

Our group had been to Lake Alice's shores and adjoining dune forest on several trips in the past, thanks to the kindness of the landowner. Clare Ridler of Horizons Regional Council had arranged and planned to lead this trip. Her work with the land owners had led to negotiations and funding for the recent fencing of much of the lake shore and an initial aerial spraying of grey willow (*Salix cinerea*). Unfortunately, Clare had family commitments by the time the trip arrived and seven of us found our own way around part of the lake and then the forest patch. The lake water was higher than on our visit in February 1998, but we did find one small area of exposed lake turf. Dense patches of *Glossostigma elatinoides* (some with almost white flowers, some with pink), very robust *Limosella* (*L. lineata*?) and the rather unprepossessing daisy, *Centipeda*, were here. We had not collected the *Centipeda* in 1998, merely recording it as *C. cunninghamii*, but that was before a revision of the genus resulted in four species in NZ. In the event, it seems the L Alice plants are indeed *C. cunninghamii*. Of the few fragments of dune forest between the Manawatu River and Patea, L Alice's is probably the largest in area and richest in native plants. Our Group was here last in 1996 but stock had been in very recently, setting back the regeneration that we had expected to see. Nevertheless, the sight of kanuka, titoki and kowhai (*Sophora godleyi*) forest with an understorey of *Coprosma crassifolia* and *Corokia cotoneaster*, and laced with leafless lawyer (*Rubus squarrosus*), convinced us this was a very special place. *Colin Ogle*

1 April 2007: Kaitoke Lake, Wanganui.

In fine autumn weather a party of eight explored the western margins of this large dune lake and wildlife refuge on private land some 3 km south of Wanganui city. It was gratifying to find that the lake edge had been fenced since our last trip; throughout the day it was obvious that the exclusion of stock had benefited lakeside plant species. For some considerable time, our attention was centred on a flat, silty, stream delta area of lake margin on the southern shore. Here we found flowering, and in some profusion, the turf plants *Glossostigma elatinoides* and *Limosella lineata*, as well as the nationally 'at risk' succulent *Crassula ruamahanga*. The latter was also found to be quite plentiful under the lakeside willows. Here, also, was a tiny patch of *Pratia perpusilla*, a new record for the plant list. Among dying willows beside the road we found a number of plants, including seedlings, of the nationally threatened New Zealand swamp nettle *Urtica linearifolia*. Unusually, the identification of a large-fruited *Juncus* that was much in evidence in an open lakeside area where the group stopped for lunch baffled Colin, and he was unable to subsequently key it out satisfactorily. [Ewen Cameron at AK has since identified this as *J. imbricatus* var. *chamissonis*, which *Flora of NZ 3* lists for Nelson only. CCO]. New to the plant list was an aquatic monocot, *Ruppia polycarpa*. The regionally uncommon sedge *Carex sinclairii* was stock-chewed and appeared to be in decline. *Ormond Torr*

Sunday 1 July 2007. Whanganui River Bank, city from Taupo Quay to Yacht Club.

Eight members were joined by local identity Ross Mitchell-Anyon (potter, writer, riverbank resident) for a botanical stroll along the riverside public walk way, starting near the CBD and city bridge and travelling downstream. We spent a considerable time in the most cultivated walkway behind the rail yards where native species have been planted in broad expanses of lawn. Colin helped us with identification and informed us of the rationale behind the selection of species planted here. We learnt how to distinguish between the NZ and Tasmanian ngaio (most appeared to be the former) and were shown *Corokia cotoneaster*, Chatham Island akeake (*Olearia traversii*) and salt-marsh ribbonwood (*Plagianthus divaricatus*) which Colin said had never been recorded in the Whanganui estuary, though it occurs in most estuaries up and down the coast from Wanganui. Probably it was here once, but the large amount of riverbank building, roading and estuary reclamation which occurred from the mid-1800s probably eliminated it. Downstream of the last road bridge we saw clumps of sea rush (*Juncus kraussii*) and two plants of oioi or jointed wire rush (*Apodasmia similis*). The latter had been collected in the Whanganui near the city bridge in 1943 but had not been recorded growing here naturally since then. The plants we saw resulted from plantings in 2001, sourced from material off the mudstone cliffs at Castlecliff a few km distant. We were rather surprised to see here, just out in the river, an immature dabchick (*Poliiocephalus rufopectus*) which did not seem too disturbed by our presence. Obligated to move away from the river into Bedford Avenue, we turned our attention to shrubs and trees on roadside verges and in gardens. Among these were a fine poinsettia, Norfolk Island hibiscus, a rampant clump of Kahili ginger and an ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) on the verge that had been planted by one of our local members, Robyn Smith, in her youth. We emerged on the riverbank near Affco Meatworks and sat for a while watching the roosting estuarine birdlife, which included red-billed gull, pied stilt and a few over-wintering bar-tailed godwits. We noted the growth of various native trees and shrubs that had been planted between Beach Road and the Yacht Club and, in the early afternoon, we were shuttled back to town. *Ormond Torr*

Sunday 4 May 2008. Parikino Swamp Forest, Parikino, off Whanganui River Road.

