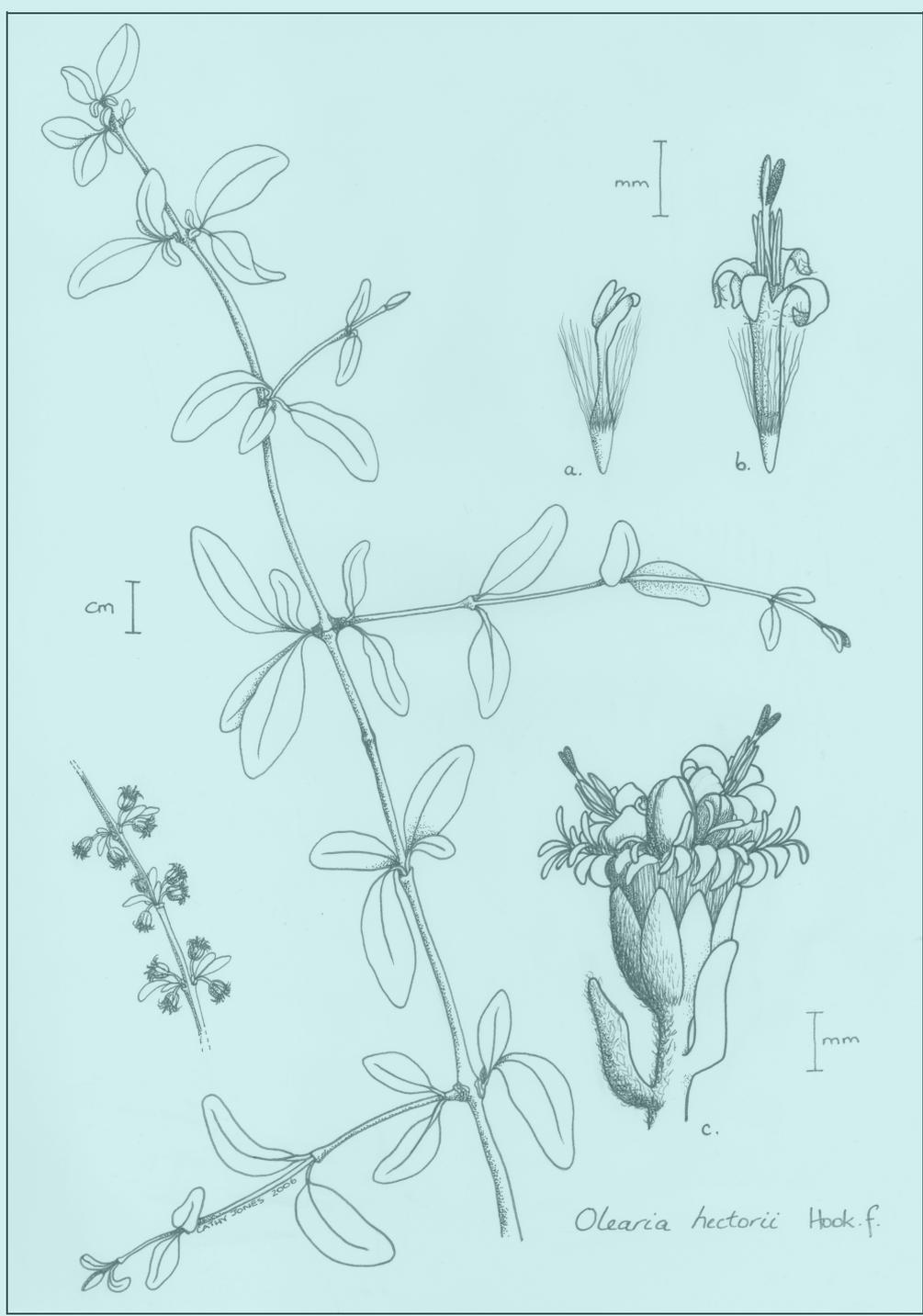


NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 87

MARCH 2007



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 8001

Subscriptions

The 2006 ordinary and institutional subscriptions are \$25 (reduced to \$18 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice). The 2006 student subscription, available to full-time students, is \$9 (reduced to \$7 if paid by the due date on the subscription invoice).

Back issues of the Newsletter are available at \$2.50 each from Number 1 (August 1985) to Number 46 (December 1996), \$3.00 each from Number 47 (March 1997) to Number 50 (December 1997), and \$3.75 each from Number 51 (March 1998) onwards. 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 28th 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 2007 issue is 25 May 2007

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 (Word XP or earlier), 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

Olearia hectorii ex cult., South Marlborough provenance. a. ray floret, b. disc floret, c. capitulum.
Drawn by Cathy Jones, 24 September 2006.

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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NEWS

New Zealand Botanical Society News

- From the Committee

Digitisation of the Society's Newsletter

Murray Dawson from Landcare Research approached the Society in January 2007 with a proposal to digitise the Society's *Newsletter* and to create a New Zealand Botanical Society website. This is an idea that the Committee has considered several times in the past, but not managed to progress. Murray's proposal appears to provide what's needed.

The TFBIS (Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System) programme supports digitisation projects to improve access to priority publications, and to develop new priority website services. They have already supported PDF creation and online delivery of the early issues of the *NZ Journal of Botany* for example, and present a good opportunity to conduct a similar exercise for the *Newsletter* at no cost to the Society.

The NZBS does not currently have a website presence or electronic access to the *Newsletter*, which is a great pity as it contains a wealth of useful information that is often difficult to access given the limited number of hard copies.

An online presence should also encourage people to join NZBS, which has proven to be the case with the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. Murray is Webmaster of the RNZIH site and you can find the recently added online versions of the New Zealand Garden Journal (journal of the RNZIH) at the following address http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/NZ_Garden_Journal_index.htm. He's also the journal co-editor and past Webmaster for the NZ Gardens Trust (<http://www.gardens.org.nz/>), and does all this on a voluntary basis.

If the Society's application is successful, Landcare Research would provide their graphic and webmaster support staff to create a professional looking website for us, and would probably be willing to provide free hosting as well. We'll keep you informed on progress.

Loder Cup nominations

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 20 April 2007.

Anthony Wright, President, New Zealand Botanical Society, C/- Canterbury Museum, Rolleston Avenue, CHRISTCHURCH 8013

■ **From the Secretary**

Call for Nominations for Allan Mere Award 2007

Nominations meeting the following conditions are invited for the award of the Allan Mere for the year 2007.

Conditions of the Allan Mere Award

1. 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.
2. The Award shall be administered by the New Zealand Botanical Society.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. If, in the opinion of the Committee, no suitable nomination is received in any particular year, the Committee may refrain from making an award.
6. 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.
7. The recipient shall receive an appropriately inscribed certificate.

Nominations should be forwarded by 30 June 2007 to:

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

Balance sheet for financial year 01 January 2006 – 31 December 2006

Income	\$	Expenditure	\$
B/fwd from 2005	4,939.05	Printing <i>Newsletter</i> No 82,83,84,85	4,111.55
Subscriptions, back issues, donations	5,780.66	Posting <i>Newsletter</i> No 80,81,82,83,84,85	1,459.66
Interest	5.36	Statement Reprint	5.00
		Calligraphy - Mere	45.00
		Cheque book stamp duty	2.50
		Bank fees	42.00
Total Income	10,725.07	Total expenses	5,665.71

Excess Income over Expenditure of \$5,095.36 represented by current account balance of \$3,016.65 and cash saver account balance of \$2,078.71 carried forward to 2007.

Note printing for *Newsletter* 86 of \$1,122.75 was paid in January 2007 and postage for *Newsletter* 86 totalling \$323.96 was paid in February 2007.

