

If we were to plot all the trips over 75 years on a map, I'm certain the Waitakeres would disappear under ink. The early days were necessarily more locally focussed, but over time our map would be liberally dotted from one end of the country to the other.

Before making my final observations, I'd like to acknowledge again the leaders over the past 15 years. That the Society remains as strong as ever is remarkable – and a tribute to officers and committee members who have steered a successful course avoiding the fate of so many community groups which have failed to adapt and hence survive.

Summation

On the plane up from Christchurch last night, I started scribbling some stats on the back of an envelope. By my rough calculations, over the 75 years Bot Soc has given us:

- 45,000 people hours of evening meetings. People have spent
- over 9300 hours writing for publications
- over 6700 hours editing and producing publications
- over 15,300 hours in committee time and administration, and
- over 9000 hours preparing talks or trips.

On top of all this there have been some 33,750 people days botanising in the field.

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Fig. 14. Kawerua trip, Waipoua River mouth. Photo: January 1989.



Fig. 15. Moturoa Island, Bay of Islands. Photo: August 1990.

If you convert that to hours and add it to all the other Bot Soc endeavours, the Auckland Botanical Society has given us well over half a million hours of botanical adventure, fun and enjoyment. Long live Bot Soc!

Trips and Adventures from Kawerua to Tasmania

Alison Wesley

In the 25 years of my membership of the Auckland Botanical Society (ABS) there have been many trips, too many to cover in their entirety, and therefore the selection is a personal one. The selection has also depended on my memories and the write-ups in our journals.

During the early part of the past 25 years, trips tended to be quite local, but between 2002 and 2012 we've undertaken six trips to the South Island of New Zealand. The South Island trips have mostly occurred with the leadership of Cathy Jones (a long-time member of the botanical society who moved



Fig. 1. The Group at Waima accommodation, 26 Jan 2003. All photos by A Wesley.



Fig. 2. Attendees at Molesworth trip, 6 Jan 2002.



Fig. 3. *Wahlenbergia cartilaginea* on a screefield at Molesworth, 6 Jan 2002.



Fig. 4. *Agathis ovata*, near the Chute de Madeleine, New Caledonia, 6 Dec 2003.

south to live), but also assisted by other local botanical experts, including past-president Anthony Wright who also moved south.

Since 2003 we have had four trips overseas, all encouraged or led by our current President, Mike Wilcox. These overseas trips have taken us to the southern half of New Caledonia, to national parks around Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, to Norfolk Island and most recently Tasmania.

The first trip that I remember occurred in 1985, and took us to Puketi and Omahuta forests. We camped in tents (a practice no longer carried out). This trip was led by Ross Beever, and Sandra Jones was another participant.

A very memorable early trip was to Kawerua in 1990, led by Anthony Wright. This was a location used extensively by the Auckland University Field Club (Cogle 1990). The braying sound of little blue penguins coming from under the floor boards was notable, as well as an extended day walk which involved bush crashing to a valley floor and then following the Wairoa River to the coast. This resulted in a number of casualties, mostly minor, but the day didn't finish for many until well after sunset, and at a later date that day has been described as the "Great Wairoa Massacre" (Cameron & Young 2007).

The locations of other early trips included Lane Cove on the Whangaroa Harbour in 1992, Mayor Island also in 1992, Pukenui at the Forest & Bird house in 1995 (Gardner 1995) and Waima in 2003 (Fig. 1) (Young et al. 2003). The explorations in the Waima Range vicinity included seeing *Olearia crebra*, previously known as *Olearia "Waima"*, which is one of the local endemic plants, and also the lucky find by Lisa Forester of *Thismia rodwayii* - a saprophytic flowering plant growing in deep leaf litter.

Many trips were held in conjunction with other Botanical Societies and our only trip to the Hawkes Bay region in 1998 – Puketitiri and Kaweka Range, where we stayed at Forest & Bird's William Hartree Memorial Lodge – was a joint trip with the Rotorua Botanical Society (Wilcox 1998). The vegetation types enjoyed there included podocarp and beech forests as well as alpine and subalpine vegetation

Molesworth Station in 2002 was the location of the first South Island trip (Benham 2002; Fig. 2) and for many, the first experience of scree fields and the specialised plants growing there. Highlights of this trip included vast fields of *Bulbinella hookerii*, as well as the much less common *Leptinella dendyi* and *Wahlenbergia cartilaginea* (Fig. 3).

A new venture in 2003 was our first overseas trip to New Caledonia led by our President, Mike Wilcox. I suspect that none of these overseas trips would have occurred without his leadership. There were 16

members of ABS on that trip and we stayed at four different locations. For me the highlights of the New Caledonian flora were the 18 species in the family Araucariaceae: 5 species of kauri (*Agathis*) (Fig. 4), and 13 *Araucaria* species, all endemic to New Caledonia, *Amborella trichopoda*, a very primitive angiosperm (Fig. 5), *Xeronema mooreii* with beautiful spikes of flowers, and the very strange looking parasitic podocarp, *Parasitaxus ustus* (Wilcox 2004).



Fig. 5. *Amborella trichopoda*, Plateau de Dogny, New Caledonia, 2 Dec 2003.



Fig. 6. Prostrate *Hebe chathamica*, Kaingaroa, Chatham Island, 5 Jan 2007.

The Chatham Islands was another unique place to visit. There have been two visits here for ABS members and I was among the fortunate 22 to visit in January 2007. We had very comfortable accommodation at Hotel Chatham, Waitangi, from where we were able to take day trips to various parts of the island, and a flight to Pitt Island. Apart from seeing many of the island's endemic plants (Fig. 6), the flight to Pitt Island and seeing from the air the protected islands of Mangere and Rangatira, as well as watching briefly the last resident black robin on Pitt Island, were particular delights (Young 2007).

All the other parts of the South Island that we have visited, namely Golden Bay, Lake Ohau, Kaikoura and southern Marlborough, Central Otago and most recently Arthur's Pass, have allowed us to see more endemic plants, and to enjoy great walks with congenial company. Without the excellent leadership and organisational skills of Maureen Young, Mike Wilcox, Sandra Jones, Cathy Jones and Anthony Wright these would not have occurred.

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Waitakere Ranges – a Botanical Inspiration

Sandra Jones

My talk was constructed from a personal perspective, concentrating on special plants of the Waitakeres - ones that excite and delight me, or those that have a special story attached to them. For this abridged version for the Journal, I have selected just a portion of the 85 species covered in my talk (Fig. 1).

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Orchids and a *Libertia*

I had read in a Bot Soc journal of a 1962 record of *Adelopetalum tuberculatum* on a fallen branch in the vicinity of Pukematekeo on Scenic Drive but it wasn't until 1994 when a big storm blew out the top