The day was cold and overcast but calm with no rain. Clare Ridler of Horizons Regional Council had been working with the owners to protect this remnant of kahikatea on the old floodplain of the Whanganui River and she and the owners showed us around it. It had been identified as a significant site in the 1996 Protected Natural Areas Survey Report for the Matemateaonga Ecological District. The walk was about 0.5 km from the house, across flat farmland, to the new fencing that has protected a largely eaten-out stand of medium-age kahikatea for about a year. The fencing's benefits were already showing up in small seedlings of mahoe, lemonwood, kawakawa and NZ jasmine, plus ferns that included the soft *Diplazium australe* and *Deparia petersenii*, a large patch of *Blechnum membranaceum* and two young trunkless gully ferns (*Cyathea cunninghamii*). Three plants of *Fuchsia perscandens*, two seedlings of *Urtica ferox* and a patch of dwarf mazus (*Mazus novaezeelandiae* ssp. *novaezeelandiae*) caused us to marvel at the powers of survival and recovery of some of our native forest species. Across a ditch we explored an area of open swamp forest that stock seemed to have avoided. Here we found sparse, slim kahikatea with kiekie, raupo, *Carex* sedges, parataniwha (*Elatostema rugosum*), swamp coprosma (*Coprosma tenuicaulis*) and the shrub daisy *Olearia virgata*. The drier forest is floristically not unlike Gordon Park Scenic Reserve, which lies on the same river's alluvial terraces but nearer Wanganui City. However, the swamp portion has no equivalent at Gordon Park and some of its flora is rare in the whole district. *Colin Ogle*

Sunday 6 April 2008. Oratikura Stream off 'Spooners Hill', part of Taihape Scenic Reserve.

Jim Howard and Les Rowlands led 11 of us for the day through the rather confusing terrain. The Oratikura is a tributary of the Hautapu River. It runs almost due south through mudstone hill country farms, much of it in a deeply-incised gorge with abundant old man's beard (omb) on the cliffs. It was the remnant native forest along the eastern rim of the gorge and on some slump terraces that made, for me, an extraordinary day. I had explored much of Taihape's forested reserve from as early as 1973 and had studied and recorded the devastation wrought by omb in almost every part I'd visited. To find that there was one part where omb had never been abundant and that many of the plants I thought had been eliminated from the reserve were still present was a revelation (and a very pleasing one)! Forest in the upper part of the Oratikura Stream catchment is partly in the reserve and partly in private ownership. Apart from the steepest areas, this forest is grazed by sheep, but not so intensively that all potentially palatable plants are at risk. Wherever sheep could reach, they had prevented omb taking over, though we saw places where local people had worked very hard to push

back the omb boundaries too. One example: *Teucrium parvifolium* is one of the softest divaricating shrubs and had not been seen in the reserve since listed there by Tony Druce in 1972. It still occurs in the whole Hautapu catchment in just one other forest patch, the un-grazed Paengaroa Scenic Reserve at Mataroa (which has always been without omb). Today we saw more than a 100 *Teucrium* shrubs, some on slopes grazed by sheep. In one spot were a few wisps of the nationally threatened grass, *Simplicia*, that some of us had seen on a trip to the Kawhatau several years ago. Among the other plants we found that Druce had listed closer to town (and which I had 'written off'¹), were *Olearia gardneri* (3 shrubs), *Coprosma rigida*, *Corokia cotoneaster*, *Asplenium hookerianum*, *Blechnum penna-marina*, *Acaena anserinifolia*, *Epilobium nerteroides*, *Lemna minor* and *Haloragis erecta*. We also found species that had never been recorded in the reserve before, including ongaonga (*Urtica ferox*), mistletoe (*Ileostylus micranthus*), a harebell (*Wahlenbergia violacea*) and several wetland species in a hollow on a slump surface (*Carex secta*, *C. maorica*, *Eleocharis acuta* and *Histiopteris incisa*). The general scarcity of other woody weeds that are so common in the town part of the reserve was also a pleasing feature of this part of the forest. Taihape's reserves have a lot to teach us yet about how to manage native forest in the face of seriously invasive weeds. Colin Ogle

¹ Ogle, CC; La Cock, GD; Arnold, G; Mickleson, N; (2000) Impacts of an exotic vine *Clematis vitalba* (F. Ranunculaceae), and of control measures, on plant biodiversity in indigenous forest, Taihape, New Zealand. *Austral Ecology* 25: 539-551.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Saturday 4 April: Town eucalypts and Kowhai Park bush, Feilding
Saturday 2 May: Whanganui River bank (east side). Ormond Torr
Tuesday 5 May: Plant-spotting between the west and east coasts of northern Australia. Colin Ogle.

President: Clive Higgle (06) 342 7857 clive.nicki@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Robyn Ogle (06) 3478547 22 Forres St, Wanganui. robcol.ogle@xtra.co.nz

■ Nelson Botanical Society

November Field Trip: Clarke River orchids

At the end of the Clarke River Road, in the Baton catchment, is a property owned by Georgina Upson and Scott Nicol. The property contains a variety of soils and vegetation types, which meant that the list of orchids seen was considerable: *Nematoceras orbiculatum*, *N. "whiskers"*, *N. macranthum*, *N. longipetalum*; *Pterostylis graminea*, *P. irsoniana*, *P. banksii* and *P. australis*; *Petalochilus atradenia*; *Adenochilus* sp., *Prasophyllum* sp., *Gastrodia cunninghamii* and *Chiloglottis cornuta*. Along the track in the logged pine forest, we were surprised by the forked sundew, *Drosera binata*—it is very uncommon in the Nelson district.

January Field Trip: Inch's Alluvial Forest, Wairoa River

Armed with secateurs, pruning saws, loppers, and a squirt bottle of glyphosate, 15 Botsoccers gathered at Nathan and Larissa Inch's patch of riverside podocarp forest on the lower Wairoa River. Our main aim was to release some of the regionally important flora that was being smothered by rampant old man's beard, blackberry and barberry. *Teucrium parvifolium*, *Pseudopanax ferox*, *Coprosma rubra*, *Scutellaria novae-zelandiae* and the climbing daisy *Brachyglottis sciadophila* all benefited from the Society's first weed-busting foray in its 20 years of existence. Mission accomplished, as was some interesting botanising.