Ewen Cameron, Treasurer, New Zealand Botanical Society

Regional Botanical Society News

■ Auckland Botanical Society

December End-of-year Function & Pot Luck Dinner

Ambury Park on the shores of the Manukau Harbour was the venue this year, and an afternoon ramble around the shoreline revealed many little saltmarsh plants, including *Suaeda novae-zelandiae* and much *Spergularia media*. Before dinner Anthony Wright, long-time member and ex-president, was made a Life Member of the Society, and Steve Benham from the Botanic Gardens was farewelled prior to his return to England.

January Trip to Chatham Island

A party of 22 ABS members spent the week 4 – 11 January on Chatham Island, with a day trip to Pitt Island included. The week was spent immersed in the wonderful botany of these two island outliers of New Zealand, at a time of the year when many plants were in flower. The group voted the golden-flowered *Brachyglottis huntii* the plant of the week.

Anniversary Weekend Camp at Te Kauri

The Hamilton Junior Naturalists' Lodge near Kawhia was the base for this camp, with Peter de Lange as leader in an area with which he is intimately acquainted. The main focus for the camp was to climb to the limestone summit of Rock Peak, near the Awaroa Valley, to see the little *Hebe scopulorum* that is endemic to the area. This end was achieved, though not without difficulty, and the next day the Rakaunui wetland was explored. Growing here were the herbs, *Leptinella tenella*, *L. dioica*, *Crassula ruamahanga* and *Mimulus repens*. Later in the day we were shown *Fuchsia perscandens* in the Awaroa Scenic Reserve.

February Field Trip

On a glorious summer's day 20 members climbed, at a gentle botanical pace, the 439 m. Mt Tamahunga, near Leigh. Although the vegetation is much degraded by goat browsing, some signs were seen that regeneration is beginning to occur since intensive culling has taken place. Two late-season plants of *Danhatchia australis* were seen, and *Libertia grandiflora* and *L. ixioides* were both common on the ridge track. Near the summit grew some higher altitude plants – *Collospermum microspermum*, *Blechnum procerum* and *Raukaua edgerleyi*. Trees of *Laurelia novae-zelandiae* were surprisingly common on one peak.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

7 March AGM
17 March Matuku Forest & Bird Reserve, Bethells

President: Mike Wilcox mike.wilcox@xtra.co.nz PO Box 26391, Epsom, Auckland 1344

■ Waikato Botanical Society

Coastal forest – Mt Messenger / Whitecliffs Saturday, 20 January 2007

Five enthusiastic members from the Waikato made the journey south to meet with their Taranaki member. A grey cloudy day greeting us with the threat of rain, our trip started with a traverse over the Mt Messenger road tunnel on SH3. An uphill climb led us through hardwood scrub with young regenerating *Podocarpus hallii*, *Phyllocladus trichomanoides* and *Weinmannia racemosa*.

It was great to be back in familiar territory with Taranaki's cool and regular rainfall resulting in luxuriant rainforest vegetation, with a thick understory of *Blechnum novae-zelandiae*, *B. discolor*, *Dianella nigra*, *Rhopalostylis sapida* etc. As usual, we moved fairly slowly for the first few hours taking note of a wide range of species, though we were all conscious of the big day ahead. The trip involved a +/- 10km tramp to the coast and a brisk! 2km walk south along the beach to Pukearuhe. We gained the summit of Mt Messenger (310m asl) in time for morning tea, climbing through *Dracophyllum strictum*,

Astelia solandri and *Carmichaelia australis*. The summit track traversed a steep sided ridge through an open forest canopy of *Quintinia serrata*, *Weinmannia racemosa*, and young *Prumnopitys ferruginea*. Views to the north overlooked farmland and SH3 winding northwards in the distance. The SW side of the ridge was moist, supporting a thick canopy of *Beilschmiedia tawa* and occasional *Laurelia novae-zealandiae*, a few tall remnant *Metrosideros robusta* were seen on the north side.

A *Gaultheria oppositifolia* in full flower was found on the ridge along with *Solanum aviculare*, *Olearia thomsonii*, *Freycinetia banksii* and, we suspect, a *Pittosporum colensoi* (but we had left the rope and harness behind!). We entered a patch of young maire, *Mida salicifolia* saplings - a threatened species. The foliage of the young plants is very similar to *Nestegis lanceolata*, with *Mida* having shorter petioles, leaves alternate or in sub-opposite pairs, with shiny upper leaf surface. A small patch of hard beech, *Nothofagus truncata* signified a change in vegetation associated with soil type. Beech forest is not well represented in Taranaki, hard beech occurring northwards of Mt Messenger – and *N. menziesii* and *N. solandri* var. *solandri* the only other species in Taranaki occurring in the eastern hill country. The rain arrived with a steady drizzle, though lovely and warm. We trudged on making good time arriving at the turnoff to Waipingau Stream and the grand “mown-highway” associated with the natural gas pipeline. We then entered coastal forest, with swathes of *Vitex lucens*, *Cyathea medullaris*, *Corynocarpus laevigatus*, *Cordyline australis* and *Rhopalostylis sapida* clothing the steep valley sides. Breaking out onto the sand we were met by one of the last remaining natural colonies of pingao, *Desmoschoenus spiralis* in Taranaki. But there was one more plant to find. Jane Hart, our trip leader, led the group across the stream in a successful search of a colony of *Myosotis petiolata* var. *pansa*. A great 7 hours of botanising, we really managed to cover some distance on this one, another excellent trip to Taranaki.

Janica Amooore



Tauwhare Scenic Reserve, Mokau, Sunday 21 January 2007

A small group of us (Barry Hartley, Jane Hart, Jan and Laurie Hoverd, Jan Butcher and myself, Monica Peters) went on a leisurely wander through the informal track in the Tauwhare Scenic Reserve. While there's no signage to indicate that a significant cultural history is buried here, Geoff Park¹ writes eloquently about why this finger of land that causes such a dramatic kink in the Mokau River has remained under protection. Botanically, January is a rich time for a visit as many of the trees are seeding profusely. We enjoyed a c. 1km circuit along the forested top before dropping into damp nikau (*Rhopalostylus sapida*) grove and stepping out on to the grassy verge for a celebratory glass of afternoon wine in acknowledgement of Barry's recently awarded QSM. Inside the forest, hinau (*Eleocarpus dentatus*) berries carpeted the ground, as did white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*) drupes that ranged in all shades of green to pale apricot.

Pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zealandiae*) capsules were still green, their tufted seeds still ripening and puriri (*Vitex lucens*) were simultaneously fruiting and flowering. A kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) pointed out by Barry drew gasps of admiration – for most of us this specimen had the largest and straightest trunk we'd ever chanced upon. The soft ground was studded with the small hard yellow seeds, which sparked a minor collecting frenzy. Other trees on the reserve include mangeao (*Litsea calicaris*), titoki (*Alectryon excelsus*), kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*), and karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*). Positively identifying *Mida salicifolia* vs *Nestegis lanceolata* still remains a challenge and was vigorously debated over the weekend. In all it's a fascinating spot – I recommend teaming up a trip to the reserve with a gentle cruise up the river.



