

Editorial

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Botany is not just an excuse to tramp slowly—it is also the reason. A common theme emerging from the articles in this edition is that however much people may have studied and botanised a particular place or species there is still much to be discovered, even in the well tramped and botanised land of Wellington. We should not accept that, just because someone has been to a place before, all is known about its botany. Four examples illustrate why we botanists should always be looking out for the unexpected. First is the discovery of the leafless mistletoe (*Korthalsella clavata*) at a site east of Lake Wairarapa by members of the Wairarapa Conservation Corps. Second is the find by Pat Enright of a third population of *Pittosporum obcordatum* in the Wairarapa. Thirdly, the re-location, by Barbara Mitcalfe, of *Austrofestuca littoralis* (sand tussock) at Makara Beach—the species was last recorded there in 1905. Finally is the discovery, by Peter de Lange, of a specimen (in a private herbarium) of *Lepidium obtusatum*, indicating how this now extinct species was still surviving on the Wellington coast in the 1950s.

Information gathered by Society members about the native plant life of Wellington is immensely valuable to those involved in its protection and restoration. It is important therefore that you continue to search, discover and record what you find. This bulletin provides one forum for that and I encourage you to keep writing articles—this is your *Bulletin*. Other tools have been developed for recording plant observations. For example, the website of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (www.nzpcn.org.nz) has an on-line species recording form. Information gathered in this way will be used in assessments of species conservation status and also to assist in recovery work. So remember, tramp slowly and tell us all what you find and, more importantly, tell us what we missed when we were there.