Anniversary Weekend Camp: Arthur's Pass.

Kelly's Creek to Carroll Hut, Kelly Range; Saturday 31 January

At the beginning of the walk, 12 Botsoccers were greeted with southern rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*) flowers visible through the mist in the canopy below. The understory was rich in ferns and seven species of *Hymenophyllum*, including *H. malingii* growing on trunks of *Libocedrus bidwillii*, were seen. *Carmichaelia arborea* was flowering profusely along the track. We also saw *Uncinia banksii*, which was unusual in this location. Orchids included *Prasophyllum colensoi*, *Nematoceras acuminatum* and *Aporostylis bifolia* in flower, and a group of *Forstera tenella*, *Myosotis forsteri* and *Olearia ilicifolia* were arranged to delight the eye of any garden designer. Several times we stopped to distinguish similar species: *Geum uniflorum* and *G. cockaynei*; *Dracophyllum uniflorum* and *D. longifolium*;

Pseudopanax "ternatus" and the western South Island endemic *P. linearis*; and *Celmisias* of the *allani*, *discolor*, *du-rietzii*, *incana* and *sinclairii* group. In the area of tarns and streams just above the hut, we identified four species of *Astelia*—*A. "nervosa broad"*, *A. nivicola*, *A. petriei* and *A. linearis*—and attracting the photographers were berries of *Coprosma depressa* and *C. perpusilla* and seedpods of *Psychrophila novae-zelandiae* and *Colobanthus apetalus*.

Otira Valley; Saturday 31 January

Five BotSocers explored the species-rich Otira Valley track, which climbs over an old moraine then follows the contour through sub-alpine scrub and tussock to the Otira River footbridge. There were many *Ranunculus lyallii* plants, but the paucity of dead heads implied that, here, flowering was much less than in previous years. *Celmisias* in general were just over the flowering stage. Those identified were *C. spectabilis*, *C. incana*, *C. laricifolia* and *C. verbascifolia*. *Coprosma serrulata* drew our attention with its saw-like leaf edges and later we spotted the small yellow flowers of *Euphrasia cockayneana*. *Leptinella pyrethrifolia*, which is strongly scented, was also in bloom. Dotted the track edges was *Coriaria angustissima*. At the footbridge crossing the Otira River, the terrain changes to rock, scree and boulders. Here, we found *Montia calycina* and *Leucogenes grandiceps*.

Hawdon riverbed; Mt White Rd; Sunday 1 February

With a good Canterbury norwester blowing, the group started with a look at the Hawdon riverbed. Shannel Courtney gave a lesson on *Raoulia*, so that members could distinguish *Raoulia tenuicaulis*, *R. hookeri*, *R. glabra*, *R. haastii* and *R. australis*. Other interesting riverbed species seen were *Epilobium melanocaulon*, *E. microphyllum*, *Parahebe decora*, *Coprosma atropurpurea* and *Pimelea prostrata*. Then the group drove along the Mt White Rd to an elevated glacial terrace. Typical grassland species included *Raoulia subsericea*, *Pimelea prostrata* and *P. sericeovillosa*, *Carmichaelia monroi* and *Coprosma petriei*. We were able to compare *Acaena inermis* and *A. dumicola*. The dominant *Hebe* here was *Hebe brachysiphon*, with the violet-flowered *H. pimeleoides* scattered here and there. Down a precipitous slope, in the grasslands and wetlands on the valley floor, *Korthalsella clavata* was found growing on *Coprosma propinqua*. On the dry grassland were *Raoulia parkii*, *Scleranthus uniflorus*, *Leucopogon nanum*, *Carex kaloides* and one clump of *Carmichaelia corrugata*. The wetlands were very productive and most memorable here was a carpet of *Lobelia ionantha*. Floating at the bottom of one were 5 or 6 smooth soft spheres, about 2 cm in diameter—colonies of the blue-green cyanobacterium *Nostoc* sp. *Mentha cunninghamii* was in flower, as were *Ranunculus glabrifolius* and *Potentilla anserinoides*. Back along Mt White Rd, several specimens of *Olearia bullata* were spotted, along with *Myriophyllum triphyllum* (in a stream) and *Rumex flexuosus*.