Monica Peters

1. Geoff Park (1995). *Nga Uruora: Ecology and History in a New Zealand Landscape*. Victoria University Press pp 113-162

Line drawings, of puriri (*Vitex lucens*) and mangeao (*Litsea calicaris*) by Monica Peters

Our newsletters are available on <http://cber.bio.waikato.ac.nz/Waibotsoc/WaikatoBotSoc.html>

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General contact: bot_soc@waikato.ac.nz

Secretary: Andrea Brandon abrandon@doc.govt.nz

■ Wellington Botanical Society

3 October 2006. Monitoring riparian plantings on Hutt River

Ten participants including Greater Wellington staff measured the 4th year progress of a 5 year trial to assess indigenous plantings along the Hutt River. Three sites subject to varying degrees of inundation and erosion are being monitored. Site 1, on the True Right bank at Totara Park featuring coastal flax, swamp flax and toetoe is almost intact, despite being periodically inundated. Even most of the totara high up in the second-to-back row are still in position despite debris from flooding caught up in their crowns and making them hard to find. Plants of manatu, one of our few deciduous species, have grown to well over 1 m and show healthy, new foliage. Site 2 has lost all of the first row to floods, but those further back are relatively intact. Fennel, broom and rank grass (the protocol of the trial forbids us to weed them) have made the slower growing totara hard to find at this stage. Here tarata, kohuhu and manatu are also doing better than some other species. Site 3 is under willows at 2 m spacing, planted as 2 m poles before our small natives went in, and now averaging about 4 m high. Rank grass and weeds and an estimated depth of 0.4 m of silt has buried most of the natives here. The other half of this site, right at the river's edge, was swept away in a flood a few months after we planted it. An independent assessment will be done at the end of the trial period.

7 October. Field trip: Keith George Memorial Park & Silverstream scenic reserve

These contiguous areas comprise 114 ha of steep forested hillside on the scarp of the Wellington Fault. Originally dominated by matai and miro, these areas were logged between 1890 and 1920 and now form a mosaic of several forest types. There are some remnants of matai and miro, but on the lower slopes and more fertile sites, broadleaf and podocarp species are present, with a canopy dominated by tawa and hinau with emergent rewarewa. On the poorer leached soils and dry ridges, black beech and hard beech are the dominant species. Over the last four years, a volunteer group, including Bot Soccers Allan and Glennis Sheppard, has drastically reduced the infestations of possums and rats in the forest. Stoat control began in November 2005. Since then, the numbers of kereru, tui, bellbird/ korimako, whitehead/popokatea in the area have increased, and falcon/karearea and kakariki have been recorded.

A large matai (dbh. 1.5 m) and a huge pokaka (dbh 1.4 m) were recorded on the North Ridge Track. A large plant of *Peraxilla tetrapetala* / red mistletoe was in good health, with numerous flowers developing. Carpets of fresh green *Hymenophyllum nephrophyllum* / kidney fern caught our attention. Among the trees and shrubs we saw were titoki, *Coprosma propinqua*, poataniwha / *Melicope simplex*, and manatu / lowland ribbonwood. Also seen were the orchids *Pterostylis graminea* / greenhood / tutukiwi, *Drymoanthus adversus*, *Ichthyostomum pygmaeum*, and *Singulariylas oblongus* / spider orchid.

28 October. Field trip: Dench garden weeding

Twelve members struck a fine day in the misty heights of Newlands to work in this native garden of such distinction. They worked with admiration, determination, and as much precision as they could muster, to ensure no treasures were rooted out by mistake. For instance, minute seedlings of "Geranium Von" whose forebears hitch-hiked from the wild, into a pot in the Druce garden years ago, are now very much at home in the Dench garden, their coppery foliage unmistakable amongst the alpiners. A rogue (*Dryopteris filix-mas*) fern masquerading as *Pneumatopteris pennigera* was sternly ushered into the bin, and small trackside weeds which had germinated in the wet spring were relentlessly removed. The usual botanical buzz of conversation around a delicious morning tea followed.

2–3 December 2006. Field trip: Clive and Phyl Paton's conservation covenant

The Atarangi covenant is well-known for its large population of northern rata, *Metrosideros robusta*, discovered by Jo Hansen in recent years. The flowers of the native convolvulus *Calystegia tuguriorum* were a feature of the drive in to the hut and camp site. To climb to "Rata Ridge" we first traversed the

manuka flat affectionately named “Spongy Pud” by the Paton family where a ground cover of mosses, ferns including *Lindsaea linearis*, and occasional orchids such as *Petalochilus chlorostylus* is developing. We passed through regenerating rimu and into hard beech, kamahi, and white maire, noting the frequent occurrence of *Coprosma linariifolia*, and the occasional, epiphytic orchid, *Drymoanthus adversus* in flower. To reach the rata, south of Bush Ridge, we needed to tramp right round the headwaters of the catchment of a TR tributary of Waihora Stream. Over lunch, under young northern rata beginning to flower, Clive told us the history of the covenant. Nearby was a distinctive area of 3–4 m tall *Dracophyllum longifolium* and associated epacrids. Then it was a steep scramble down to the stream, where we saw the first fuchsia saplings and a range of other streamside species. Next day we botanised a small tributary of the Waihora Stream finding the (uncommon) *Trichomanes endlicherianum*. The thirteen participants all greatly appreciated hospitality and accommodation provided by Clive Paton and the use of lists compiled by Pat Enright.

9 December 2006: Hutt City rata walk

Despite weather 14 participants braved the wet to experience this under appreciated, rich part of Hutt Valley flora. The annual forays are varied in their route; this year first checking rata to the east of the Hutt River not previously seen that included newer plantings. Other specimens are like old friends that mark well-known streets. Our regular visits and photos have recorded the saga of local body neglect connected to the tragic decline of the ancient Daly street rata now imprisoned within the confines of a recently constructed café. Rata on the eastern hills appeared in good health, possibly due to local efforts at possum trapping. There was also the opportunity to examine other flowering native and exotic Myrtaceae trees within private gardens, and discuss other unsuitable amenity plantings such as *Myoporum insulare*.

28 December 2006 – 11 January 2007. Wellington and Otago Botanical Society. Summer Trip to Stewart Island and the Catlins

39 members of the Wellington and Otago Botanical Societies joined in all or part of this trip. We spent eight days on Stewart Island based in Oban and a further six days based at the Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre in the Catlins. With perfect weather and the excellent organisation of Rodney Lewington, this was an unforgettable experience for all.

On Stewart Island two groups (one of eight and one of nine people) made the tramp between Mason Bay and Freshwater Huts and took in Rocky Top, using a water taxi between Freshwater and Oban and flying between Mason Bay and Invercargill. 16 of the party chartered the catamaran Aurora for the day to visit Port Pegasus and botanise ashore in North Arm and the sub alpine flora on the track to the base of Bald Cone. Four people climbed Mt Anglem. Everyone spent a day on Ulva Island, some returning for a second day.

Vascular plant lists have been updated for the following areas: Back Road, Horseshoe Bay, Garden Mound, Golden Bay Walk – Halfmoon Bay, Kaipipi Scenic Reserve, Ryan’s Walk- Halfmoon Bay, Ulva Island, Bald Cone, Port Pegasus, Fuchsia Walk: Oban, Raroa Walk: Oban, Maori Beach Scenic Reserve, Mason Bay to Freshwater Hut, Mt Aglem Track, Rocky Top.

Away from Oban we were dismayed at the lack of many species in the forest. Close to human habitation edible species such as fuchsia, five finger, pate, whiteywood, *Rakaua sp.* and lemonwood were plentiful, forming a “green wall” at the sides of tracks. Elsewhere these were almost absent leaving an understory of crown fern and *Coprosma foetidissima* with no young trees such as kamahi and *Griselinia littoralis*. We also noted that there is virtually no epicormic growth on the mature *Griselinia littoralis*. Quite what the deer are living on now is open to question.

On the way to Tautuku most of the party visited Curio Bay to see the fossilised remnant of forest and some visited other reserves. Over the next five days we visited local reserves and observed the penguins at Nugget Point. On the last day most of us walked the two northern sections of the Catlins River Walk. Vascular plant lists for the following locations were updated: McLean Falls, Tautuku Nature walk, Tautuku Beach dunes, Tautuku Penin cliffs, Tahakopa Coach and Circle walks, Shanks’s Bush QEII, Papatowai, Cathedral Caves – Waipitiki Beach, Lake Wilkie, Tautuku Bay, Catlins River Walk. Many also attended a lecture by Fergus Sutherland on the geology of the Catlins as part of the Department of Conservation Summer Programme at the Owaka Community Hall.

January 2007: Field trip Waimapihi Reserve, Wellington city

This 70ha reserve is situated adjacent to the historic central city suburb of Aro Valley in a steep upper catchment area previously depleted by heavy livestock grazing. A group of eleven members compiled a list of 94 vascular species, many of which would not exist without the community restoration work of the past 25 years. Although small, canopy species such as tawa, titoki, rewarewa and nikau are now well established. There were some unexpected "finds" that have established such as the crepe fern *Leptopteris hymenophylloides* and *Sophora tetraptera*. The latter is one of many commemorative plants in the reserve.

A highlight of the trip was a lunchtime talk by local architect and long time member of the restoration group, David McGill, who outlined some of the colourful social history of the valley.

February: Evening meeting

Speaker, Dr Colin Meurk, Senior Scientist, Landcare Research outlined the drivers of the social/cultural power bases in cities and how these influence biodiversity of our cities. He emphasized the importance of early childhood experiences of nature and urban design with examples and practical guidelines. He also introduced us to the recently established biodiversity recording network: <http://www.nzbrn.org.nz>.

FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS

25 February: Field trip. Wainuiomata Water Catchment

10 March: Field trip Crafar wetland covenant, Te Hapua Wetland, Kapiti

19 March: Evening meeting. Role of plant communities in global climate change

6-9 April: Easter trip Tautane Station, Cape Turnagain

16 April: Evening meeting Native species gone weedy? A case study with karaka

5 May: Field trip Johnny's bush, Makara Farm, Jack & Jill Fenaughty's bush, Makara Beach

President: Joyce Stretton (04) 934 2437

Secretary: Barbara Clark (04) 233 8202 (h); (04) 233 2222 (fax) PO Box 10 412, Wellington 6036

■ **Nelson Botanical Society**

November field trip - Loop Track, Lake Rotoiti and Frost Flats, Buller River

We started the day by walking the Loop Track. The first few metres of the track was strewn with the beech strawberry fungus *Cyttaria gunnii*, then *Aristotelia fruticosa* and *Pittosporum rigidum* both in full flower drew our attention. *Clematis forsteri* was not yet in flower but further on *Clematis paniculata* provided a splendid show of male flowers. A clump of mistletoe overhanging the track proved to be *Peraxilla tetrapetala*. On the orchid front, *Adenochilus gracilis* and *Chiloglottis cornuta* were plentiful but not yet in full flower. Eyes and hand lenses were pushed to the limit to make out the very small flowers of *Nematoceras hypogaea* while good specimens of *Nematoceras* "whiskers" were flowering in a swollen creek near the end of the track. Moving on to the flats of the Buller River, the yellow flowers of *Corokia cotoneaster* were very showy. Naming small leaved divaricating shrubs involved much discussion. Confirmed were: *Aristotelia fruticosa*, *Coprosma rhamnoides*, *C. obconica*, *C. rigida* and *C. microcarpa*. The presence of *Coprosma wallii* remained questionable. *Caladenia* sp. orchids were present, but not yet flowering. *Olearia virgata* was also seen.

December Camp, Branch River, Wairau Valley

Nine members drove up the Branch Valley on Saturday morning and walked up Scott Stream. Initially, large numbers of *Pterostylis australis* were seen. After reaching the river bed boulders and gravel we found *Hebe decumbens* and *Gingidia montana* both flowering. A plant which seemed to be a hybrid between *Hebe decumbens* and *H. leiophylla* sparked some serious discussion. We scrambled up the river bed for quite some distance finding several plants of interest including *Vittadinia australis*, *Celmisia monroi* and *Parahebe decora*. After lunch, *Aciphylla glaucescens* and *Myosotis* "australis white" were seen in flower. Just before reaching the basin *Ewartiothamnus sinclairii* was found on a rocky slope.

On Sunday we set off to drive up the Branch again and as far as we could up Mt Morris, stopping not far below the top carpark. We walked up the mountain on a good path with half the party making it right to the top and most reaching the upper limit of conifers and the wonderful scree slopes. All the

scree plants were there to welcome us, *Lignocarpa diversifolia*, *Leptinella dendyi*, *Myosotis traversii*, *Notothlaspi rosulatum*, *Stellaria roughii*, *Epilobium pycnostachyum*, *Poa buchananii*, *Haastia recurva*, *Craspedia incana* along with rock and scree margin dwellers *Melicytus* "Kaikoura", *Hebe epacridea*, *Haastia pulvinaris*, *Raoulia bryoides*, and *R. eximia*.

January field trip - Asbestos Forest Walk, Upper Takaka

This track was the vehicular access for the old asbestos mine in the area. It made for very pleasant easy walking for the seven of us. Five species of tree fern growing along the first section of the track provided an ideal opportunity for comparisons. We passed through mixed red and hard beech forest, with seedling miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) and matai (*P. taxifolia*) present. A good variety of ferns were present, including at least 6 species of *Blechnum* along with *Leptopteris hymenophylloides*, *Hymenophyllum demissum* and *H. flabellatum*. One plant of special interest, growing alongside the track, was a specimen of the flower fungus, *Aseroe rubra*, a bizarre but rather attractive (from a distance) species with its bright red spreading arms resembling a starfish. Further on southern rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*) was flowering brilliantly. Reaching the vicinity of the old asbestos mine, we were into ultramafic rocks, so the vegetation was noticeably sparser with manuka, kanuka, *Leucopogon fasciculatus*, *Leptecophylla juniperina* and *Lycopodium scariosum* being the main plants present. From the mine the track steadily ascends to Asbestos Cottage, where there is now little evidence of the couple who lived there for so long. On the way back down the track, an extensive area of kidney fern (*Trichomanes reniforme*) was admired, and our last find was the large moss *Dawsonia superba*.

Otira Camp, Nelson Anniversary Weekend

Twenty-four people stayed at the Otira Hotel for this late January Camp. The mountain sides surrounding the hotel were coated in red as *Metrosideros umbellata* was gloriously in flower.

On Saturday we visited the alpine Otira Valley. Two of the first plants that attracted attention were *Coprosma serrulata* with its finely toothed leaves and *Euphrasia cockayneana*, a yellow-flowering eyebright. Both the feathery tutus, *Coriaria angustissima* and *C. plumosa* were spotted. The most conspicuous among the flowering plants were *Anisotome pilifera*, *Ranunculus lyallii* (Mt Cook lily), and *Dolichoglottis scorzonerooides*. Some of the smaller flowering beauties were the orchid *Waireia stenopetala* (was *Lyperanthus antarcticus*), *Leucogenes grandiceps* (South Island edelweiss) and *Parahebe lyallii*. The new *Hebe* book was needed to identify *Hebe macrocalyx* var. *macrocalyx* which is endemic to the Arthurs Pass area. Seeing a rock wren (*Xenicus gilviventris*) completed an enjoyable day.

On Sunday we split into several groups going in different directions. One group went to the Dobson Nature Walk at the top of the Pass, an excellent place to reinforce knowledge gained the previous day. We recognised an astonishing number of plants, and found some new ones too. Sharp eyes spotted the tiny *Gonocarpus micranthus* amongst *Hydrocotyle "montana"* and *Parahebe decora*. We also saw *Celmisia glandulosa*, and one keen member scaled a huge rock to find *Grammitis poeppigiana*. *Clematis forsteri* was flowering in this area, as was *Pterostylis oliveri*. On the way back to base, close to the Otira River bridge we saw what appeared to be a silver-leaved *Metrosideros umbellata* in full red bloom.