Castle Hill; Dry Stream; Monday 2 February

Amid the mist and limestone tors and outcrops of Castle Hill Scenic Reserve was an exotic-dominated grass and herb ecosystem; most natives were tucked away in clefts and on ledges. A few exceptions found among the exotics were *Brachyglottis haastii*, *Wahlenbergia albomarginata* and *Carex breviculmis*. Within the refuge of the bluffs were perching shrubs of *Hebe glaucophylla* in full flower, *Coprosma propinqua*, *Aristolelia fruticosa*, *Myrsine divaricata*, *Melicytus alpinus*, and rather small-leaved *Olearia avicenniifolia*. Eye-catching herbs included *Ranunculus insignis*, a large leafy form of *Anisotome aromatica* and *Aciphylla subflabellata*. Next, the group headed for the bluffs beyond the Lance McCaskell Nature Reserve. In a sea of exotics were found the calcicoles *Poa acicularifolia* ssp. *acicularifolia*, *Gingidia enysii* and *Chaerophyllum novae-zelandiae* (= *Oreomyrrhis rigida*). Around the lips of some bluffs were small mats of the endangered forget-me-not *Myosotis colensoi* known only from Castle Hill basin and the Chalk Range in South Marlborough. Also conspicuous were *Plantago spathulata*, *Raoulia apicenigra* and the scree groundsel *Senecio "discoideus"*. A surprise was a few plants of an unnamed, very fleshy, almost black-leaved *Cardamine* growing directly on the chalky soil. Some of the group then made a trip up nearby Dry Stream. On the first scree, the group encountered several dozen scree peas (*Montigena novae-zelandiae*). Also on the same scree was one of the recently named montias, *Montia erythrophylla*, a greywacke scree specialist of South Marlborough and Canterbury. This turned out to be the type locality for the species.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Feb 15: Mt Arthur, Kahurangi National Park. Leader: Pam McConnell
- Mar 15: Adele Island, Abel Tasman National Park. Leader: Bee Grant (03) 539 6364
- April 6: Nelson BotSoc 20th Anniversary Dinner. Speaker: Graeme Jane. Contact Jocelyn Lewis (03) 547 2812, tandjlewis@actrix.co.nz

April 9–13: Easter camp, Mangarakau and environs. Leaders: Shannel Courtney, Don Pittham (03) 545 1985

May 17: Delaware Bay and Spit. Leader: Sue Hallas (03) 545 0294

President: Cathy Jones (03) 546 9499. Flat 1 47A Washington Rd. Email: cjones@doc.govt.nz

Treasurer: Trevor Lewis (03) 547 2812. 22 Coster St. Email: tandjlewis@actrix.co.nz

"The 20th Anniversary of the Nelson Botanical Society will be celebrated on Monday 6 April at 6 pm with a potluck dinner, followed by a talk by our guest speaker Graeme Jane (the Society's founding President), at Fairfield House. Past members and friends most welcome. RSVP by 31 March to Jocelyn Lewis 03 547 2812."

■ Other Botanical Society Contacts

Waikato Botanical Society

President: Liz Grove eg3@waikato.ac.nz

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NOTES AND REPORTS

■ New find for South Marlborough

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On 19 February 2008, a survey of a grazed seepage area near Lake McRae on Molesworth Station in South Marlborough disclosed some plant species not previously recorded from Molesworth. The most interesting of these was *Triglochin palustris* (see cover illustration) which is currently listed as Nationally Endangered and will be elevated to Nationally Critical when the upgraded threat status list is published in 2009. In New Zealand it was previously known only from further south in Canterbury and North Otago though it occurs in the Northern Hemisphere. We also found *Epilobium hirtigerum* in good numbers in this seep and in ephemeral wetlands adjacent to the margins of Lake McRae. This species too is being elevated to Nationally Critical in the 2009 publication from its current listing as Data Deficient. *Carex tenuiculmis* was interesting as well as there had previously been only one very early record from Marlborough. Other valuable finds in the various wetlands near the lake were *Isolepis basilaris*, *Epilobium angustum* and *Rorippa palustris*.

■ The botanist in Sikkim - has this important painting of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker survived somewhere in New Zealand?

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In the course of researching the Rev. William Colenso's correspondence to Sir Joseph Hooker, I found a passage (written by Colenso in January 1893 from Napier after returning from Woodville) describing a painting of Hooker, painted by William Tayler, and lent to Colenso by his friend Andrew Luff.

... a letter (dated Sept. 19th. 1892) came from an old friend at Wellington, containing these words: —
“I have decided to forward you the picture of which I formerly wrote, viz. Sir J. Hooker on the hills in India gathering specimens of the Rhododendron: it is a pretty picture & true. I think it will afford you some pleasure, therefore I send it to you – to hang up in one of your rooms. I lend it to you – it is not for sale and I do not wish it copied. It was painted by an Indian acquaintance of Sir J. Hooker, from whom I purchased it.”

... I will describe it...

Size – frame, 3.0 x 2.6, glazed.

Size – drawing, 2.2 x 1.5.

Fine woodland scenery & creeper, high range snowy mts. in background. You (very large!) seated under a high tree, in a smart coloured robe or gown, with coloured trousers and big shoes, points turned up & a round tartar's cap, with specs. and very fair face looking as sedate as a judge (side face only).

A woman behind standing with a long vert. spear, or rod, and a large quantity of big showy bouquets of flowers on the ground by her feet – all colours! –

A woman before you kneeling presenting flowers – well clothed, a black dog sitting upright by her side (nearly as sedate as yourself!) and with Gold-leaf eyes!!! looking so funny.

Two smartly dressed yg. men (in uniform – Indian?) at your right.

Two women in further foreground (or front of you) one w. a branch of flowers & one topping another & all w. big knives. [1]

Colenso wrote again later to Hooker:

I have received another letter from my old Wellington friend the kind lender of the big picture I mentioned in my last, I extract from it for your information or amusement, – the following: –

“Glad you were pleased w. the picture. The Painter of it, (a Mr Taylor, I think, was the name,) a Commissioner in Govt. Serv. for years in India, explained to me, he had suggested if not lent the dress (a Chinese gown) to Sir J. Hooker: that those natives were his attendants, and of the small hill tribe: the Dog, I did not question him about: the Natives carry very long knives. It was a picture that most pleased me of his collection which was not so complete when I saw it, as some

of his paintings had been previously purchased for some Institution in London. I have some further notes of these paintings, but have not them now handy". [2]

Hooker's replies to Colenso's letters have not survived, and nor have the owner's notes on the picture.