A second group attacked the steep climb up to Carroll Hut on the Kelly Range. The track passed through lovely rata/Hall's totara/broadleaf forest. Higher up, we found *Halocarpus biformis* (pink pine), *Archeria traversii* (red mountain heath) and *Phyllocladus alpinus* (mountain toatoa). Adding to the botanical pleasures were *Carmichaelia arborea* just starting to flower, *Olearia ilicifolia* in full flower, Hall's totara (*Podocarpus hallii*) and *Libocedrus bidwillii* (mountain cedar). Out in the open tops, large patches of the alpine cushions *Donatia novae-zelandiae* and *Phyllachne colensoi* were in full flower.

We walked on from the hut to have a view down the Taramakau Valley to the far distant Tasman Sea before scurrying back down in the rain.

On Monday most headed straight for home, but seven of us set off for Mitchells hoping that the rain would stay away. Our main botanical find was, after a huge amount of discussion, *Ileostylus micranthus* on *Coprosma propinqua*. Further round the track were large toro (*Myrsine salicina*) some

apparently heading for a heavy flowering. Then the rain came and we headed back to face a long drive in a downpour all the way to Nelson. For all that an absolutely wonderful weekend and well worth the long drive.

FUTURE TRIPS:

Easter Camp 5 - 9 April, Hanmer. Leader Shannel Courtney Ph 546 9922

Sunday 15th April, Whispering Falls, Hackett. Leader Tim McArthur (contact Cathy Jones 546 9499)

Sunday 20th May, Petterson covenants Golden Bay. Leader Trevor Lewis Ph 547 2812

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■ Canterbury Botanical Society

Report of Spring Camp - Gunns Bush, Hunters Hills, November 2006

The steady rain persisting throughout the camp (breaking the South Canterbury drought) did not detour the 19 BotSoc members from undertaking several fruitful excursions into the Hunters Hills. The loop track around Gunns Creek was very 'West Coast' like with the mossy forest floor and epiphytes clinging onto virtually every tree. Several *Tmesipteris tannensis* clusters were seen (up to 35cm long). Huge fuchsia trees in the gullies supported abundant *Asplenium flaccidum*, the leaves often cascading over 80cm. Some broadleaf trees (*Griselinia littoralis*) had diameters approaching 2m while *Brachyglottis sciadophila* was seen rambling over drier forest floors, occasionally scrambling up through shrubs. On the second day we visited two QEII covenants at Hook Bush, where we saw *Teucrium parvifolium* with its characteristic square twigs, and several luxuriant patches of the parsley fern *Botrychium bifforme*. The mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus* was very common, growing on at least 11 different hosts. A grove of *Neomyrtus pedunculata* was exceptionally large (up to 8m high, dbh up to 19cm), clearly enjoying their site on a fertile terrace. Our Sunday morning venture onto the Mount Studholme tops was cut short by low cloud, though we had time to view *Helichrysum plumeum* with its covering of fulvous hairs. One bounding wallaby reminded us of the threats that these animals pose to the vegetation of South Canterbury.

Miles & Gillian Giller

December Meeting: Pteridology in Turmoil - A Century of Change in Fern Systematics

Patrick Brownsey started his talk with pictures of the Great Exhibition of 1906 in Hagley Park. At the turn of the century the Victorian Fern Craze started "a history of pteridomania." Slides of 19th Century literature, statues, furniture, stamps and post cards from the United Kingdom and New Zealand as well as of contemporary New Zealand fern icons were shown. The first fern publication in New Zealand (1832) *Essai d'une Flore New Zealand* (Richard) contained 57sp; the present 2006 "species 2000" (Brownsey) has 196sp. Cheeseman's *Manual of New Zealand Flora* published in 1906 had 156sp.; 66sp. are still recognised and 90 sp. have different names. Eleven fern genera have been revised since Allan's *Flora of New Zealand* 1961.

Ryan Young

December Field Trip: Peel Forest

29 fern enthusiasts, armed with copies of "Ferns of Peel Forest" by Brian Molloy (supplied by DoC) and lead by Brian Molloy assisted by fern expert Patrick Brownsey, set off to walk the "Fern Walk" track to Blandswood. Peel forest contains 68 species of ferns many of which can be seen on this track. The genus *Blechnum* is by far is the largest genus represented in Peel forest with at least eight identified including *Blechnum chambersii*, *B. fluviatile*, *B. montanum*, *B. terrestre*, and *B. vulcanicum*. The promiscuous nature of *Blechnum* was highlighted by several intermediate looking specimens that the group dubbed B. "suspicious" and which Patrick was reluctant to put a name to. A great day was capped off by a member finding a specimen of *Korthalsella salicornioides* on a fallen branch of *Kunzea* "b" (this shrub was formally included under the name *Kunzea ericoides* which is now only known to be found in Nelson and Marlborough.) The clubmosses *Huperzia varium* and *H. volubile*, formerly under the name of *Lycopodium*, were also seen but not abundantly.

Dean Pendrigh

Hebe Report from the Summer Camp at St Arnaud: 29 December to 5 January

A total of 21 *Hebe* and *Leonohebe* were found in the higher regions of the Nelson Lakes Area during the summer camp in December / January. On Mount Robert 10 *Hebe* and *Leonohebe tumida* were

found, on the Rainbow Ski Field we found six additional *Hebe* species, and on the top of Mount Murchison we found 3 additional *Hebe* species and *Leonohebe ciliolata*. Three noteworthy things were the discovery of *H. crenulata*, not previously recorded from the Rainbow Ski Field; the absence of *L. ciliolata* from the St Arnaud and Mt Robert ranges (although we did find plenty of *L. tumida* with erecto-patent leaves that could easily be mistaken for *L. ciliolata*); and finally the absence of *H. odora* from all our wanderings although it is recorded as in the park. I suspect that if we had done a trip to the river floor at the head of the lake we would have found it there. Alastair Macdonald

February Meeting: Wengen Swiss Alps

Wengen is located in The Central Alps of Switzerland with a full array of plant communities – pine & spruce forests, through to grasslands and scree. The impressive peaks of the Eiger 3970m, Monch 4107m & Jungfrau 4158m dominate the area, the latter peak with ten glacial waterfalls corkscrewing through limestone with a flow of up to 20,000 litres per second. Schynige Platte Botanic Garden is also a great place for an array of native plants from the Alps. Some plants of notoriety were *Rhododendron hirsutum*, *Dryopteris villarii*, *Primula auricula* (with many forms), *Androsace helvetica* and *Lillium martagon*, and what is regarded as one of the great natural secrets, a valley full of 100's of the rare *Cypripedium calceolus* (just to name a few of the many species that can be seen).

Ryan Young

FUTURE EVENTS

April 13th Show and tell
April 14th Field trip to Mt Thomas
May 5th - 6th Weekend field trip to Conway Flat

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Wakatipu Botanical Group

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NOTES AND REPORTS

A New Hebe Species?

Derrick Rooney, Box 43, Hororata 7544, woodlot@orcon.net.nz

Hebe is New Zealand's largest woody genus, with some 88 recognised endemic species on the main and outlying islands, and two indigenous species that occur also in the far south of South America. The range of one of these two extends as far as the Falkland Islands, in the South Atlantic Ocean. One species is endemic to French Polynesia. In addition, about 10 species that were once classified as hebes occur in the relatively new genera *Heliohebe* and *Leonohebe*.

This apparent abundance of species is deceptive. Most of the hebes are confined to the regions of higher rainfall and only a small minority grows where mean annual precipitation falls below 1000mm. In eastern Canterbury this means that the few species that occur are effectively confined to gorges and other rocky places near water, or to the foothills at higher altitudes where rainfall often rises dramatically through the influence of nor'west winds.