Hooker in the Himalayas

Hooker was in the Himalayas in 1847-50.

Huxley (1918) reproduced the sketch, "begun in February and finished during April (1849) on Tayler's later visit to Darjeeling", and quoted JD Hooker's letter home to his father at some length [3]

...what I might call an Angel's visit from Mr. William Tayler, the Postmaster-General for India, brother to Frederick Tayler the artist... a highly accomplished man and a splendid sketcher; and we became friends in a very few hours....

He is pleased to desire my sitting in the foreground surrounded by my Lepchas and the romantic-looking Ghorka guard, inspecting the contents of a vasculum full of plants, which I have collected during the supposed day's march. My Lepcha Sirdar (which means Great man's Head man) is kneeling before me on the ground, taking the plants out of the box, that in his hand being a splendid bunch of Dendrobium nobile. He is picturesquely attired in costume, with a large pigtail. Another is behind me; the Ghorka Havildar and Lepchas, in their picturesque uniforms, are looking on, and my big Bhotea dog lies at my feet. On one side two Lepchas are making my blanket tent house, cutting Bamboos &c. I am in a forest, sitting on the stump of a tree, with the Snowy mountains in the background; and a great mass of Ferns and Rhododendrons, brought in by another man, are on the ground close to me.

My dress was the puzzle, but it was finally agreed that I should be as I was when in my best, a Thibetan in the main, with just so much of English peeping out as should proclaim me no Bhotea, and as much of the latter as should vouchsafe my being a person of rank in the character. So I have on a large, loose, worsted Bhotea cloak, with very loose sleeves; it is all stripes of blue, green, white, and red, and lined with scarlet. Enough is thrown back to show English Pantaloon, and my lower extremities cased in Bhotea boots. My shirt collar is romantically loose and open, with a blue neckerchief, which and my projecting shirt wrists, show the Englishman. My cap is also Thibetan, and only to be described thus: it is of pale grey felt, the upturned border stiff and bound with thin, black silk ribbon. On the top is a silver-mounted pebble, and a peacock's feather floats down my back. The latter are marks of rank.[4]

William Tayler

Huxley's footnote says, "William Tayler (1808-92) was an Indian civilian who about this time was Postmaster-General of Bengal. His skill in portrait painting made him many friends: his caricatures some enemies". Tayler had written in his autobiography that he had "the incontrollable propensity to discover in almost all events the elements of the comic". He admitted that "this irresistible love of the comic ... in the course of my career ... frequently led to caricatures either of pen or pencil, satirical criticisms, or half-concealed ridicule, and ... at times excited the displeasure of certain 'grave and reverend seniors,' and brought down upon me the censure of offended officialdom" [5]



Fig 1. William Tayler. The young civilian's toilet

Tayler sketched (and J. Bouvier lithographed) three distinctly satirical scenes of foppish Britons being attended hand and foot by several much more upright-looking Indian servants [6]. They are called “The young civilian’s toilet” (Fig.1), “The breakfast” and “The young lady’s toilet”. They are reminiscent of Hogarth’s engravings, with their caustic ridicule of the follies of society.

I think Tayler’s “The Botanist in Sikkim” (Fig.2) makes a similarly acerbic social comment on Hooker, with his assumed rank emphasized by indigenous finery, and his retinue of servants attending to his every need. Colenso thought it “funny”, and Hooker’s account (above) seems vaguely amused or embarrassed – or perhaps just perplexed. In any case, if Tayler was exploiting Hooker’s vanity by taking the opportunity for a little satirical moral commentary, Hooker either took it in good part – or just didn’t realise he was being lampooned.



Fig 2. William Tayler. The botanist in Sikkim

Walter Hood Fitch copied the sketch and Frank Stone copied the copy. Fitch’s copy, originally owned by Captain JS Hooker, is now in the collection of Rachel Lambert Mellon of the Oak Spring Garden Library, Upperville, Virginia; Stone’s copy belonged to Lady Hooker when Huxley was writing. Desmond (1999) reproduced the Fitch and Stone copies [7]. He referred to the original as a “canvas” suggesting it was an oil, though Huxley had called it a “sketch”. Allen also reproduced a copy [8].

Enquiries at Kew about the Tayler original have turned up no trace of it. According to Huxley, “The botanist in Sikkim” belonged to Dr Charles Hooker of Cirencester. It may still be in the possession of Hooker’s descendents. In any case, it is unlikely to be the one lent to Colenso in 1893, suggesting that Tayler made a copy.

The painting in New Zealand

The friend who sent Colenso the painting from Wellington in 1893 was Andrew Luff, a Londoner who had worked in Napier in the 1860s in the Crown Lands Office, and later as Government Life Insurance and land agent. He returned to London in 1874, and probably bought the painting from Tayler on that visit. (25 years after it was first painted, suggesting it was indeed a copy).

Colenso wrote to Luff in letters spanning 1877-1893 [9]. The 24 September 1892 letter from Dannevirke refers to the picture.

Was the painting handed down to Andrew Luff’s descendents? A search in the National Archives for the Luff wills revealed, quite by chance, a file headed “... Portrait of Dr. Sir J.D. Hooker – Purchase of from Mrs A. Luff.” It contained a letter dated 6 May 1938 from the Alexander Turnbull Librarian CRH Taylor to JW Heenan, Under-Secretary for Internal Affairs, and Heenan’s letter of 11 May 1938 to FH Bass, Secretary of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum Board of Trustees. The latter reads,

Dear Sir

I have received the following memorandum from the Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library: –

“Portrait of Dr. Sir J.D. Hooker.

“Mr. Palmer of Whitcombe & Tombs recently advised me that a water colour portrait of the above-named is in the possession of a Mrs. A. Luff, of 44 Overtoun Terrace, Hataitai. It was done by W. Taylor (author of “Thirty-eight years in India”, wherein he mentions the picture) and was known to Colenso at least.

“I suggest that it might be a desirable item for the Portrait Gallery, and is probably procurable, as the owner is agreeable to sell.

“If you think the matter worth pursuing, I should be glad to get in touch with Mr. Palmer again anent opening negotiations.”

Before considering the matter further I should be glad if you would seek the advice of the special committee set up at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees with a view to ascertaining whether Dr. Sir J.D. Hooker is a figure of sufficient national importance to warrant his portrait being placed in the National Portrait Gallery.

Yours faithfully

J.W. Heenan

Under-Secretary.[10]

According to the electoral roll for 1938, the occupants of 44 Overtoun Tce Hataitai were Lucy Blanche Luff (Andrew Luff's eldest son Henry Channon Luff's widow), and her son Edgar Channon Luff, then a clerk.

There seems little doubt this was the painting Andrew Luff lent Colenso – and it was a watercolour (though Colenso had called it a “drawing”). Did the intended National Portrait Gallery buy it?

Probably not. There is no trace of it at Te Papa, whose Pictorial Section inherited the paintings in the National Gallery (which in turn holds the paintings intended for the aborted National Portrait Gallery).

There is no mention of it in the minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum in 1938 and 1939. Dr Oliver, the scientist most likely of all the Board members to encourage its purchase, was abroad; most paintings acquired then were those by New Zealand artists; the Board was preoccupied with the forthcoming Centennial Art Exhibition. The minutes record in 1939 that “Articulation of the skeleton of Phar Lap (is) nearly completed” [11].

Enquiry addressed to every Luff in the Wellington phonebook in December 2008 drew no responses.

Has this important painting of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, William Tayler's c.1874, 26 x 17 inch, watercolour copy of his 1849 original “The Botanist in Sikkim”, which hung in William Colenso's parlour, survived in private hands or in another public collection in New Zealand?

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■ ***Juncus dregeanus* Kunth – deleted from the New Zealand Flora?**

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Introduction - *Juncus dregeanus* records in New Zealand

There appears to be only three published records of this African species occurring in New Zealand:

- Healy & Edgar (1980) based on a single collection from Manurewa [south Auckland], collected and identified by Arthur Healy (CHR 107882, *A.J. Healy*, 7 Feb 1945)
- Anthony Wright (1988) based on two collections from Whatipu, west Auckland (AK 177800, *J. Mackinder*, 2 Dec 1984; and AK 178633-34, *A.E. Wright 7952*, 3 Feb 1988)
- Sarah Beadel (2005) based on material that she sent to me for identification from Half Moon Bay on Lake Rerewhakaaitu in the Rotorua District (AK 289890, *S.M. Beadel*, 9 Apr 2005; AK 291863 (dup. to CHR), *S.M. Beadel*, 10 May 2005). My identification was based on tepal length and leaf width which keyed out to *J. dregeanus* in Healy & Edgar (1980) and Kirschner et al. (2002). I personally visited this location on two occasions to obtain more material (AK 291863 (dups to CHR, NSW), *E.K. Cameron 13255a*, 24 Dec 2005; AK 296379 (dups to CHR, NSW), *E.K. Cameron 13844*, 21 Apr 2006). There is also an additional collection from this site by Graeme Jane (NZFRI 25890, *G.T. Jane*, 9 Apr 2005).

Apart from the above records *J. dregeanus* is otherwise unknown outside its native African distribution (see Kirschner et al. 2002).

Reassessment

The Whatipu collections with the much longer tepals have now been referred to *Juncus sonderianus* Buchenau – a closely related different African species (Kirschner et al. 2002, Cameron 2008).

In November 2007 Karen Wilson re-identified the Healy *J. dregeanus* collection (CHR 107882) as a “slender” form of *Juncus planifolius*! On the strength of this I borrowed the specimens in CHR herbarium labelled as *J. dregeanus* and together with the collections in AK reassessed their identifications based mainly on the morphological features listed by Kirschner et al. (2002) (see Table 1). Apart from the Manurewa and Rerewhakaaitu specimens there was only one additional *J. dregeanus* sheet, which was from the Omaui Peninsula in Southland, collected and identified by Tony Druce (CHR 471886, *A.P. Druce 1294*, Mar 1991).

The characters that I found useful for the comparison are listed in Table 1. Some of the specimens from Rerewhakaaitu had tepals tipped with seta 0.5 mm long. From the descriptions in Kirschner et al. (2002) this appeared to be a promising character to also use: the outer tepals “acuminate, subaristate” for *J. dregeanus*, as opposed to “acute” for *J. planifolius*. However, subaristate tepals were also present in genuine New Zealand *J. planifolius* material.

Results

Based on the characters in Table 1 the specimens from Manurewa (CHR 107882) and Southland (CHR 471886) fit the criteria for *J. planifolius* (see Table 2) except that some of the tepals are 0.2 mm too long, some of the capsules are less than the tepals, and the leaves are at the narrow end of the stated range.