With the exception of *Hebe salicifolia*, which is ubiquitous in the South Island, the only hebe likely to be found in lowland gorges, rocky places, and streamsides in Canterbury north of the Rangitata River is *Hebe traversii*, a familiar plant with narrow leaves and an abundance of white flowers in midsummer. Banks Peninsula has its own endemic hebe, *H. strictissima*, closely related and similar to *H. traversii*, while south of the Rangitata River system the dominant species is *H. rakaiensis*. Except on Banks Peninsula, there is some overlap. Herbarium specimens of *H. rakaiensis* exist from as far north as Marlborough, while the southern limit of *H. traversii* is listed as just beyond the Rangitata in the Four Peaks Range, north-west of Geraldine in South Canterbury.

However, as has been discovered many times in the past, plants do not always behave as predicted. I had a brush with this fact of life in the late 1990s when, while poking around looking for clematis at the edge of a small stream in the block of land we had then recently acquired in Te Moana Gorge at the southern end of the Four Peaks Range, I found instead the supposedly rare *Carmichaelia kirkii*. Subsequent investigations (by others) revealed that this "rare" broom, which had not previously been recorded between the Rakaia River and the Mackenzie Country lakes, is in fact widespread throughout the remaining areas of relatively undisturbed native vegetation in Te Moana Gorge. Its presence was one of the factors that prompted a Timaru District Council hearing to reject a resource-consent application to bulldoze a 600-metre-long swathe for a forestry track through some of the best indigenous vegetation remaining in the gorge. Occasionally, local authorities do get it right!

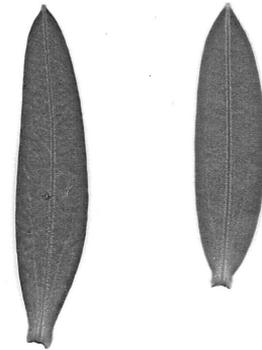
Probably I should have learned from this, but instead I bowed to conventional wisdom, with the result that some six years elapsed before I took a close look at the "*Hebe traversii*" growing just outside our gate (within our property boundary but outside the fence and thus vulnerable to any passing souvenir hunter). Even then, I was more interested in assessing the horticultural possibilities of the apparent hybrids with *Hebe salicifolia* among the seedlings growing around it. I realised fairly quickly after giving the plant a more-than-cursory glance that it appeared to be something different from the two specimens of *Hebe traversii* growing in my garden in Hororata (one from Rakaia Gorge, the other from the Mason River in North Canterbury).



A professional botanist to whom I showed non-flowering specimens pronounced the plant to be *Hebe subalpina*. Another botanist identified it as *Hebe rakaiensis*. Later, I sent flowering specimens to Dr Peter Wardle, who forwarded them to Professor Phil Garnock-Jones in Wellington. Professor Garnock-Jones pointed out several details relating to the size, hairiness or otherwise, and shape of the corolla, ovary, and calyx that segregated the specimens from *H. rakaiensis*.

As a mere amateur enthusiast in these matters I am neither qualified nor able to discuss the botanical minutiae. Without a microscope, and with only a small hand-lens and a naked eye that is not as sharp as it used to be, I cannot even see some of them. What I can do is look at the more obvious features of the inflorescence and the over-all appearance of the plant and say that it seems to my admittedly untrained eye to be an entity distinct from all of the species mentioned above.

It differs from *H. rakaiensis* in having a corolla tube at least twice as long as the calyx, and from the *H. traversii* plants growing in my garden by having slightly longer and narrower calyx lobes. The stems have no bifarious hairs, which, according to the description in Allen's *Flora* (1961)¹, are a feature of *H. rakaiensis*. The leaves are shorter and slightly wider than those of *H. traversii* and are olive green, readily distinguished from the lighter green leaves of *H. traversii* when the two are grown side by side. But the feature by which, to my amateur eye, the Te Moana Gorge hebe is most readily distinguished from all other hebes that grow in Canterbury is the presence of a distinct and clearly defined groove along the midrib on the underside of the leaf. Other species including *H. traversii* have a distinct midrib, but none of them has a similar groove.



Hebe 'Te Moana' is conspicuous when flowering in early January. It appears to be confined to a narrow corridor in rocky places and bluffs alongside or near the South Branch of the Hae Hae Te Moana River and two tributaries, Griffiths Stream and Fraser Stream, above 300m altitude and below 500m, but because almost all of the plants grow on private land it is very difficult to determine the extent of its distribution. I suspect it is probably confined to Te Moana Gorge, is an undescribed species, is more-or-less intermediate between *H. traversii* and *H. rakaiensis*, possibly arose in the distant past as a result of spontaneous hybridisation between these two, and has become "fixed". If all this is found to be so, the plant, with its restricted habitat threatened by forestry development, will become one of the most rare and endangered species in the native flora. All the plants I have examined are of similar appearance, and all have the characteristic groove on the underside of the leaf. The plants vary from 1m to 2m in height and are attractive, well-furnished shrubs. The unopened flower-buds have a pinkish cast that enhances their appeal. Apart from *H. salicifolia*, with which it hybridises, it is the only hebe growing in the gorge.

Unfortunately, when most of the land in Te Moana Gorge was subdivided in the 1990s into forestry blocks of mostly between 20 and 50 hectares, the district authorities allowed the subdivision to proceed with no provision for reserves to protect the existing indigenous vegetation and other natural values. The planting of exotic species within areas of significant natural vegetation, or within 20 metres of the river or reserved areas, is forbidden under the current Timaru district plan, dating from the late 1990s, but unfortunately the prohibition does not appear to be effectively policed and is not retrospective. It would be good if either the Timaru District Council or the Department of Conservation could be prompted to provide some effective long-term protection for this very interesting and probably very rare shrub.

Specimens of the Te Moana Gorge hebe and of a presumed hybrid with *H. salicifolia* have been lodged at the Allen Herbarium (CHR) at Landcare Research, Lincoln.

Pictures show:

One of the many hybrids between *Hebe salicifolia* and *Hebe* 'Te Moana' that occur in Te Moana Gorge.

The underside of a leaf of *Hebe traversii* (left) has a distinct midrib but the Te Moana Gorge hebe (right) has a groove on the midrib which is clearly visible even to the naked eye.

(1) Allan, H.H. 1961: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

BIOGRAPHY/BIBLIOGRAPHY

■ Biographical Notes (65) : John Peter Bollons (1862–1929)

E.J. Godley, Research Associate, Landcare Research, P.O. Box 40, Lincoln.

From 1893 until 1929 John Bollons was a member of the permanent staff of the Marine Department and between 1898 and 1929 he was master of two Government steamers, the NZ *G.S. Hinemoa* (1898–1922) and the NZ *G.S. Tutanekai* (1922–1929). During his many years of servicing lighthouses and castaway depots, Captain Bollons transported many scientists to remote localities on the mainland coast or the outlying islands. But his benevolent logistic support was not his only contribution to New Zealand science, for he also possessed a wide knowledge of the natural history and ethnology of these parts and made important collections in both fields.

John Bollons was born at Bethnal Green, London, on 10 November, 1862, the son of a cab-master and a Jewish mother. He began his career as a sailor in 1877 at the age of 14 when he sailed on a barquentine to the West Indies for a cargo of bulk corn. Then, after voyages to such places as South America, he joined the *England's Glory* bound for New Zealand. On 7 November 1881 this full-rigged ship en route from Nelson to Bluff, ran ashore at the entrance to Bluff Harbour in bad weather while altering course to pick up the pilot. She was totally wrecked, but the crew was cared for by the sealers and whalers of Bluff (1,2,3).