The five collections from Lake Rerewhakaaitu possessed characters more consistent with *J. dregeanus* than *J. planifolius* (see Table 2) (the details of NZFRI 25890 are consistent with the measurements of AK 289890 (Elizabeth Miller pers. comm.) which was collected at the same time). Most leaves of the Rerewhakaaitu specimens were narrower than the range given by Kirschner et al. (2002), many of the capsules are less than the tepals (although this character is difficult to measure in older specimens where the capsules have opened), and many of the longer tepals were above the 2.8 mm maximum, some even measuring 3.5 mm long. Using the key in Kirschner et al. (2002) they would all key out to *J. dregeanus*, except for one character that they all had in common: the inner tepals were equal to, or longer than the outer tepals (a *J. planifolius* character), compared with the inner being slightly shorter than the outer tepals for *J. dregeanus* (Kirschner et al. 2002: step 8 in the key; and fig. 50).

Conclusions

I think the Manurewa and Southland specimens are just slender forms of *J. planifolius*.

Also that all the Rerewhakaaitu material is better referred to for now as a slender form of *J. planifolius* (as *J. cf. planifolius*) and that the very narrow leaves are possibly due to the unusual habitat rather than something genetic. Lake Rerewhakaaitu has no natural outflow, and when I collected material from there in summer and again in autumn they were partially under water because it had recently rained. However, would submerging affect the leaf width and tepal length – partial etiolation under water? The identification as *J. planifolius* is supported by the consistent character of inner tepals being longer than the outer tepals. It would be useful to cultivate the Rerewhakaaitu material to see its morphology in normal conditions. If it remains atypical for *J. planifolius* further options should then be investigated: e.g. hybridism, and a molecular study.

Acknowledgement

Elizabeth Miller of NZFRI herbarium for supplying the collection details and measurements of NZFRI 25890; and herbarium staff of CHR for the loaned material.

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Table 1. Characters separating *Juncus dregeanus* and *J. planifolius* (based on Kirschner et al. 2002).

	<i>Juncus dregeanus</i>	<i>J. planifolius</i>
Tepal length (mm)	2.7-3.5	(1.4-)1.8-2.3(-2.8)
Inner & outer tepal length	inner slightly < than outer	inner ≥ than outer
Capsule	≤ perianth	≥ perianth
Leaf width (mm)	0.8-1.5(-3.0)	(1.5-)2.5-6.0(-11.0)
Plant height (cm)	c.(10-)15-25(-45)	(6-)15-50(-70)

Table 2. Measurements of the six New Zealand collections of “*Juncus dregeanus*”.

Location + herbarium voucher	Manurewa CHR 107882	Southland CHR 471886	Rere-whakaaitu AK 289890	Rere-whakaaitu AK 291863 + dup. (CHR)	Rere-whakaaitu AK 294870 + dup. (CHR)	Rere-whakaaitu AK 296379 + dup. (CHR)
n =	3	1	3 (+ 6 culms)	(4 culms)	8	6 (+ 4 culms)
Specimen age	mature capsules	yng-old capsules	old capsules	old capsules	flowering	old capsules
Capsule vs. perianth	caps ≤ perianth	caps ≤ perianth	caps ≤ perianth	caps ≤ perianth	too young	caps ≤ perianth
Tepal length (mm)	2.5-3.0	2.0-3.0	2.5-3.0(-3.4)	2.5-3.0	2.5-3.2	2.5-3.0(-3.5)
Inner vs. outer tepal lengths	inner ≥ outer	inner ≥ outer	inner ≥ outer	inner ≥ outer	inner ≥ outer	inner ≥ outer
Leaf width (mm)	1.5-3.5	(1.5-)2.0-2.5(-3.0)	0.9-1.5	1.0-1.5	(1-)1.5-2.0	(0.9-)1.3-2.0(-2.5)
Plant height (cm)	14-34	56	15-20	21-35	28-40	20-44

■ **Naturalised Plants on Rangatira (South East Island), Chatham Islands, April 2008**

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We visited Rangatira (South East Island) Nature Reserve, Chatham Island group, on 27-28 April 2008 as part of a team collecting Chatham Island snipe for translocation to Rangiauria (Pitt Island). While there, we conducted an opportunistic survey of the naturalised plants present on the most frequently visited parts of the island, including around the Department of Conservation hut, the main track from front landing to north summit, the west landing track, woolshed clearing, and shore platform margins between west landing and Whalers Bay. Weed identifications were all done in the field, except for a few collections of *Bromus*, brought home for identification (these were all *B. willdenowii*). Our observations are presented in Table 1.

Five species (marked †) had not been recorded during previous surveys of the island flora in 1990 and 1991 (Graeme Taylor, Report on the Chatham Island Taiko and Chatham Island Petrel Recovery Programmes 1990/91, Threatened Species Occasional Publication No. 2, Department of Conservation, Wellington). It is possible that these species were not present on Rangatira at this time, but it is also possible that they were simply overlooked. Since then, all species have been recorded somewhere on the Chatham Islands group (Peter de Lange, pers. comm.), but it is not known when they first naturalised on Rangatira.

Table 1. Identity, location, and abundance of naturalised plants on the most frequently visited parts of Rangatira Island. Habitat annotations: H = near hut, T = along tracks and in clearings within forest, S = shore platform margins. Abundance annotations (within each habitat): a = abundant, f = frequent, o = occasional, r = rare.