John decided to stay at Bluff (he was now an orphan) and for the next 5 years lived with the family of a pakeha whaler and his Maori wife, growing to love the Maori people and their language. After a brief period on the Bluff pilot cutter he became 2nd mate of the government ketch *Kekeno*, which was responsible for suppressing seal poaching on the southern coasts and islands (1,2,3).

John then became 2nd officer of the *G.S. Stella* (Capt. John Fairchild) which went to the Kermadec Islands in August, 1887, to annex them for New Zealand. On board were S.P. Smith, Assistant Surveyor-General and T.F. Cheeseman, Curator, Auckland Museum. Cheeseman published reports on the flora of the Kermadecs and also of the Three Kings, which were visited briefly on the return voyage (2,4). Young Bollons then sought overseas experience with the Union Steamship Co. of New Zealand, serving on the *Rotomahana* and the *Hauroto* (6 months in 1892) and in October 1892 he gained a Master's Foreign-Going Certificate (2). In January 1893, he rejoined the permanent staff of the Marine Department as 2nd officer of the *Hinemoa* (Capt. Fairchild).

Some important events in Capt. Bollons's career from that time are as follows:

1893 (30 Nov.): After observing men at the southwest end of Antipodes Island, Capt. Fairchild inspected the castaway depot, which lay at the north end of the island, and found it unused. He then sent Bollons across the island to investigate. The men turned out to be castaways from the wreck of the *Spirit of the Dawn* and had been there 88 days (5).

1894 (Mar.–April): *Hinemoa* took Lord Glasgow (Governor-General, 1892–1897), his wife and children to the Cook Islands. The children became great friends of young John Bollons and this friendship was renewed during 1925–1929 when one of them, Alice, returned to New Zealand as the wife of Governor-General, Sir Charles Fergusson, and mother of Bernard Fergusson (6,7).

1895 (Jan.–Feb.): *Hinemoa* took Lord Glasgow, as well as Sir James Hector (Director of the Geological Survey), Professor T.J. Parker and Mr E. Jennings (Zoology Dept., University of Otago), and Mr H.J. Matthews (botanist, Dunedin) to Stewart, Snares, Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes, Bounty, and Chatham Islands (5,8).

1896 (28 Nov.): In Invercargill John Bollons married Lilian Rose Hunter of Bluff, daughter of retired master mariner, John Hunter (3).

1898 (July): Bollons was promoted to master, *G.S. Hinemoa*, succeeding Capt. Post who transferred to the *Tutanekai* following the accidental death of Capt. Fairchild (2).

1901 (June): *Tutanekai* and *Hinemoa* escorted the Royal yacht *Ophir* when the Duke (later King George V) and Duchess of Cornwall and York came here to thank New Zealand for its support in the Boer War (9).

1903 (Feb.): *Hinemoa* took L. Cockayne to Dusky Sound and the Open Bay Islands (10).

1903 (June-July): *Hinemoa* took L. Cockayne to Stewart, Auckland, Campbell and Antipodes Islands (8).

1905 (Feb.–Mar.): *Hinemoa* took L. Cockayne to East Cape Island, the Poor Knights Islands and the Rangaunu estuary (10).

1905 (7 May): In Carnley Harbour, Auckland Islands, the *Hinemoa* found the crew of the French barque *Anjou*, which had been wrecked on the south coast. For this rescue the French Government awarded Capt. Bollons the Gold Medal of Honour, First Class (2).

1907 (Nov.): *Hinemoa* transported the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury's expedition to the subantarctic islands. The botanists were: Auckland Is. (L. Cockayne, B.C. Aston, J. Tennant, A.A. Dorrien-Smith); Campbell Is. (R.M. Laing, J.C. Smith, H.B. Kirk, J.B. Mayne) (11). On this same voyage the *Hinemoa* picked up castaways in Ross Harbour, Auckland Is. from the *Dundonald*, wrecked on nearby Disappointment Island (2).

1909 (Jan.): *Hinemoa* took B.C. Aston to the Snares, Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes and Bounty Islands. This was its last visit to the southern islands (8). After the voyage Aston gave Bollons the 2-volume popular edition of Capt. Scott's "The Voyage of the Discovery" and inscribed it: "Capt. Bollons, NZGS *Hinemoa* from B.C. Aston. 9 Feby 09 (15).

1911: At about this time the Bollons family moved from Bluff to Wellington where they lived at 8 McNaughton Terrace, Kilbirnie (1,2).

1922: Took command of the *G.S. Tutanekai* (2).

1924 (13 Jan.): *Tutanekai* helped rescue the crew of the *Port Elliot* which had run ashore NW of E. Cape (2).

1925 (Nov.–Dec.): From Dunedin the *Tutanekai* took the Governor-General, Sir Charles Fergusson, his wife, Lady Alice Fergusson, and his son Bernard Fergusson on a 4-week trip to Stewart Island and Fiordland, ending at Greymouth (7). Sir Bernard Fergusson later wrote a book (6) inspired by the life of Captain Bollons and dedicated it to him.

1927 (Mar.–April): *Tutanekai* took W.R.B. Oliver, H. Guthrie-Smith and the Swedish botanists, G.E. & Greta Du Rietz to Stewart Is., the Snares, Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes & Bounty Islands (8).

1928 (June): awarded the Imperial Service Order (2).

By 1929 Captain Bollons should have retired but his service was extended so that he could go to England to supervise the construction of the *G.S. Matai* and bring her back; and in preparation he had a hernia operation at Wellington Hospital. From this he seemed to recover well and his first visitor was Sir Charles Fergusson; but on 18 Sept. 1929 he died unexpectedly. He was 67 and was survived by his wife, 4 daughters and 3 sons. He is buried in the Bluff Cemetery overlooking the harbour (2,3,6).

Captain Bollons worshipped regularly at All Saints' Anglican Church, Kilbirnie, and on 10 Nov. 1929, a plaque in his memory was unveiled by his old friend, Sir Charles Fergusson. It is on the right-hand side of the nave, and measures 51 × 35.5 cm (2,3,14). For the inscription see below.

Eponymy (animals not included)

1909	<i>Stilbocarpa ballonsii</i> [sic] Name only in a "List of New Zealand plants brought to Tresco [Cornwall] in May, 1908, by Captain A. Dorrien Smith". L. Cockayne ex Watson, <i>Gardeners' Chronicle</i> 45:2.
1912	<i>Veronica bollonsii</i> "Poor Knights Islands, L.C." "Dedicated to Captain Bollons, to whom not only New Zealand botany, but zoology also, owes much." L. Cockayne <i>Proc. NZ Inst.</i> 44: 50.
	<i>Bollons Island</i> lies c. 2 km off the north coast of Antipodes Island. "Named by the officers of the Government Steamer <i>Hinemoa</i> after Captain John Bollons, who is the first person known to have climbed it, in January 1901. Originally named "Horseshoe Island" because of its shape" (5).
	<i>Bollons Seamount</i> lies at 49°35'S 176°40'W which is to the east of Antipodes Island (49°22'S 178°48'E) beyond the Date Line (12).

Photographs

There is a three-quarter length portrait in (7) and (9), and in (13) a photograph of Capt. Bollons collecting at Anita Bay, Milford Sound on 22 October 1926.

Dedication

1972 "For Captain John Bollons, ISO, his children and descendants, and my own former shipmates in Tutaneikai and Hinemoa 1925 and 1926" Bernard Fergusson Captain John Niven London: Collins.

Plaque

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE
OF
CAPT JOHN PETER BOLLONS, I.S.O.
LATE MASTER OF THE N.Z. GOVERNMENT STEAMER "TUTANEKAI"
DIED 18 SEPTEMBER 1929
—
"I HOPE TO SEE MY PILOT FACE TO FACE
WHEN I HAVE CROST THE BAR"
—
THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY HIS OFFICERS & CREW

All Saints' Anglican Church, Kilbirnie, Wellington

Acknowledgments

I am very grateful to Dr Colin Webb (Wellington) for information on the plaque in All Saints' Church, Kilbirnie; also to Ms Tanja Webster, Research Librarian, Landcare Research, Lincoln, for help with references; and to Mrs Wendy Weller, Landcare Research, Lincoln, for her typing.