MONOCOTS

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	browntop	To
<i>Bromus willdenowii</i>	prairie grass	Ho Tf
<i>Critesion murinum ssp. murinum*</i>	barley grass	Hr
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cocksfoot	Hf Ta
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	Ha Ta Sf
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	perennial ryegrass	To

DICOTS

<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Scotch thistle	Tr
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	catsear	Tr
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	buck's horn plantain	So
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	narrow-leaved plantain	Tr
<i>Plantago major</i> †	broad-leaved plantain	Hr To
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> †	creeping buttercup	To
<i>Rubus polyanthemus*</i>	blackberry	Hr Tf
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheep's sorrel	To
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> †	broad-leaved dock	Ho To
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	potato	Hr
<i>Sonchus asper</i> †	prickly sow thistle	Tr
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	prickly sow thistle	Hr To
<i>Stellaria media</i> †	chickweed	To
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	Tr
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	vetch	Tr

* Notes on weed control:

1. Barley grass near the hut was pulled out; an existing sign draws attention to the need to keep working on the small infestation.
2. Blackberry had recently been sprayed (and largely killed) wherever we saw it along tracks and in clearings.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to Peter de Lange and Colin Miskelly for information and advice.

BIOGRAPHY / BIBLIOGRAPHY

■ Biographical Sketches: Thomas Shearman Ralph (1812-1891)

Val Smith, 80 Mill Road, New Plymouth 4310.

Thomas Shearman Ralph was born in 1812 at Arrungabad in India, where his father was government resident. He gained his MRCS England (1836) and LSA (1840), and for ten years was surgeon to the West London Lying-In Institution, and to the Dorcas Society, Long Acre, London. In 1842 he was elected an Associate of the Linnean Society of London; his membership record notes that he had a considerable collection of East Indian plants, and that some of his New Zealand plants were at Kew Gardens. His early scientific writing includes two manuscripts on the structure of plants (1846) held by the Linnean Society, and *Elementary Botany for the use of beginners*, first published in London in 1849.

Mr Thomas S Ralph (surgeon), Mrs Ralph and three children were listed as passengers on the 574-ton *Cresswell*, which arrived in Auckland from London on 20 March 1851. They settled in Wellington; their house on The Terrace, shown in an early watercolour by John Pearse, was one of a succession acquired for their growing family – their second and third daughters were born in Wellington. Dr Ralph

practised medicine and became an active member of the scientific community. He joined and became secretary of the newly formed but short-lived New Zealand Society, forerunner of the New Zealand Institute, and read to members his paper on the peculiarities of *Nitella*. He gave lectures on a wide range of scientific topics, his papers on the katipo (1856) and the tree ferns of New Zealand (1858) were published in Journals of the Linnean Society, and a plant he collected in the Patea area became the type specimen of *Pittosporum ralphii*. When requested, he assessed rock samples for traces of gold. He was also one of the first lithographers and etchers to work in New Zealand; his work in this field included illustrations for Maori versions of *Robinson Crusoe* (1852) and *Pilgrim's Progress* (1854), a plan of Wellington and landscapes of early Wellington City.

In early 1853 Dr Ralph went to Melbourne, and was away for five months. In May 1857 he gave notice that he was about to leave the colony, but it is unknown when he actually left. He returned to Melbourne, to live at South Yarra, Carlton, and for more than twenty years at Kew, now an affluent suburb of Melbourne. In 1859 he joined the Philosophical Institute of Victoria (which became the Royal Society of Victoria), and was a member for around 30 years. An ardent microscopist, he founded and was first president of the Microscopical Society of Victoria and was curator of the pathological collection at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, resigning to return to medicine as surgeon at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne. His *Elementary botany* was re-published in Melbourne in 1862, and several papers on medical topics and on aspects of botanical anatomy – mainly of exotic plants – were published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria. Predeceased by his wife Anne in 1882, Thomas Shearman Ralph continued in active practice until about five years before his death at his stepson's home in Carlton, on 22 December 1891, at the age of 79.



Pittosporum ralphii

Pittosporaceae

Pittosporum ("pitch seed" – referring to the sticky seeds) is a genus of about 200 species of mainly Australasian trees or shrubs, with alternate or whorled leaves. The 25 New Zealand species and subspecies are all endemic.

Pittosporum ralphii grows to 10 m tall, with slender spreading branches. The branchlets and underside of the oblong, leathery and slightly wavy leaves are clad in dense white tomentum. Terminal umbels of 3-10 dark red flowers appear in late spring, followed by 3-valved capsules of black seeds. *Pittosporum ralphii* grows from near sea level to 900 m in hill country, especially on mudstone cliffs and gorges, from East Cape to north Wairarapa, and Patea and Whanganui River areas.

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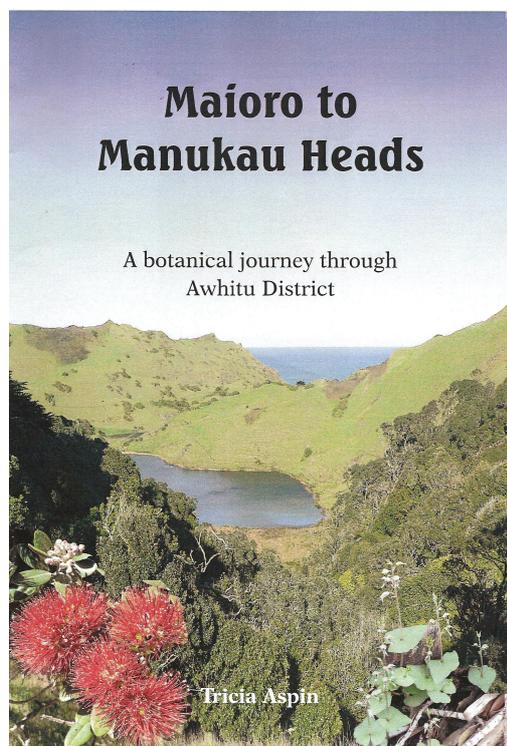
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