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PUBLICATIONS

▪ Launch of Eric Godley's "A Botanist's Notebook"

The following is the text of Henry Connor's speech at the launch of Eric Godley's "A Botanist's Notebook", Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, 8 December, 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends of Eric Godley, and friends of our science of Botany.

Tonight we are launching an Eric John Godley book – A Botanist's Notebook¹, the consolidation of his 1980s essays on botanical topoi. But we have done book launches many times before, because he has been responsible for 30 or more books.

Could I rephrase the Elizabethan Christopher Marlowe's famous lines from Dr Faustus "This is the face that launched 30 books". I want to remind you of the books for which he is responsible, or should claim to be. All are the direct result of his Directorship of the quondam Botany Division, DSIR², where he was the Post-War father of N.Z. botany. These are his books by paternity.

I will remind you of them: first the Flora of NZ Series, 5 volumes by a galaxy of authors and where Elizabeth Edgar's name is on three of them³. There, too, are David Galloway's Lichens⁴, and Vivienne Cassie's 1989 Bibliotheca Diatomologica 17⁵, a work published abroad in Germany.

As well there are the tropical and subtropical floras – Bill Sykes⁶ on the Kermadecs and Niue, and Bay Parham on Samoa⁷.

The Standard Works are several: Peter Wardle's Vegetation of NZ⁸; Neville Moar's Pollen Atlas⁹; Colin Webb and the late Margaret Simpson on Seeds¹⁰, Peter Johnson and Pat Brooke on Wetland Plants¹¹ and my second edition of Poisonous Plants¹².

Of weeds – apart from Vol. IV there are A.J. Healy's Identification of weeds and clovers¹³; Common Weeds by Parham and Healy¹⁴; Standard Common Names¹⁵. These are specialist botany books. But as the advertisers say – "That's not all".

There are the beautifully illustrated books by his staff and colleagues – Lucy Moore wrote and John Irwin illustrated The Oxford book of N.Z. plants¹⁶ – wash and colour – beautiful. Keith West created them but Fisher and the Ravens wrote them: Buttercups by Frank Fulton Fisher¹⁷, Epilobiums by the Ravens¹⁸. The sesquicentennial Flowering Plants of NZ¹⁹ – Colin Webb, Peter Johnson, Bill Sykes contained so many of Peter Johnson's excellent colour photos. Two specialist and two generalist books.

There is also John Johns and Brian Molloy²⁰ on Orchids, and Brian's own Ferns of Peel Forest²¹.

Of Rare and Endangered Plants there were three books – David Given's Rare Plants²²; Wilson and Given on Threatened Plants²³, and Gordon Williams and David Given – The Red Data Book²⁴.

Of a different kind, and reflecting the author, are Botany of Manawatu and of Auckland – both by Alan Esler²⁵.

In total 30 books not counting second editions. Eric Godley's name was on none of these, but is mentioned inside in all of them because the authors recorded his influence, kindness and support.

Two books on plants in New Zealand are always in demand. New Zealand Plants by Mr R.M. Laing and Miss E.W. Blackwell - he edited the 1964 edition²⁶. The second - New Zealand Plants and their Story – Dr Leonard Cockayne's book²⁷ – he edited and revised extensively, especially for the illustrations, in 1967. Both he brought up to date because of their usefulness and because of their importance to New Zealand and New Zealanders.

Books are Eric Godley's life-form²⁸. All are his pleasure. Many are his work, and his literary references - poetry and biography aside.

It is not true that I am Eric's Orator Publicus even though this is the fourth time I have publicly spoken of him in the last 25 years. But I am his panegyrist this evening for the event of his Notebook – the consolidated issue of his 1980s essays on botanical matters.

Eric Godley is a serial writer, not like Edgar Wallace, but in the style of Francis Bacon in his Essays, and of Joseph Addison and Richard Steele who wrote for *The Spectator* and *The Tatler* in the 18th century. If one didn't have such avenues for publication to whom did one turn in the late 20th Century? The NZ Journal of Botany of which Eric was the founder in 1963? – he may have considered it inappropriate. But not so the N.Z. Gardener. And before us tonight are his 70 essays – about the number, on average, for 19th century essayists. Strangely his style lacks the traditional Latin epigraph and the prepositions "On" and "Of". One might have expected titles such as: On Legumes and follicles – Of Horses and Cabbage Trees - On Our Native Fuchsias - Of Roadside Flowers.

I know that if asked tonight "What is your occupation?" very few, if any of us would say Writer. Yet that is the descriptor for all of us in the science of botany and its close relatives. We are writers. None of us would give our occupation as essayists – Geoff Park²⁹ excepted – even though many among us may have written an essay or two, though not in preference to a scientific paper. Instinctively we would write Urticaceae in NZ – not "On Nettles"; The orchid pollination syndrome – not "Of Pollinia"; The role of *Discaria toumatou* in tussock grassland degeneration – not "On Matagouri". Our preoccupations are for specialist readers who are really the elect few. Eric saw the many and wrote for them.

What is evident is that to be an essayist requires a mind capable of different thought processes, different literary inclinations, different intellectual innovations, different scientific patterns. These attributes are additive in the essayist and are the distinguishing marks of Eric Godley's Notebook. Reading it will re-create it for you. Reading it will reveal in a different light what you already knew. Reading it will reveal what you should have known but were too afraid to ask.

This is the time of year for new books, and I noticed that Vol. 10 of the Letters and Diaries of John Henry Newman³⁰ is just out. And a new book on the battle of Casino³¹ where Eric was. A new notebook for 2006 – Lydia Morin "From the writer's notebook. Around New Zealand with 80 authors"; published by Reeds.

Too, there is another botanical notebook – Nicholas Harberd³² of the John Innes Centre, Colney Lane, Norwich, has "Seed to Seed. The Secret Life of Plants" of which he says "This book is really a notebook," He writes endlessly of thale cress which I take to be the ever popular experimental *Arabidopsis thaliana*. The type face in Harberd's book is an adaptation of Eric Gill's Perpetua, and that E.G. is the only other essayist with these initials that I know – Gill was modern English, a sort of second John Ruskin³³.

I raise these points because our E.G. continues as a serialist in a journal he may have founded by virtue of his role as first President of the N.Z. Botanical Society. At the last count he was up to Number 64 in a sort of "Unknown who was who in NZ botany"³⁴. Will Manuka Press look toward another book from these Newsletter essays? The text is there; the copyright available, and the Launch predictable.

Eric: "The playing fields' man – the green keeper" is how you described yourself all those years ago at Botany Division where your role was leadership, leadership with kindness and thoughtfulness – compassion if you like. Non-authoritarian, despite delays irking you. Few, well perhaps two or three, slipped the yoke of the major authorial responsibility you saw for them and for all your staff. Old Botany Division staff rejoice at your longevity and the persistence of your pen. The moderns who won't notice the reformation of the essays into composite groups, but will benefit from the modernising footnotes, can only ask for time for reflection.

On your behalf, Ladies and Gentlemen, I congratulate you, Eric, on this the occasion of your *liber primus godleyanus*, A Botanist's Notebook. I do so with pleasure knowing that for the first time ever I have everyone's full support.

Francis Bacon in his essay "Of Studies"³⁵, wrote "Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man". Eric, you fit all.

H.E. Connor, Department of Geography, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

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Journals Received

New Zealand Native Orchid Group Journal No. 102 – Feb 07; 52 pp
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